Smithsonian
National Museum of African Art

Andrew and Martha Ruch photographs, EEPA 1991-013, between 1922-1925

Paul Wood

2011

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

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Andrew and Martha Ruch photographs
Date:	between 1922-1925
Identifier:	EEPA.1991-013
Creator:	Ruch Family (Photographer)
Extent:	326 Photographic prints (dupe prints; 8 x 10 in.) 211 Photographic prints ((1 vol.) + papers.; black & white; 8 x 13 cm. or smaller.) 115 Lantern slides (hand colored; 6 x 9 cm.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Photographs taken and lantern slides collected by Andrew and Martha Ruch to document their experiences as missionaries in Africa during the 1920s. The photographs document Andrew and Martha Ruch's missionary work and their activities among the Kikuyu people. Places shown include Cairo, Egypt; the Mediterranean Sea; a beach in Mombasa, Kenya; Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania; Port Said, Egypt and the Suez Canal. Activities depicted include building houses, carrying loads such as grass (for thatching), luggage, water and wood; cooking; drying skins; grinding millet; pounding sugar cane and selling items from boats to ship passagers. Ceremonies included are baptisms and church ceremonies. Portraits of people include Christian converts; chiefs, children; families; Muhia, Ruchs' assistant; the Ruches; and warriors. Many of the portraits document African clothing, ornaments, scarification and weapons. Architectural images include building materials, grain bins, houses (including Ruch's home), mosques, museums in Cairo, pyramids, railroads, temples in Egypt and villages. Boats, motorcycles and ships are also pictured. Nature scenes of landscapes and animals vary greatly and include mountains, trails, rivers, vegetation, waterfalls as well as birds, camels, cattle, donkeys, lizards and a lion.
Container:	Item 115
Container:	Volume 1
Container:	Volume 2
Container:	Volume 2
Container:	Box 1
Container:	Box 2

Administrative Information

Provenance

Photographs and personal papers of Andrew and Martha Ruch donated by their granddaughter, Cynthia G. Cassey, 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

Andrew H. Ruch, 1899-1966, missionary and pastor; graduate of the Moody Bible Institute, 1921, received ThD from Webster University, 1930. Martha W. Ruch, 1898-1989, wife of Andrew Ruch, graduate of the Moody Bible Institute, 1922.After Martha Ruch graduated from Moody in 1922, they married and left for Africa. They set up a mission in a Kikuyu Reserve in Ruiru, Kenya, and worked there until 1925, when they returned to the United States. Andrew Ruch spent most of his life as a pastor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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:

Kikuyu (African people)

Cultures:

Kikuyu (African people)

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Lantern slides
Photographic prints

Places:

Africa
Cairo (Egypt)
Egypt
Kenya
Kikuyu (Kenya)
Mombasa (Kenya)

Mount Kenya (Kenya)
Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)
Mozambique
Port Said (Egypt)
Suez Canal (Egypt)