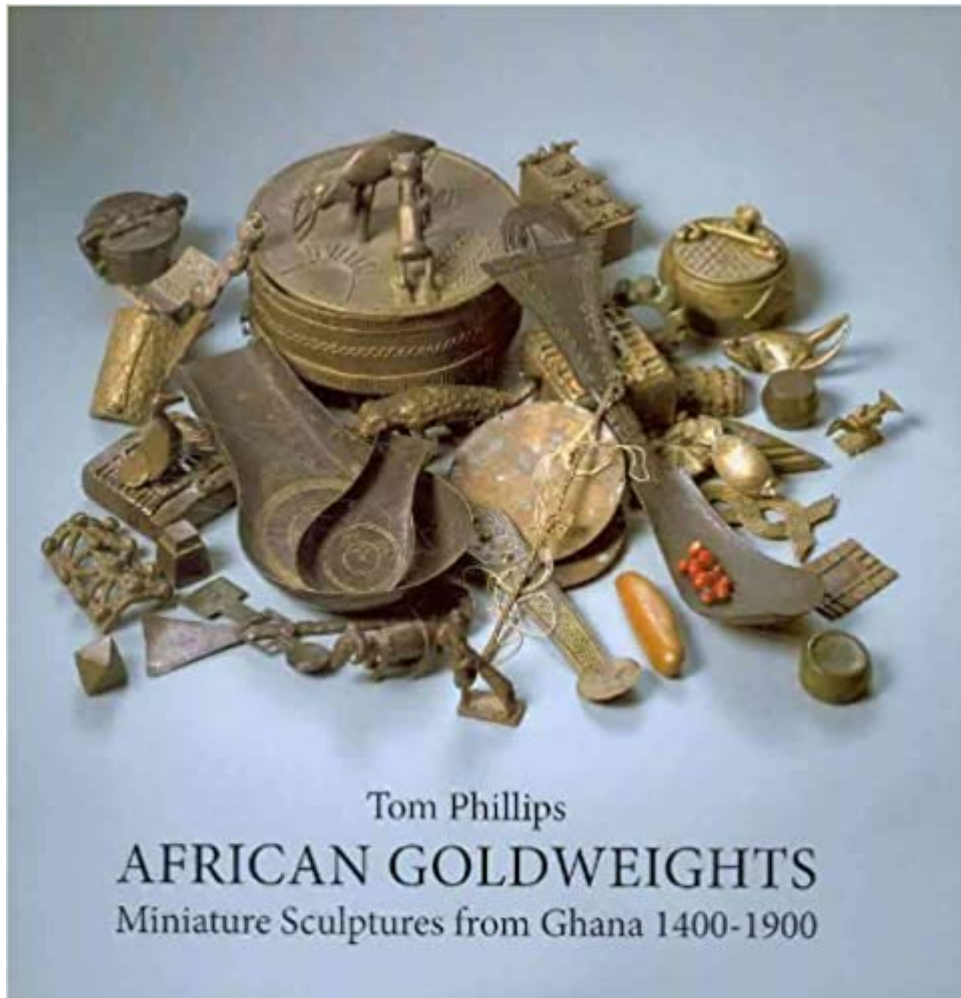




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African Goldweights: Miniature Sculptures From Ghana 1400-1900



Synopsis

A comprehensive survey of these lively and imaginative artifacts. Over 600 years ago the Akan began making brass weights for measuring gold dust, the currency of their region in Ghana and the Ivory Coast. They eventually produced the most complete three-dimensional inventory in any culture in history. Here is a selection of more than 500 weights chosen for their artistry and interest, accompanied by a full descriptive text about their history, styles, and modes of manufacture. Virtually every animal, bird, fish, or object known to the Akan became the subject of a miniature sculpture. Human figures are represented in the activities of everyday life and sacred or courtly rituals. 248 color photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A significant trove of whimsical and artistic miniature sculptures. Of interest to most collectors, this book will especially delight aficionados of African art and folk art.” - Antiques & The Arts Weekly

The English painter, writer, and composer Tom Phillips curated the groundbreaking exhibition “Africa: The Art of the Continent” at the Royal Academy in 1992. He is himself a collector of African art, specializing in the arts of Ghana and the Ivory Coast. His other books include *The Postcard Century*.

There are very few books written on African Goldweights; this is the latest and the only one readily available and at a reasonable price from . Tom Phillips is a collector and expert on African Tribal Art (also an artist, Google him for details). He has an incredible personal collection of goldweights, used as the basis for this book. The book contains excellent-and many times full size- photographs of both geometric and figurative goldweights, with explanations of what the reader is seeing. A minor problem is many figurative goldweights represent 'old African proverbs'; in most cases these are not included. Also included are photos and descriptions of the various ancillary implements used in the gold trade (scales, boxes, etc). This book should be a basic addition to anyone interested in African Tribal Art or Goldweights, at least one copy and possibly two. There is also a copy published in England, low price but expensive shipping to the US. Possibly a good investment for the 'second copy'. And I personally hope his collection eventually ends -intact- in a museum for future generations to see and enjoy.

very pld

Terrific research/resource book. Highly recommended. A must for anyone wishing to start, collect or wishing more information on African goldweights.

Wonderful examples of goldweights with history well written. All goldweights in book are one man's collection. A delight to both read and view

Almost a visual compendium with usually accurate ancillary information.

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