

INTO THE HEART OF AFRICA

by Jeanne Cannizzo

The companion book to an exhibition organized by the Royal Ontario Museum, *Into the Heart of Africa* is lavishly illustrated with 16 full-color and 84 black and white photographs of objects and historical photos from the ROM's outstanding African collections.

Between 1875 and 1925 soldiers and missionaries from Canada travelled to Africa to campaign on secular and spiritual fronts, amassing scores of artifacts on their journeys, for reasons that tell us as much about the collectors as about the people who created the objects.

Diaries and letters home bring to life the characters, cultures and events of a century ago, revealing a turbulent period of history, as Canadians participated in Britain's efforts to colonize and convert African nations. The objects themselves speak of the economic, political and religious complexities of numerous societies, while demonstrating the superb artistry of their African creators.

Curator Jeanne Cannizzo explores these cross-cultural encounters, taking a critical look at the institution of the museum and how the use of artifacts within its context expresses our own underlying cultural assumptions.

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