A000-D R Congo-Healer-Wood-19th c



Fig. 1. D R Congo-Healer-Wood-19th c

Case No.: 6

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** D R Congo-Healer-Wood-19th c

**Display Description:**

This ivory carving of a kneeling man portrays a renowned healer who wears a special cap that signifies his position within the community. The healer is chewing a medicinal root and was collected from the Kongo people. He is shown seated on a stool in a gestural posture of demonstrating the efficacy of the medicinal root he is chewing himself and offering a second medicinal root in his left hand to the gathered. This sculpture would have been kept in a local shrine. A similar 19th century figure from the D R Congo in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is portrayed seated on the top of an ivory scepter chewing a medicinal root in his right hand and offering a second root in his left hand. He also wears a distinctive headpiece. This scepter was probably used as a baton of benediction for those who were about to submit to Congo healing ceremonies.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

**References:**

R.B. Woodward, "African Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts," African Arts, 20, No. 2 (Feb., 1987), pp. 28-35, fig. 9.