



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

John Sebastian Derr photographs, 1906-1909

Paul Wood

2011

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	John Sebastien Derr photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1906-1909
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1993-004
<b>Source:</b>	Derr, John Sebastien (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Lantern slide (color; 8 x 10 cm.) 93 Lantern slides (black & white; 8 x 10 cm.) 1 Folder (calendar (1909) ; illustrated; 15 x 24 cm.)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Photographs or collected by Dr. John Sebastien Derr, a member of the Sudan United Mission in Cameroon from 1906-1909. As a missionary he was devoted to converting the people in Cameroon to Christianity and to dispelling Islam. The majority of the slides depict life in Adamawa, northern Cameroon. The images document Islamic and other populations in Cameroon. The individual and group portraits of men, women, and children primarily focus on the lives of the indigenous peoples, though a few pictures of Europeans are included. A Hausa leader is featured among the portraits. The Sudan United Mission calendar displaying snapshots of a different missionary with each month. Dr. Derr is featured in January of 1909. Also included in the calendar are a list of officers, five prayers, a list of societies in the Sudan without a missionary and events that relate to the Sudan United Mission. Images of musicians, cooks, hunters, and laborers give some sense of village and missionary life. Other scenes reveal Central African terrain. There are two or three views of mountains, sunrise or sunset, and regional vegetation. Many images capture architecture, among which are building styles ranging from thatched edifices to colonial buildings and to urban street scenes in colonial Egypt. Maritime activity is exhibited in the shots of various boats used by the African peoples. European seamen and passengers are depicted as well. Along with photographs of northern Cameroon, there are several images of life in colonial Egypt.</p>
<b>Container:</b>	Item 94

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Loaned by Robert G. Jullien, 1993.

### 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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## 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:

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides

Names:

Derr, John Sebastien

Places:

Africa  
Cameroon