History in Africa

A JOURNAL OF METHOD



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David Henige, Editor

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Luba painted wooden and china-clay mask, Congo-Kinshasa. ISSN 0361-5413 © Copyright 1988 African Studies Association All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Any author has the right to republish his article in whole or in part without requesting permission from the Association; others desiring permission to republish material should write to the Association at Credit Union Building, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

The work of man defies method to the degree that it is essentially human, and even where method is applicable, it cannot beget thought but only guide it. Method will never supersede vision—the most essential thing in a scholar; in its own place, however, method will often prevent illusion. Methods are fetters worn by the dancer to put his skill to the hardest test; he will be admired for wearing them well—but first of all he must know how to dance.

Ludwig Bieler, The Grammarian's Craft

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