



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Eliot Elisofon Art photographs, EEPA 1973-002

Paul Wood

2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art  
National Museum of African Art  
P.O. Box 37012  
MRC 708  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
elisofonarchives@si.edu  
<https://africa.si.edu/collection/eliot-elisofon-photographic-archives/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Art photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1942-1972
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1973-002
<b>Creator:</b>	Elisofon, Eliot (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	5,000 Photographic prints ((10 boxes); b&w; 14 x 11 in. or smaller)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .
<b>Summary:</b>	Photographs taken by Eliot Elisofon in Africa and in European and American museums and collections during his extensive travels from 1942 through 1972. African kingdoms and peoples represented include Afo, Anyi, Asante, Atie, Baga, Bamana, Baule, Bembe, Benin, Bobo, Boki, Bozo, Chamba, Chokwe, Dan, Dinka, Dogon, Ebrie, Efik, Ejagham, Hausa, Ibibio, Idoma, Ife, Igbo-Ukwu, Ijo, Jenne, Jukun, Kamba, Kissi, Kom, Kongo, Kono, kota, Kpelle, Kuba, Kuyu, Kwele, Lega, Lobi, Loma, Lozi, Luba, Lulua, Lunda, Mambila, Mende, Mossi, Nalu, Ndebele, Ngbaka, Ngoni, Nok, Nupe, Nyamwezi, Pende, Suku, Susu, Tabwa, Teke, Temne, Tetela, Tiv, Tuareg, Urhobo, Vai, Woyo, Yaka, Yoruba, and Zande.
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1
<b>Container:</b>	Box 2
<b>Container:</b>	Box 3
<b>Container:</b>	Box 4
<b>Container:</b>	Box 5
<b>Container:</b>	Box 6
<b>Container:</b>	Box 7
<b>Container:</b>	Box 8
<b>Container:</b>	Box 9
<b>Container:</b>	Box 10

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Eliot Elisofon, 1973.

## Restrictions

Use of original records requires an appointment. Contact Archives staff for more details.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to reproduce images from the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives must be obtained in advance. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical Note

A photographer best known for his work in Life magazine. Elisofon worked as a free-lance magazine photographer from 1933 to 1937, as a staff photographer for Life from 1933 to 1937 and on photographic assignments for various magazines, including the Smithsonian magazine, from 1942 to 1945. Elisofon traveled extensively in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America documenting the peoples of these lands as well as their arts and environments. A founding member and curatorial associate of the privately owned Museum of African Art, which in 1981 became the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA), Elisofon bequeathed his collection of African photographs to the museum when he died in 1973.

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## Arrangement

Images indexed by negative number.

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## General

Title is provided by EEPA staff based on photographer's notes.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Asante (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Kyaman (African people)

### Cultures:

- Asante (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Kyaman (African people)

### Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Photographic prints

### Places:

- Africa

Congo (Democratic Republic)  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Ghana  
Mali  
Nigeria  
Tanzania