



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Walker Evans photographs, EEPA 1985-010, 1935

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

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
General note.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Color Negatives, 1994-2002.....	4
Series 2: Color Photographs.....	5
Series 3: Oversize Art Prints and Posters.....	6
Series 4: Exhibit Related Materials.....	7
Series 5: Biographical Materials and Publications.....	8
Series 6: Manuscripts and Correspondence.....	9
Series 7: Ethiopian Art Prints.....	10

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	Walker Evans photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1935
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1985-010
<b>Creator:</b>	Evans, Walker, 1903-1975 (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	225 Photographic prints (silver gelatin (3 boxes); black & white; 8 x 10 in.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Peoples and kingdoms whose art works are shown include the Asante, Baule, Benin, Boki, Dogon, Fang (Pahouin), Ijo, Kuba, Lumbu, Mama, Mende, Mpongwe, Punu and Yoruba. Objects depicted include garments, doors, fly whisks, gold weights, headrests, jewelry, masks, musical instrument such as bells and rhythm pounders, power figures, pipes, staff finials, stools and wood sculptures of men and women.
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1
<b>Container:</b>	Box 2
<b>Container:</b>	Box 3

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Photographs assembled in a portfolio entitled, "African Negro Art: Photographs by Walker Evans," in conjunction with the exhibit entitled, "African Negro Art," held at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City in 1935. The images have been published in the following books: Paul Radin's *African Folktakes & Sculpture* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1952), James Johnson Sweeney's *African Sculpture* (Princeton University Press, 1970), James Johnson Sweeney's *African Negro Art* (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1935), and Virginia-Lee Webb's *Perfect Documents: Walker Evans and African Art, 1935* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2000). Donated by Dr. Samuel Stern, 1985.

### 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

Walker Evans, 1903-1975, photographer and educator. Studied at Williams College in 1923 and the Sorbonne in Paris in 1926, worked as a photographer for the Farm Security administration from 1935 to 1937, worked as a contributing editor to Time magazine from 1943 to 1945, and served as an associate editor and staff photographer at Fortune magazine from 1946 to 1965. Mr. Evans also taught graphic arts at Yale University and served as artist-in-residence at Dartmouth College.

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## General

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:

- Art objects
- Asante (African people)
- Baule (African people)
- Boki (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Fang (West African people)
- Ijo (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Lumbu
- Mama (African people)
- Mende (African people)
- Mpongwe (African people)
- Punu (African people)
- Yoruba (African people)

### Cultures:

- Asante (African people)
- Baule (African people)
- Boki (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Fang (West African people)
- Ijo (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Lumbu
- Mama (African people)
- Mende (African people)
- Mpongwe (African people)
- Punu (African people)
- Yoruba (African people)

### Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs

Photographic prints

Places:

Africa  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Nigeria

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Color Negatives, 1994-2002

Binder 1                      Reference prints

Binder 1	Asmara market, Eritrea, 1994 Topic:                      Marketplaces Beadwork Church buildings
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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Color Photographs

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 3: Oversize Art Prints and Posters

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 4: Exhibit Related Materials

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 5: Biographical Materials and Publications

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 6: Manuscripts and Correspondence

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 7: Ethiopian Art Prints

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

EEPA 1985-100101: Dan mask Côte d'Ivoire, 1935

1 Photographic print (b&amp;w; 24 x 17 cm.)

Photographer: Elisofon, Eliot

Language: Undetermined.

Notes: Evans 101

Title source: Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Citation source: Archives staff.

Photograph by Walker Evans in 1935 of a mask displayed in an exhibit of the same year entitled 'African Negro Art' in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Original catalog caption reads, "Mask, Ivory Coast, Dan. Wood, 9 7/8 inches high. Collection Charles Ratton, Paris."

Topic: Art objects

Place: Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs

Photographic prints

EEPA 1985-100129: Baule bobbins Côte d'Ivoire, 1935

1 Photographic print (b&amp;w; 8 x 10 in.)

Photographer: Elisofon, Eliot

Language: Undetermined.

Notes: Evans 129

Title source: Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Citation source: Archives staff.

Photograph by Walker Evans in 1935 of two Baule bobbins displayed in an exhibit of the same year entitled 'African Negro Art' in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Original catalog caption reads, "Two bobbins, Ivory Coast, Baule, Ivory Coast. Baule. Wood, 7 and 9 inches high. Collection Percier, Paris and Mme. Helena Rubinstein, New York."

Topic: Art objects

Place: Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs

Photographic prints

EEPA 1985-100184: Benin bronze head Nigeria, 1935

1 Photographic print (b&amp;w; 8 x 10 in.)

Photographer: Elisofon, Eliot

Language: Undetermined.

Notes: Evans 184

Title source: Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Citation source: Archives staff.

Photograph by Walker Evans in 1935 of a Benin bronze head displayed in an exhibit of the same year entitled 'African Negro Art' in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Original catalog caption reads, "Head, Benin, British Nigeria, Bronze, 7 3/4 inches high (photograph over actual size). Collection Captain A.W.F. Fuller, London."

Topic: Art objects  
Place: Africa  
Nigeria  
Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographs  
Photographic prints