



Smithsonian
National Museum of African Art

Herbert Baker photographs,
EEPA 1978-001, 1950-1965

Roslyn A. Walker

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
<http://africa.si.edu/collection/eliot-elisofon-photographic-archives/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Herbert Baker photographs
Identifier:	EEPA.1978-001
Date:	1950-1965
Extent:	184 photographic prints ((1 box); color) 223 slides (photographs) ((1 volume); color) 109 photographic prints (color; 8 x 10 in. or smaller) 13 photographic prints (black & white; 8 x 10 in. or smaller)
Creator:	Baker, Herbert
Language:	Undetermined
Summary:	Photographs of art objects at various museums taken and assembled by Herbert Baker.
Container:	Volume 1
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Herbert Baker, 1978 and 1997.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Art dealer Herbert Baker (1924-2001) studied art in Chicago and, after serving in the South Pacific during World War II, worked for Raymond Loewry Associates, Burton Browne Advertising, and Wetzel Brothers. In 1950 he founded Herbert Baker Advertising. That same year he began collecting African Art. A member of the Committee on Primitive Art at the Art Institute between 1960 and 1970, Baker is an authority on African and Oceanic art. His art holdings have been shown at Lake Forest College in Illinois, the Museum of African Art (now the National Museum of African Art), and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

Scope and Contents

Assembled by Baker as a collection for personal reference purposes, the photographs document African anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures, ceremonial containers, masks, and weapons. African masks documented are from the following peoples: Bamana, Dogon, Fang (Pahouin), Igbo, Lega, Senufo, and Yaka. Sculptures shown include an Asante akuaba (wooden child figure), a Mumuye figure, and Senufo figures. Other objects depicted include an Asante state sword, a Bamana chiwara (antelope headdress), a beaded gourd from the Cameroon Grassfields, and a Dogon door and stool.

Arrangement

Images indexed by negative number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Cultures:

Art objects -- Collectors and collecting

Types of Materials:

Photographic prints

Geographic Names:

Africa