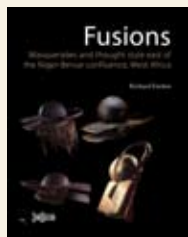


Fusions Masquerades and thought style east of the Niger-Benue confluence, West Africa

Richard Fardon



Fusions takes the masks of West Africa's Upper Benue River region out of the museums and private collections, where many accumulated in the twentieth century, and restores their cultural and social contexts. The book argues that Benue masquerades deserve appreciation as the materialized forms taken by the thought styles of their original creators and users. Masquerades are 'theranthropic': they fuse characteristics of animals with those of living and dead human

beings to create entities to perform the powers and dangers inherent in people's lives.

The subtle variety of the ways that different masquerades, and other performances, achieve this, reveals facets of an understanding of the human condition: of relations between the genders, the living and the dead, animals and people, kings and commoners By demonstrating the similarities in both their conceptions and uses, *Fusions* will change the way readers look at, and understand, the masquerades of the entire Benue River.

Richard Fardon began research in Cameroon and Nigeria in the mid-1970s. Since 1988, he has taught anthropological theory and the ethnography of West Africa at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Author or editor of numerous books on anthropology generally and West Africa in particular: his most recent publications include a companion volume to this, *Column to Volume: formal innovation in Chamba statuary* (with Christine Stelzig, Saffron Afriscopes Series, 2005), and *Lela in Bali: history through ceremony in Cameroon* (Berghahn/Cameroon Studies, 2006). He was Chairman of the University of London's Centre of African Studies for eight years, and he has been editor of AFRICA, the Journal of the International African Institute, since 2001. Together with Graham Furniss and Francis Nyamnjoh, he is series editor of Saffron Afriscopes Series

Contents

Afriscopes the series; Acknowledgements; List of illustrations

1 | Introduction Posing the problem fusion masquerades and the materialisation of thought style; Comparison, materiality, method; The formal distribution of horizontal masks

PART ONE | CHAMBA MASQUERADE

2 | The ethnographer's account a singular fusion

3 | Accenting the masquerade template and variety; Chamba masquerade: template; Chamba masquerade: early colonial documentation ; The German colonial period before the Frobenius expedition; Leo Frobenius's Chamba expedition ; Lilley's collection under British administration ; Variety in Chamba masks summarised; Post colonial acquisitions and the composition of the Chamba collection; Conclusion

PART TWO | WESTWARD – FUSION MASQUERADES

4 | Mumuye masquerade fusion refracted by gender; **5** | Jukunoid masquerades fusion refracted by gender and animality; *Aku ma* myth and form; Other Jukun masquerades; *Aku* and *aku ma* in performance; Around the edges of the Jukun; Goemai *aku* appropriated; *Kateb* and *Yukuben* animal human dimorphism revised; Conclusion formal variation in Jukunoid masks; **6** | On the margins of comparison Northward – bovid referents diversified; Southward – animal referents multiplied *Mambila*; *Wuli* with notes on *Wawa* and *Yamba* ; *Dii*; Toward the Grassfields – the pitfalls of formal comparison

PART THREE | EASTWARD – FUSION WITHOUT MASQUERADES

7 | Two types of absence Pere and Koma; Pere coevals without masquerade; Koma masquerade inverted; Conclusion; **8** | Death and fusion Dowayo; **9** | Conclusion | Bovine theranthropic fusion materialised a regional thought style

Appendix | Table: Chamba masks in collections | Bibliography | Published sources; Unpublished sources; Index; Errata and update | Volume I | *Column to volume*

Order Form

Ordering by fax is secure, fax your order now to +44-208 392 1422 or visit www.eapgroup.com

Use any of the following options to order single / multiple copies of

FUSIONS: Masquerades and thought style east of the Niger-Benue confluence, West Africa

Hard Cover, 208 pages, 88 colour and black and white illustrations

Shipping weight 1500g approx

ISBN-13 9781872843605 | ISBN-10 1 872843 60 3

Price UK £45.00 | Incl p&p £49.50 | Outside the UK Surface incl p&p £55.50 | For airmail delivery add £7.0 to your order.

For courier delivery, e-mail saffronbooks@eapgroup.com

Single / Multiple Copy Orders

Please send __ copy / copies of *Fusions* at the price per copy of £49.50 to a UK address £55.50 (surface) £62.50 (airmail)

Please note: Credit card payment is preferred for orders from outside the UK
Please enquire before placing your order using other payment methods

Please deliver to myself at: as a gift to:

Name
Professor/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address
.....
.....

City / Country

Zip/Postcode

I enclose UK cheque payable to **Eastern Art Publishing** for UK £ _____
(Please see note above about alternative payment methods for non-UK orders)

Please debit my American Express Maestro Mastercard Solo
 Visa credit / chargecard / debit card account

N° _____ Exp _____

Issue N° _____ [if applicable]

Security Code _____ [Last three or more digits on the back of the card, required under UK law]

Cardholder address if different from above

Zip/Postcode

Institutional Orders [subject to credit]

Invoice to the address above, quoting our VAT
Prefix / N° _____
(required for orders from EU institutions only)