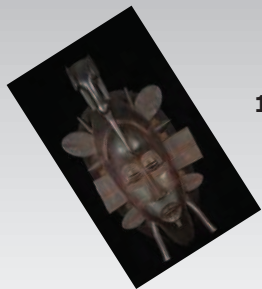


Wood Finishes Used by Traditional Societies in Africa and Oceania, and by European Period Furnishings Restorers

J. Gérard¹, C. Gérard²

¹ Unité de recherche *Biomasse, Bois, Energie, Bioproduits* (BioWooEB)

² Délégation à l'Information Scientifique et Technique (Dist)



Origin of the topic

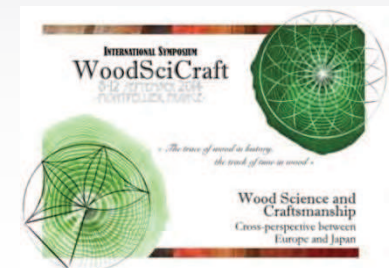
- ✓ A demand of the *African and Oceanian Department of Sotheby's – France*:
 - ✓ For a training session on tropical woods
 - ✓ Including a specific module « *Wood finishes Used ...* »
 - ✓ Literature review necessary for this specific module

- Training session organized (2014-07)

- + poster for *WoodSciCraft*



International Symposium *WoodSciCraft* 8-12 september 2014
Montpellier (France)



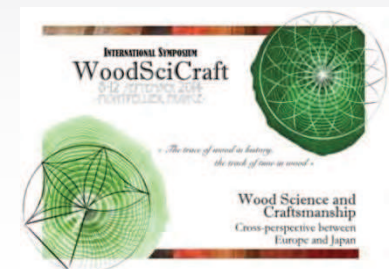
Main characteristics of Wood finishes used by traditional societies in Africa and Oceania

- ✓ Essentially composed of stains applied on wood items for decorative purposes
- ✓ Very often in connection with a precise ritual
- ✓ Come from ancient uses for fabrics dyeing
- ✓ Main components: vegetable pigments and minerals, diluted

Before applying finishes, sanding and polishing of wood surfaces, traditionally with the help of:

- ✓ Scrapers (metal, bone, scale)
- ✓ Rough trees leaves and/or containing silica
- ✓ Wet sands or earths
- ✓ Shark or skate skin (Oceania)

The first sandpapers in Asia and Oceania: parchments or banana tree leaves with shells or seeds fragments, or sands glued with natural gum.



A lot of African and Oceanian vegetable-based stains

<i>Species</i>	<i>Organ</i>	<i>Region-Country</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Product</i>
<i>Baphia nitida</i>	Wood decoction	South Benin – South-West Nigeria	Red	Yorouba masks
<i>Bixa orellana</i> (rocouyer)	Seeds integument (rocou)	South America – Africa – Oceania (New Guinea)	Orange-red	All products
<i>Caesalpinia coriaria</i>	Wood	India - Madagascar	Red	All products
<i>Cochlospermum tinctorium</i>	Rhizome	Sudano-Sahelian area	Brown-yellowish	All products, decorative items
<i>Ficus glumosa</i>	Bark	Central to Austral Africa	Red	All products
<i>Haematoxylum campechianum</i>	Wood	Various tropical countries	Red	All products
<i>Indigofera coerulea/.../tinctoria</i>	Leaved branches	Africa then Asia-Oceania	Indigo	All products
<i>Lannea velutina</i>	Bark juice	West to Central Africa	Varnishes	All products
<i>Morinda lucida</i>	Wood	West to Central Africa	Yellow to red	All products

... / ...

Noteworthy bibliographic references

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**Thank you for
your attention !**

