



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Burton Ashley photographs,
EEPA 1979-001, 1930-1952

Paul Wood

2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
National Museum of African Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Burton Ashley photographs
Date:	1930-1952
Identifier:	EEPA.1979-001
Creator:	Ashley, Burton E., 1908- (Photographer)
Extent:	665 Negatives (photographic) (black & white; 4 x 5 in. or smaller) 520 Negatives (photographic) (duplicate negatives; black & white; 4 x 5 in. or smaller) 10 Postcards (black & white; 9 x 14 cm.) 157 Slides (photographs) (color) 338 Photographic prints (+ contact prints ; black & white; 4 x 5 in. or smaller) 1 Photographic print ((panograph); black & white; 6.3 x 20 cm.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The photographs are cityscapes and landscapes taken by Burton E. Ashley in Egypt, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia during the early 1930s and early 1950s. The images include views of Cape Town, South Africa; Cairo, Egypt; Port Said, Egypt, and Mozambique. Architecture depicted includes buildings in Tanzania, a mission in Zambia and the Mohammed Ali Mosque in Cairo. Additionally, there are images of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana and rivers and waterfalls including the Luangwa, Nile, Zambezi and Victoria Falls. The collection also includes photos of animals, geological features and vegetation.
Container:	Box 1
Container:	Item 487

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Burton E. Ashley, 1979.

Preferred Citation

Burton Ashley Photograph Collection, EEPA 1979-001, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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 Note

Geologist Burton E. Ashley (1908-1993) worked for the British South Africa Company (1930-1933). He received a M.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1936 and later worked for the Texas Company (1936-1943), Phillips Petroleum Company (1943-1950), U.S. Geological Survey (1950-1957) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (1957-1960). In 1961, he became minerals officer for the U.S. Department of State, serving in Australia. After retiring, Ashley served as a volunteer in the Mineral Sciences Department of the National Museum of Natural History.

Biographical / Historical

Geologist Burton E. Ashley (1908-1993) worked for the British South Africa Company from 1930 to 1933. He received an M.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1936 and later worked for the Texas Company (1936-1943), Phillips Petroleum Company (1936-1943), U.S. Geological Survey (1950-1957), and U.S. Bureau of Mines (1957-1960). In 1961, he became minerals officer for the U.S. Department of State, serving in Australia. After retiring, Ashley served as a volunteer in the Mineral Sciences Department at the National Museum of Natural History.

Scope and Contents

The photographs are cityscapes and landscapes taken by Burton E. Ashley in Egypt, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia during the early 1930s and early 1950s. More specifically, Ashley took photographs from 1930 to 1933 while working for the British South Africa Company, and from 1950 to 1952 while working for the U.S. Geological Survey.

The images illustrate architecture such as Islamic buildings in Tanzania, a mission in Zambia and the Mohammed Ali Mosque in Cairo, Egypt; cityscapes of Cape Town, South Africa, and Port Said, Egypt; market scenes in Cairo and Mozambique; and ships, structures, and waterscapes in the Suez Canal, Egypt. There are also images of animals, geological features, and vegetation, including landscapes of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana and waterscapes of rivers (such as the Luangwa River, Nile River, and Zambezi River) and waterfalls (such as Victoria Falls).

Some of the photographs were taken by Sydney Schafer. One set of twenty prints is a published package of black and white prints purchased by Ashley in 1933. The images are 6 x 9 cm. and depict Egyptian pyramids.

Arrangement

Prints and copy prints, volume #1; Arranged numerically by image number

Panographic print and published print set, volume #2; Arranged by image number

color slides, box #1; Arranged by image number

nitrate negs, box #2; Arranged by image number

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Photographic prints
- Postcards

Places:

- Africa
- Cairo (Egypt)
- Cape Town (South Africa)
- Egypt
- Kalahari Desert -- Photographs
- Luangwa River Zambia and Mozambique -- Photographs
- Mozambique
- Nile River
- Port Said (Egypt)
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Victoria Falls Zimbabwe -- Photographs
- Zambezi River -- Photographs
- Zambia

Container Listing

EEPA 1979-010161: [Imperial Airways Aircraft de Havilland D.H.66 Hercules, 1932](#)

1 Negative ((nitrate negative; b&w; 35 mm.)

Creator: Ashley, Burton E., 1908-

Notes: Imperial Airways tri-motor aircraft, the de Havilland D.H.66 Hercules "City of Cape Town" (r/n G-ABMT), being serviced at Mpika, Northern Rhodesia. Photograph by Burton E. Ashely, 1932.

Topic: Aircraft

Place: Africa

Zambia

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs

EEPA 1979-010163: [Imperial Airways Aircraft de Havilland D.H.66 Hercules, 1932](#)

1 Negative ((nitrate negative; b&w; 35 mm.)

Creator: Ashley, Burton E., 1908-

Notes: Imperial Airways tri-motor aircraft, the de Havilland D.H.66 Hercules "City of Cape Town" (r/n G-ABMT), above airfield at Mpika, Northern Rhodesia. Photograph by Burton E. Ashely, 1932.

Topic: Aircraft

Place: Africa

Zambia

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs

EEPA 1979-010815: Imperial Airways Aircraft Handley Page H.P.42 "Horatius", 1933

1 Photographic print (b&w; 9 x 13 cm.)

Creator: Ashley, Burton E., 1908-

Notes: Imperial Airways aircraft, right side view from slightly rear, Handley Page H.P.42 "Horatius" (r/n G-AAXD) on the ground at Paris, France. Several passengers mill about in foreground. Image no. 1979-010815. Photograph by Burton E. Ashely, 1933.

Topic: Aircraft

Place: Africa

Paris (France)

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs

Photographic prints

EEPA 1979-010816: Imperial Airways Aircraft Handley Page H.P.42 "Horatius", 1933

1 Photographic print (b&w; 9 x 13 cm.)

Creator: Ashley, Burton E., 1908-

Notes: Imperial Airways aircraft, one-half right rear view, close up, from behind right wing, of forward portion of Handley Page H.P.42 "Horatius" (r/n G-AAXD) on the ground at Paris, France. Unidentified man stand with back to camera in center

foreground. Image no. 1979-010816. Photograph by Burton E. Ashely, 1933.

Topic: Aircraft
Place: Africa
Paris (France)
Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs
Photographic prints