



## Kota-ndassa Mbulu-ngulu Reliquary, South Kata Region. Gabon



3 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Copper

Length : 60 cm

Width : 30 cm

Height : 60cmune figure de reliquaire kota-ndasa mbulu-ngulu  
, région de kota sud, gabon

### Description

Kota-Ndasa mbulu-ngulu reliquary figure, South Kota region, GabonThe Kota or Bakota (plural), along with the Mahongwe, live in eastern Gabon, and are renowned for their reliquaries.Initially, the Kota used to leave their dead exposed to the elements, in the forest.Under the influence of neighboring tribes, they began to bury their chiefs, then exhume their bones (mainly the skull) and place them in bark boxes or baskets called bwété, on which a statue was placed.Of these seldom-complete wicker boxes or baskets, what we know most is the carvings that topped them, intended to warn off invisible forces that might diminish the supernatural power of the relics."Such reliquaries were entrusted to clan chiefs who kept them hidden, sometimes harnessing the power of the relics for the benefit

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of the clan. This cult was known as bwiti by the Mahongwe and their neighbors, for whom the guardians were the "faces" of the bwété. Each image had its own name and specific powers.

"Sources Musée Branly During the clan's major bwiti ceremonies (bwett, bwété, mbulu-ngulu or mboy), in which only the initiated took part, the reliquaries were brought out into the open.