



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Jacob and Eleanor Reis photographs,  
EEPA 1985-004, 1910-1920

Paul Wood

2011

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>	Jacob and Eleanor Reis photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1910-1920
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1985-004
<b>Creator:</b>	Reis, Jacob A. (Photographer) Reis, Eleanor Nicely, Mrs.
<b>Extent:</b>	174 Transparencies (dupe trans; black & white; 6 x 9 cm. ) 96 Negatives (photographic) (dupe negs; black & white; 8 x 11 cm. ) 96 Transparencies (dupe trans; black & white; 8 x 11 cm. ) 24 Negatives (photographic) (dupe negs; black & white; 9 x 11 cm. or smaller ) 110 Negatives (photographic) (black & white; 9 x 11 cm. or smaller) 129 Lantern slides (silver gelatin; black & white; 6 x 9 cm. ) 3 Volumes (copy prints; black & white; 8 x 10 in. ) 2 Volumes (contact prints; black & white; 9 x 11 cm. ) 174 Negatives (photographic) (dupe negs; black & white; 6 x 9 cm. )
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Photographs taken by Jacob Anthony Reis to document his experiences in Southern Cameroon while serving as a Presbyterian missionary from 1909 to 1945. The photographs document the life and peoples at Jacob A. Reis's mission stations, especially in and near Efulen, Cameroon, in the early 20th Century. African peoples pictured include the Bassa, Bulu and Ntumu. Structures depicted include churches, a dispensary, a fishing hut, a saw mill, school buildings such as a Baptist girls' school in Doulal and thatched roof buildings. Also included are African ritual objects collected by the mission and a photographic reproduction of a handwritten statistical list of bible readers, communicants, preachers and students.
<b>Container:</b>	Item 129
<b>Container:</b>	Item 174
<b>Container:</b>	Item 174
<b>Container:</b>	Item 96
<b>Container:</b>	Item 96
<b>Container:</b>	Item 24
<b>Container:</b>	Item 110

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Eleanor R. Henry, daughter of Jacob A. and Eleanor N. Reis, 1985.

Conserved through a preservation grant funded by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee, 2006.

### 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

Jacob A. Reis, 1883-1945, Presbyterian missionary; graduated from Wooster College; attended Bloomfield Theological Seminary and ordained in 1908; joined the Presbyterian Church's mission in Cameroon in 1909; returned to the United States to complete his studies at the Western Theological Seminary in 1912; traveled back to Africa and served until his death in 1945.

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## Arrangement

Images indexed by negative number.

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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:

- Bassa (Cameroon people)
- Bassa (Liberian and Sierra Leone people)
- Bulu (African people)
- Ntumu (African people)

### Cultures:

- Bassa (Cameroon people)
- Bassa (Liberian and Sierra Leone people)
- Bulu (African people)
- Ntumu (African people)

### Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Lantern slides
- Transparencies

Places:

Africa  
Cameroon