



Cavalry wearing lifidi (padded armour).

“Before me lies the history of Nupé, a history wide and deep and full of meaning. I can travel back into the thirteenth century ...”



Procession led by the Etsu Nupe.
“An Emperor, an imposing figure in the perfection of his power, was at the head of the Nupe realm”



The chief warrior in Bida.
“The Soa-sudsu is Field-Marshal-in-Chief and as such bears the title Majaki under the Fulbe régime to-day”

The list of sovereigns of the Nupe Empire as recorded by Frobenius.
“The singers called upon each of the mighty protectors and extendors of the realm by name”



The Dogaris of Bida with their commander.



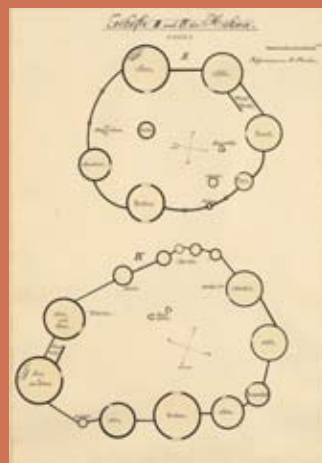
The Mosque and Katamba in Bida



Inside a domed construction in Bida



Ground plan of the Benu's compound in Bida.
"When the great exit-door is open to the front I can see everything that happens on the market square beneath the ancient trees, and at its back can always gaze upon the little courtyard where we take our afternoon siesta"



Groundplan of two compounds in Mokwa



Granaries in Mokwa.
"From six to seven in the morning is given up to work. Then Martius sallies out with his satellites to survey and make plans of the compounds, houses, stables, barns, corn-bins and mosques"



A village scene in Mokwa.

“What I must here set down is idyllic. Let us take a peep into the jolly, happy, peaceful life which runs its course in the small provincial town of Mokwa in Nupéland”



A market scene in Bida.

“The first astonishing glimpse of the market of Bida filled me with amazement”



A wrestling competition in Mokwa.
“Impatient cries begin to rend the air. The two seconds go through a salutatory performance, little sham manœuvres, threatening actions”



“This Eko-Cheche is not a mere wild, unregulated jumping or knocking about. Not at all. It is a sport with its clear and definite rules. Woe to him who should break them. He gets a bad time of it and is for ever excluded from a share in the game”



Storytellers in Mokwa.

“I was able to look backwards through a vista of many centuries to the mythical heroes of the past, who sired a long line of regents of the same blood and the same family, and this gave birth to an indubitable feeling of solidarity and traditional loyalty”



A female weaver working at an vertical loom.
"They are beautiful plaiters, weavers and hut builders. They are good workers in iron, potters and wood carvers and no despicable producers of articles made of leather and fells"



Workshop of glaziers in Bida.
"We had so frequently heard such a lot of the wonderful arts of these people that at last they seemed to be legendary"



A specialised metal worker.
"Arriens and his easel went from one workshop to the other, for every one of these wonderful art industries was to be set down on canvas"



A carved door made of three planks



A metal workshop in Bida.
"We were lucky enough to find a clever old master-smith who forged some old shapes with old patterns from bar iron"



An ornamented brass container produced in Bida.
“Bida is an industrial city, and, next to Kano the largest in Africa and, in many respects, as Kano people assured me, very much its superior. Every one works at his trade in Bida in the quarters assigned to his guild from early morn to dewy eve”



Stools for women made of palm ribs and ornamented wood



Ornamented clay pots



A mouse trap seen in Mokwa



Different types of bows and arrows from Nupelands



Festive procession of the Emir of Bida and his royal suite.

“All around us were the signs of varied and vigorous life. Really fine horses, richly caparisoned with gold and silver embroidered trappings, carried noblemen in magnificent flowing robes introduced by the Arabian merchants trading with the Mediterranean”



A Baba Riga from Kano with fine embroidery bought by Frobenius in Bida



A richly embroidered Baba Riga from Bida.
“They all put their robes of state in a certain spirit of elation with evident pleasure”



An embroidered pocket.
“Much cloth was woven for him [the Lilly of Mokwa] and he went abroad robed in the finest dresses”



Portrait of an old Nupe man



Male and female Ello masks in Mokwa.

“The Lilly of Mokwa had to accept the missionaries, those missionaries who had taken away from him and his people their greatest pleasure namely, the ceremonial of the mask and burned the masks, saying that they were evil and of the Devil”



Masqueraders in Mokwa.
“Some such national deity as the Dako-Boea stand at the head of every social-religious institution. Its presence alone is an effective shield against abuses of strength, its mere existence means peace and security”



Ello Kunnegi mask in Mokwa



A Gara mask dancer in Mokwa.
“In this country ceremony is hereditary and correct behaviour is held in high esteem”



Ndako Boya mask in Mokwa.
“People came from everywhere; from far and wide; friends and relations swarmed into every compound. Every town which no longer possessed the holy thing and dared not reinstate it, sent its surviving priest of the Dako-Boea”



Player of Kakatshi at the royal court in Bida.
*“For the first time I saw the wonderful trumpets,
although in the Emir’s absence they were not blown
to-day”*



A drum, made of fur, played during masquerade performance



A Hausa musician and his wife in Bida



The Etsu Nupe’s musicians in Bida



A Tuareg boy playing the luth in Mokwa.

“Many a wandering musician with luth or flute will quickly try his luck at the gates of our ‘castle gate’ in hopes that the ‘noble lords’ within may grant him with a trifle. I never to my knowledge let any of these depart in disappointment. For these living journals brought me many a bit of news of more importance than all the columns of a European local leaflet”