



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Blake Robinson photographs and  
postcards, EEPA 1997-012, 1961

Christraud Geary

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  
elisofonarchives@si.edu  
<https://africa.si.edu/collection/eliot-elisofon-photographic-archives/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Arrangement note.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	Blake Robinson photographs and postcards
<b>Date:</b>	1961
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1997-012
<b>Source:</b>	Robinson, Blake (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	12 Negatives (photographic) (dupe negs; black & white; 4 x 5 in.) 115 Postcards (1 volume) 12 Photographic prints ((1 album); black & white; 13 x 18 cm. or smaller.) 12 Photographic prints (dupe prints (1 v.); black & white; 8 x 10 in.)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .
<b>Summary:</b>	Photographic album purchased by Blake Robinson in 1961 from the Charlejean Studio in Brazzaville, Congo. These images are of great interest as the images were most likely taken by an African photographer. Images include three of rivers scenes, two of funeral ceremonies, one each of a President and a press conference, three of modern house interiors and one aerial of Monumama. 42 postcards are from the city and surrounding countryside of Mogadishu, Somalia and depict architecture and wildlife. Evidence of Italian and Islamic influences appear in the urban scenes of Mogadishu's schools, banks, burial grounds, places of worship and legislative building. People pictured in the background are seen in mostly European clothing. A few scenes of the countryside include Somali herders in their traditional garments. Postcards of wildlife illustrate elephants, wart hogs, lions, buffalo, antelope and a leopard. 73 postcards depict scenes of urban and rural living in Chad, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo and Morocco. Images include market places, aerial views of Goree and Liberian basket weavers.
<b>Container:</b>	Item 12
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1
<b>Container:</b>	Volume 1

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Blake Robinson, 1997. Conserved through a preservation grant funded by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee, 2006.

### 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

Blake Robinson, b. 1932, worked for the U.S. Information Agency in the Philippines, Somalia (then U.N. Trusteeship Territory of Somalia), Senegal, Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia), Democratic Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), the United States, Vietnam, Italy and France and for the U.S. Educational and Cultural Foundation in Liberia. He received a B.A. from Harvard in 1953 and an M.A. in 1957. After retiring, he translated French and Italian literary works.

---

## 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:

### Types of Materials:

- Photographic prints
- Postcards

### Names:

- Robinson, Blake

### Places:

- Africa
- Brazzaville (Congo)
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Congo River
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Gorée (Senegal)
- Liberia
- Mogadishu (Somalia)
- Monumama (Congo)
- Nigeria
- Senegal