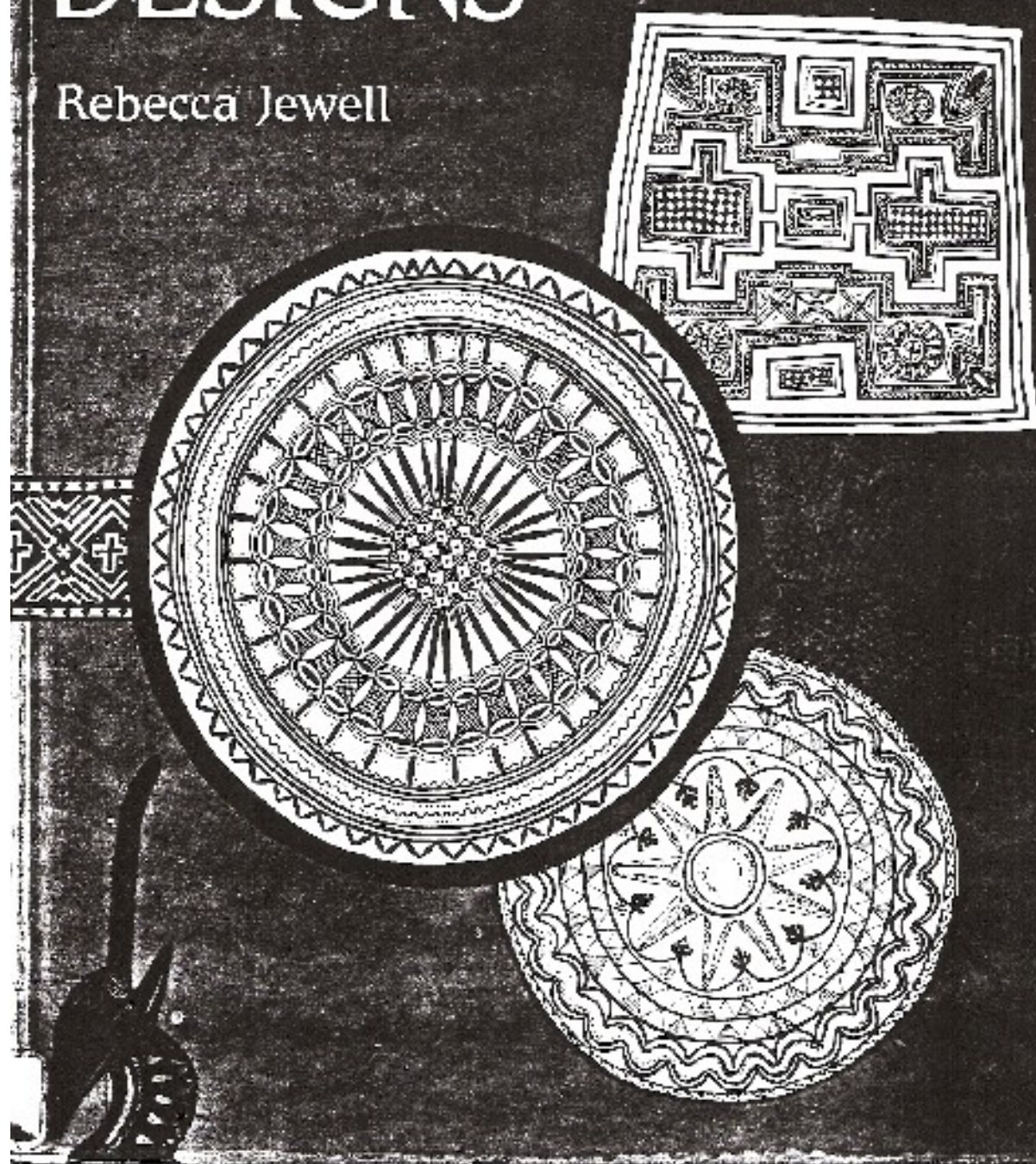


British Museum Pattern Books

AFRICAN DESIGNS

Rebecca Jewell

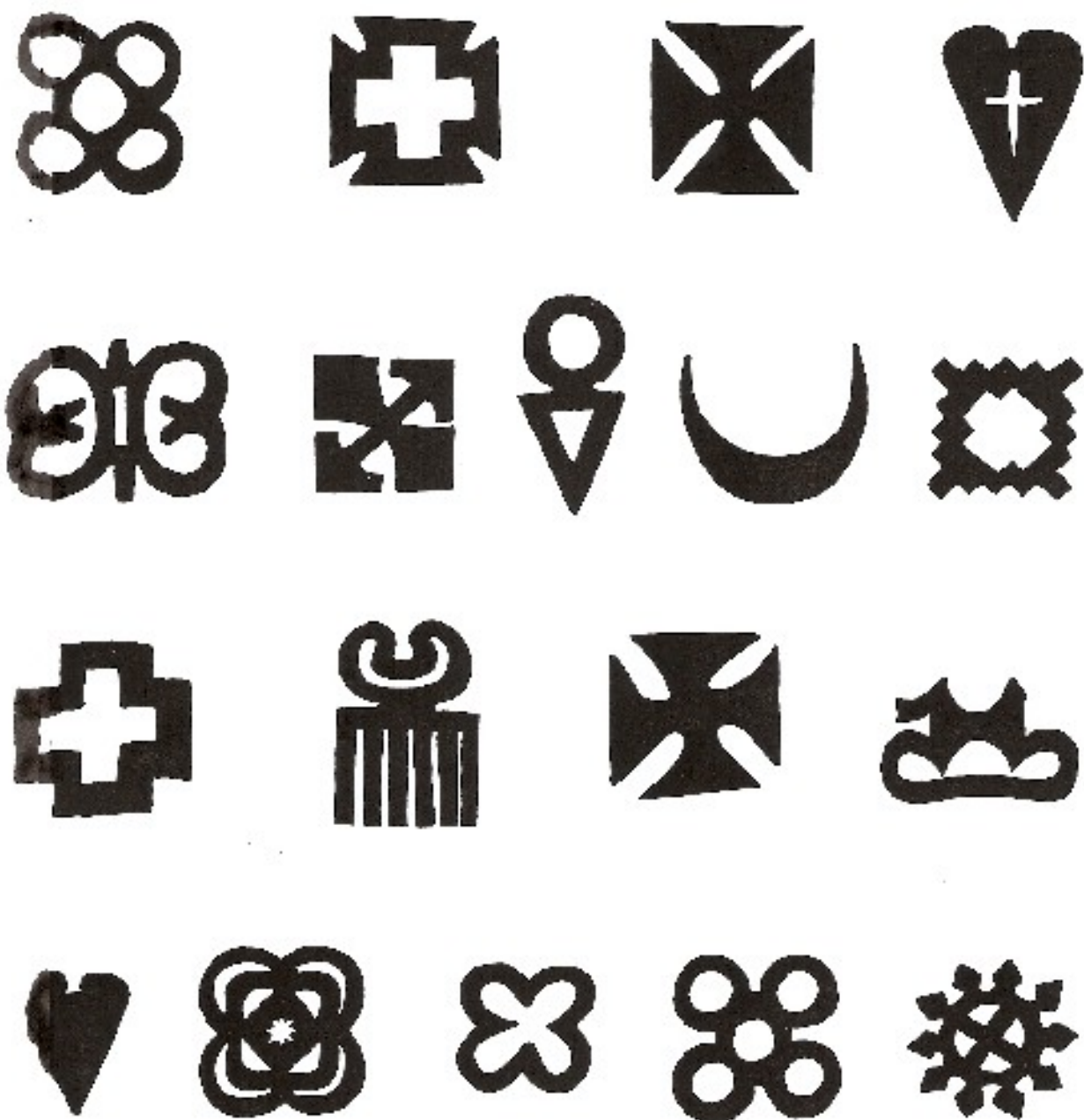




75 Figures and scenes taken from carved ivory elephant tusks. Zaire, 19th-20th centuries.



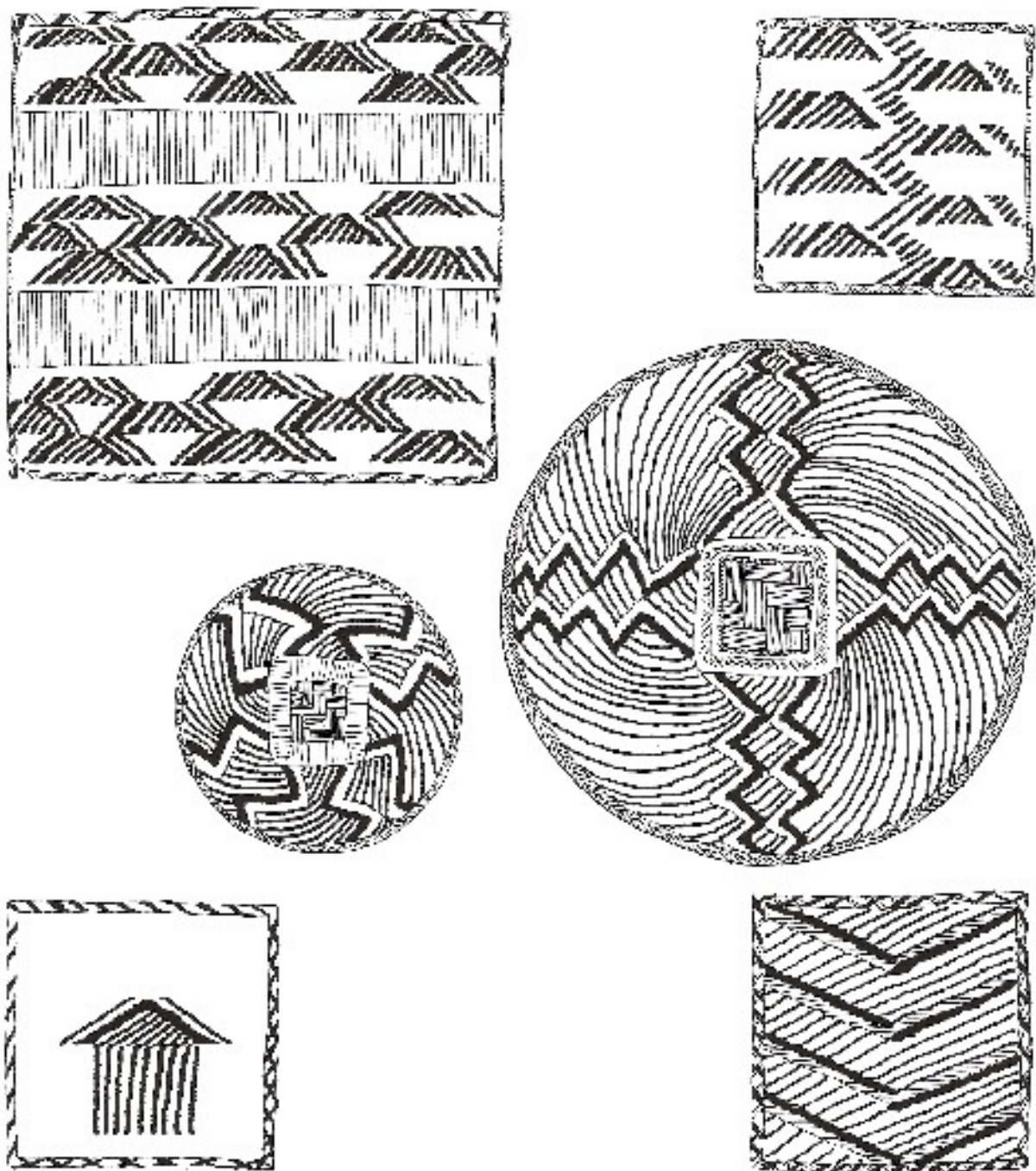
5 Barber silver jewellery from Algeria. On the narrow row are pins used to hold garments in place. The Islamic *Karama* (meaning 'five') bottom *karam* is here represented by the 'hand of Fatima'. It stands for the five prayers or five fundamental principles of Islam and protects the wearer from the evil eye.



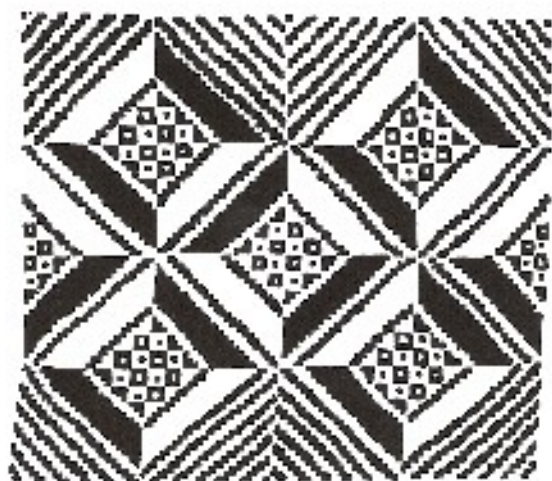
49 Ghanaian *Adinkra* stamps made from calabash and used to print cloth. The various designs of the stamps have different names each with magical, historical or proverbial meaning. TOP LEFT is *Ampempon* meaning five tufts of hair, a traditional hairstyle, and TOP ROW, third along, is *Mueyaha*, a symbol of sanctity and good fortune. The overall design of *Adinkra* cloth is made up of squares within which individual motifs are repeated.



63 TOP and BOTTOM Very fine examples of floral decorations on carved wooden kola nut boxes from Benin, 16th century. The CENTRE piece depicts court figures on a wooden plaque. The LOWER box has four stylised birds with long legs and beaks.



91 Basketware from Zimbabwe: two shallow round baskets (CENTRAL), and four table mats. Zimbabwe weavers still use mainly natural-colored fibres.



89 Designs from woven baskets and mats made in Madagascar. These are brightly coloured, using pinks, greens, purples, blues and yellows. They are woven from dyed raffia.