



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Wilhelm Schneider photographs,
EEPA 1991-011, between 1937-1940

Paul Wood

2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, 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:	Wilhelm Schneider photographs
Date:	between 1937-1940
Identifier:	EEPA.1991-011
Creator:	Schneider, Wilhelm, 1902-1990 (Photographer)
Extent:	84 Photographic prints (dupe prints (1 box); black & white; 18 x 13 cm. or smaller) 158 Negatives (photographic) (black & white; 4 x 5 in.) 158 Photographic prints (silver gelatin (2 v.); black & white; 18 x 13 cm. or smaller)
Language:	Undetermined .
Summary:	Photographs taken by Wilhelm Schneider (1902-1990) to document his experiences as a missionary for the Swiss Basel Mission in Cameroon, 1937-1940. The photographs document the culture of the Weh people and their neighbors in the Cameroon Grassfields during the 1930s. Activities include a funeral ceremony, hair braiding, house building, bridge crossing, food preparation, drum playing, knife sharpening, cotton spinning, field work, market selling and preaching. Architecture depicted includes chiefs' palaces, compounds, a mission school house, shrines and villages. Portraits include chiefs, kings, members of the secret society, kweifo, with their adornments, and other people showing dress, masks, ornaments and scarification.
Container:	Item 158
Container:	Volume 1
Container:	Volume 2
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Walter Schneider, son of Wilhelm Schneider, of York, Pennsylvania, and Maria Petzold, daughter of Wilhelm Schneider, of Reutlingen, Germany, 1991.

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

Wilhelm Schneider, 1902-1990, missionary; trained at the Basel Mission in Switzerland, stationed by the mission in Bali, Weh and the Fungom regions of the Cameroon Grassfields; later a pastor in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany.

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:

- Agriculture
- Body marking -- Africa
- Cultural landscapes
- Marketplaces
- Rites and ceremonies -- Africa

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Photographic prints

Places:

- Africa
- Cameroon