



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of African Art*

Ethiopia Photographic Album, EEPA 1995-019

Eden Orelove

2017

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art  
National Museum of African Art  
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<http://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>	Ethiopia Photograph Album
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1995-019
<b>Date:</b>	1936-1941
<b>Extent:</b>	269 Photographic prints (1 box; 1 album; black & white; 12 x 16 cm. )
<b>Language:</b>	Italian
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection includes one photographic album containing 269 silver gelatin black and white prints (12 x 16 cm.) and dates from 1936-1941. The photographs were taken in northern Ethiopia, and possibly Somalia. The images highlight peoples including the Danakil and Afar, dress, adornments, coiffures, churches, and historical residence, among other subjects.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Ethiopia photographic album</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Purchased, 1995. Conserved through a preservation grant funded by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee, 2006.

### Processing Information

Finding aid created by Eden Orelove, June 2017. Images digitized in 2012.

Most of the images have copy prints available for viewing in the Archives. There were also (269) copy negatives made in-house of the collection (5x4 in.).

### Preferred Citation

Ethiopia Photograph Album, EEPA 1995-019, 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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## Historical

Unknown photographer. The album was likely compiled by Italian military officers around the beginning of World War II. At the time, Italy had colonies in Libya and Italian East Africa (now Libya). The cover of the album reads: "FONDAZIONE DELL IX IMPERO ANNO XIV MAGGIO", which translates to "Foundation of the Ninth Empire year 14 May"

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## Scope and Contents

This collection includes one photographic album containing 269 silver gelatin black and white prints (12 x 16 cm.) and dates from 1936-1941. The photographs were taken in northern Ethiopia (Afar region) and possibly Somalia, and may have been produced by Italian military members during the occupation and war with Ethiopia. The images largely depict groups and portraits of African peoples, including the Danakil and Afar, scenic views, soldiers, vernacular architecture, churches, and towns. Many photographs depict animals, including lions, camels, warthogs, wildebeest, porcupines, hyenas, baboons, cheetahs, snakes, and ostriches. Of particular note are photos of an Ethiopian priest with a cross, an Ethiopian horseman with a shield, and clergy in full ceremonial attire.

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## Arrangement

Original album order maintained.

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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:

- Afar (African people)
- Animals -- Africa
- Religious processions -- Ethiopia
- Vernacular architecture

Cultures:

- Afar (African people)

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Photographic prints

Geographic Names:

Africa  
Ethiopia