

M0009579: Wellcome Historical Medical Museum display: two nail effigies, Congo, West Africa

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NAIL EFFIGIES:
VEHICLES OF HUMAN AGENCY
CONGO, AFRICA

Specially potent effigies endowed by the Medicine Man with all the attributes of magic, by the application of appropriate substances and suitable incantations.

A nail is driven in, at the moment of conjuration, for such purposes as: to bring pain, injury or death to an enemy; or to invoke the spirit responsible, in order to drive away illness or misfortune.

