



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

East African photographs, EEPA
2002-004, circa 1904-1919

Paul Wood

2011

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

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	East African photographs
Date:	[circa 1904-1919]
Identifier:	EEPA.2002-004
Extent:	101 Photographic prints ((1 box); black & white; 18 x 30 cm. or smaller)
Language:	German .
Summary:	<p>Linen covered family album compiled by German merchant Paul Schaff. The album contains 24 pages and 101 photographic images ranging from small silver gelatin to large toned albumen. There are also several postcards and a pencil-drawing showing the owner on the last page. There is a caption under a postcard of a street in Dar es Salaam stating "Daressalam, my old domicile." Other photographs depict Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Bukoba, and Kifumbiro. The photographs reflect various subjects, including landscapes (Lake Victoria), a German military post, towns, adornments, and peoples, including the Luo, and Maasai. There are a few, large albumen prints which seem to depict German South-West Africa --judging by the dress of women in two images. These photographs might have been presents. Perhaps the owner of the album took a trip to that colony. Inscribed on the album cover are the words, "Zur Erinnerung an Deutsch-Ost-Afrika" [In memory of German East Africa] and a Maasai shield drawn in china ink and colors in the lower corner of the cover. On one of the last pages, there is the halftone color print of a bugle playing Askari, captioned "Deutsche vergesst nicht Eure Kolonien" [Germans do not forget your colonies]. The pencil portrait of the owner on the last page concludes the story line.</p>
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased, 2002. 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 / Historical

German merchant Paul Schaff lived and worked in German East-Africa (now Tanzania) from circa 1904-1915. He was awarded the Iron Cross 1st class for serving as a machine gun gunner under the command of General Lettow-Vorbeck in WWI in East-Africa, when the British fought the Germans and ultimately took over the region. According to a caption and a picture in the album, Schaff returned to Germany in 1919.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Maasai (African people)

Cultures:

Maasai (African people)

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Photographic prints

Places:

Africa
Tanzania