

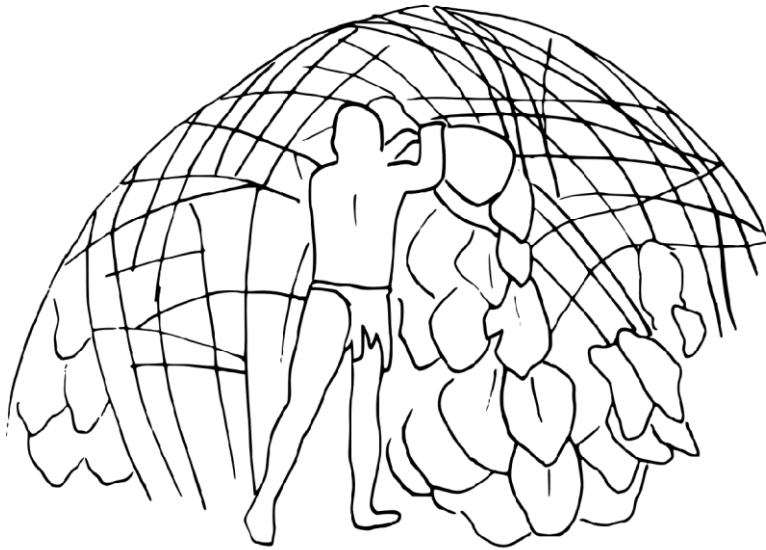


Fig.006 Illustration showing a native woman thatching with leaves a round structure. The structure has been built inserting saplings on the ground in a circle and then bending them over each other securing the interconnections with a rope made of vine. Once finished this house is waterproof and is ready to host her family for the night.

Craftmanship Among the Natives of Higher Africa

A native man works on a bow holding "over the fire for a moment" and testing "to see if it curved properly, and examined both ends to make sure that they tapered proportionately and were smoothly rounded". To extract poison for their arrows Sambali liana is "pounded into pulp" and then squeezed before the "arrow points are dipped in the poisonous extract and held over the fire until the sticky stuff adheres to the wood". Similarly, natives have a way of "extracting the stimulating juice of the kola nut" pounding them "to a pulp and adding water" and then filtering it through a "hole in the phrynium leaf" into which they insert a "bushy" tail. Natives also build their own music instruments like "a cross between a drum and a bass-viol" made "over a cavity hollowed out in the earth". They also build suspension bridges "from the tops of the giant trees" from which they "hang hundreds of liana cables" (Schebesta 1933). But women are the true carpenters going around cutting "branches and leaves needed to build their new home" and then driving "saplings into the ground" and after completing a circle hooking leaves together and "hanging them on the framework like tiles" (Turnbull 1961). Also, women make "rattan baskets" with which they gather food from the "vast area" surrounding their camp (Duffy 1984).