



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Vera Veditiz-Ward photographs,  
EEPA 1992-021, circa 1990

cgehrer

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/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	Vera Veditiz-Ward photographs
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1990
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1992-021
<b>Creator:</b>	Viditz-Ward, Vera (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	48 Photographic prints (black and white ; 11 x 14 inches.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection contains 48 matted black and white photographs, measuring 11 x 14 inches, taken by photographer and art professor Vera Veditiz-Ward. These prints comprised the exhibition Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone, which was on display at the National Museum of African Art from November 1990 through September 1991. The images consist of portraits of paramount chiefs in Sierra Leone and include ceremonial clothes and headcovers, jewelry, handheld objects, drums, staffs and ivory trumpets. Culture groups depicted include the Yalunka, Limba, Koranko, Kono, Kissi, Mende, Krim, Vai, Lokko and Temne peoples.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Vera Veditiz-Ward, 1992.

### Separated Materials

The Warren Robbins Library at the National Museum of African Art holds a copy of Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone, an catalog from Veditiz-Ward's exhibition of the same name, which ran at the National Museum of African Art from November 1990 to September 1991.

### Related Archival Materials

The Warren Robbins Library at the National Museum of African Art holds a copy of Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone, an catalog from Veditiz-Ward's exhibition of the same name, which ran at the National Museum of African Art from November 1990 to September 1991.

### Preferred Citation

Vera Veditiz-Ward Photographs, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### 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

Vera Viditz-Ward is a photographer and professor in the Art and Art History Department at Bloomsburg College. She received her BFA from the Hartford Art School of the University of Hartford, CT and her MFA in Photography from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her photographic work explores the lives and experiences of West Africans both in their own countries and their experiences as immigrants in the United States. Her photographs have been published and exhibited in numerous solo shows both nationally and internationally. Professor Viditz-Ward has also conducted research in the history of photography. She has published several articles, written a chapter in a book and frequently presents lectures on the history of Black African photography. She is the recipient of several honors and awards including two Fulbright-Hayes Research Grants and a National Education Association Research Grant. Her photographs are in numerous collections, including the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African Art; the United States Department of State Art in Embassies permanent collection; and the National Museum of Sierra Leone.

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## General

Title provided by EEPA staff.

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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:

- Clothing and dress
- Costume
- Drums
- Hairdressing
- Jewelry
- Kissi (African people)
- Kono (Sierra Leonean people)
- Kuranko (African people)
- Limba (African people)
- Mende (African people)
- Staffs (Sticks, canes, etc.)
- Temne (African people)
- Trumpets
- Vai (African people)
- Yalunka (African people)
- headgear

### Cultures:

- Kissi (African people)
- Kono (Sierra Leonean people)

Kuranko (African people)  
Limba (African people)  
Mende (African people)  
Temne (African people)  
Vai (African people)  
Yalunka (African people)

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs  
Photographic prints

Places:

Africa  
Sierra Leone