



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Lower Congo photographs,
EEPA 1997-013, 1886-1888

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:	Lower Congo photographs
Date:	1886-1888
Identifier:	EEPA.1997-013
Source:	Roget, Léon, Major, 1865-1929 (Collector)
Extent:	53 Photographic prints ((1 album); black & white; 12 x 17 cm.) 53 Negatives (photographic) (dupe negs; black & white; 4 x 5 in.) 53 Photographic prints (dupe prints (1 v.); black & white; 12 x 17 cm.)
Language:	French .
Summary:	Photographs assembled by Major Leon Roget, 1858-1909, in 1886 and 1888 in Boma, Congo Free State. Major Roget had organized the first companies of Force publique and had become its first commander (1886-1888). Most of the images are described in captions written on separate sheets by Rene J. Cornet, author of "La Bataille du Rail." Some images show the building of the railroad of the lower Congo (Matadi-Kinshasa), Katanga, and relate to the Belgian occupation and geological exploration of the Southeastern province and Maniema of the Belgian Congo by his father, Jules Cornet, 1865-1929. The majority of the images show architecture and colonial life in Boma and Matadi. They include a balloon ascent in 1889, a group of African men and women, African troops and African women with scarification. The most remarkable photographs include a picture of a Kongo burial ground, a studio photograph of a "horizontale" in Sierre Leone and a portrait of Makoleka, a "feticheur," who was executed for murder.
Container:	Item 53
Container:	Box 1
Container:	Volume 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased, 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.

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

Names:

Roget, Léon, Major, 1865-1929

Places:

Africa
Boma (Congo)
Congo (Democratic Republic)