

ch. 49: african art and global trade (first half)

- foreign trade began to change the societies of africa
 - connecting african cultures to europe and asia
- the beginnings of slavery

foreign exports and local art: the sapi

- the sapi were the first west africans to encounter european sailing vessels
- began with mostly sculpted elephant ivory
- portugese people were commissioning sapi artists to sculp luxury items out of ivory
 - lidded bowls were one of the most popular things
 - known as salt cellars
 - salt was an expensive commodity
 - salt cellars were displayed on the tables of the rich
 - the sapi had little to no use for these items, they were made completely for export
 - they were generally very intricate, not just simple bowls or dishes
 - one fairly complete example:
 - is about 6 inches across
 - weighs about 3 pounds empty
 - has most of the container in a sphere on top
 - surrounded by seated figures underneath it
 - four of them are sapi women, and four of them are portugese men
 - scarification is across the chests and torsos of the female figures
 - contains references to the portugese violence on the sapi
 - by the time this work was made, portugese men had already abducted sapi women
- the sapi stopped exporting their artworks to europe by the middle of the sixteenth century
 - because of all the violence that they experienced from them
- stone carvings and sculptures were made by populations farther inland than the sapi
 - populations such as the temne and kissi
 - one of these stone carvings, in the british museum, shows a figure in a reclined position
 - there are markings across their torso, lines
 - these lines could be twisted ropes or scarification patterns
 - this piece is thought to be made by a sapi before 1550
 - stone carvings like these are displayed at funerals of distiguished leaders in temne and kissi communities still today
 - this particular carving might be a subject lying at his own funeral

art of kongo and allada

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clothing and formal analysis

terms

- scarification - basically scar tattoos