

ABSTRACT

IMAGES OF IFA DIVINATION TRAYS: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ABSTRACTED MOTIFS

In this thesis, I will describe and analyze the iconology of Ifa divination trays. I will utilize a non-representative sample of images of Ifa divination trays from several sources. The first source will be a private collection of slides developed over years of academic research starting in the 1970s. This collection will be augmented by images gathered through current publications and internet sources ranging from museum documentation to gallery exhibitions intended for public sale. I will provide statistical analysis concerning the frequency and distribution of the iconology of these images to evaluate any possible correlations that may be present in regards to style, content, or temporal change. I will include interpretations of secondary imagery present in the sample. Statistical analysis will be provided that includes these interpretations when grouped with conventional interpretations.

Phillip Andrew Johnson
December 2009