Muzubwa of the Abazubwa clan carried out the same function. The kigiilya remained within this abode until 1895; only high ranking Kerebe and important visitors were permitted to view the kigiilya. Apparently Rukonge followed Machunda's example and used it to remind his advisors and ranking subordinates of the power residing within the omukama.



Fig 2

Fig. 7

Fig. 2. A young girl carved by a Nyamwezi carver for Omukama Machunda who subsequently sent it as a gift to Kabaka Suna of Buganda. Collector: J. Roscoe, 1909. The British Museum, London. Height: about 120 cm.

Fig. 3. A young girl carved by Buzuzya of Bukerebe for the collector, A. Conrads, 1906. Museum für Völkerkunde, Berlin, III E 12 101. Height: 64 cm.

Kigiilya represents the extent of sculpture used by the Kerebe before 1895 with the exception of dolls which are discussed below. Because the figure was carved by a man identified as a Nyamwezi it is necessary to state categorically that the Kerebe possessed no sculpturing tradition as attributed to them in the literature. The belief that a Kerebe tradition did exist before 1895 arose from inadequate evidence supplied by collectors. From this inadequate information writers describing Kerebe sculpture have been led from one erroneous conclusion to another.