



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

William W. Brill photographs, EEPA 1985-001

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2018

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	William Brill photographs
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1983
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1985-001
<b>Creator:</b>	Brill, William, 1918-2003 (Collector)
<b>Location:</b>	Located offsite at Iron Mountain (box 97464370).
<b>Extent:</b>	479 Photographic prints (object copy prints; black & white; 8 x 10 in. or smaller ) 17 Photocopies
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection is comprised of photographs collected by William W. Brill to document his personal collection of African art objects, which primarily contains masks, sculpted figures, and tools.

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

William Brill Photographs, EEPA 1985-001, 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

For study purposes only. 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 / Historical

William W. Brill (1918-2003) received a B.A. from Yale University and was the president of the Mutual Real Estate Investment Trust in New York. He started collecting African art around 1960 and has donated several art objects to museums.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised of photographs collected by William W. Brill to document his personal collection of African art objects, which primarily contains masks, sculpted figures, and tools. Masks documented are from the following peoples: Hemba, Lulua, Makonde, and Bbagani. Sculptural figures shown were created by the following groups: Bassa, Dogon, Kulango, Kuyu, Loma, Luba, Lunda, Punu, and Tabwa. Other

objects shown include an Asante comb, Asante royal staff, Baule animal head, Bete heddle pulley, Chokwe comb, Ijo staff, Kuba headrest, Lele staff, Ndengese axe handle, Senufo ceremonial container, Senufo wine strainer, Yela staff, Yoruba house post, Zulu comb, and Zulu hunter's staff. There are also images of musical instruments including bells, flutes, and rhythm pounders from Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, and Zaire. Photographers represented include Tony Fitsch, Al Mozell and Bernard Pierre Wolff.

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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:

- Art objects
- Asante (African people)
- Bassa (Liberian and Sierra Leone people)
- Baule (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Loma (African people)
- Luba (African people)
- Makonde (African people)
- Masks, African
- Punu (African people)
- Senufo (African people)
- Zulu (African people)

### Cultures:

- Asante (African people)
- Bassa (Liberian and Sierra Leone people)
- Baule (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Loma (African people)
- Luba (African people)
- Makonde (African people)
- Punu (African people)
- Senufo (African people)
- Zulu (African people)

### Types of Materials:

- Photographic prints

### Places:

- Africa
- Cameroon
- Mali
- Nigeria