



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Roy Sieber photographs EEPA 1985-011, circa 1965

Paul Wood

2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
National Museum of African Art
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<https://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:	Roy Sieber photographs
Date:	circa 1965
Identifier:	EEPA.1985-011
Creator:	Sieber, Roy, 1923-2001 (Photographer)
Extent:	65 Slides (photographs) ((dupes); color)
Language:	Undetermined .
Summary:	Photographs taken by Roy Sieber. Images of African textile and the dyeing and weaving processes. Objects depicted include Asante Kente cloth, Hausa embroidered pants, Jukun tie-dye waist cloth, a Kuba hat, Yoruba indigo dye and a Zulu cloak, as well as akwete cloth from Nigeria, an appliqué dress from Cameroon, an appliqué robe from Ghana, cloth from Dahomey (now Benin) and dye pots from Ede. People portrayed include a Dogon dancer, Kajiado warriors with spears and shields, a weaver making cloth, and women dyeing cloth with indigo.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Roy Sieber, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Early American historian of African art Roy Sieber (1923-2001) is considered the founder of the discipline of African art history in the United States. He graduated from the New School for Social Research in New York in 1949, earned his M.A. at the University of Iowa (1951) and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University (1951), where he taught art history from 1950 to 1962. He joined Indiana University as an associate professor in 1962, one of the original scholars in the University's nascent African Studies Program as the Rudy Professor of Fine Arts. Sieber worked as the Associate Director for Collections and Research at the National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian Institution) from 1983 to 1993, where he was responsible for evaluating collection research and developing acquisition standards. Sieber received the first Leadership Award from the Arts Council of the African Studies Association in 1986.

Throughtout his career Sieber produced significant publications and served as lecturer and visiting professor at several universities in Africa as well as the United States. He was a member of the American Council of Learned Societies/Social Science Research Council Joint Committee on Africa between 1963 and 1971 and later the African Studies Association and the primitive art advisory committee at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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:

Subjects:

- Asante (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Dyes and dyeing
- Hausa (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Textile fabrics
- Zulu (African people)

Cultures:

- Asante (African people)
- Dogon (African people)
- Hausa (African people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Zulu (African people)

Types of Materials:

- Color slides

Names:

- Adamson, Glenn

Places:

- Africa
- Benin
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Mali