



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Casimir Zagourski photographs, EEPA 2002-005

Paul Wood

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
Scope and Contents note.....	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Arrangement note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Casimir Zagourski photographs
Date:	between 1924-1935
Identifier:	EEPA.2002-005
Extent:	120 Postcards ((silver gelatin prints); black & white; 9 x 14 cm.) 3 Photographic prints ((silver gelatin); black & white; 26.5 x 19.7 cm. or smaller) 3 Drawings (visual works) (black & white; 29.8 x 22.7 cm. or smaller)
Language:	French .
Container:	Volume 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased, 2002. The photographic materials were brought to the U.S.A. in the late 1940s with the widow of Victor Ghislain Pilet, who had worked in the Belgian Congo during the late 1930s. In 1939, he received an honorable mention (Décoration Industrielle de 2ème classe) for his services in the Congo. The widow, since married and widowed again, lives in the Cape. There are also nine wooden display frames adorned with carved animal tusks, though not of elephant ivory, produced in a workshop somewhere in the Congo.

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

Casimir d'Ostoja Zagourski (1880-1941) was a Polish nobleman and professional studio photographer, who had maintained a studio in Leopoldville (now Kinshasa), Congo, between the World Wars. He travelled across the Belgian Congo, Rwanda-Burundi Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda and French Equatorial Afrique in 1926 to take photographs for his collective photo album "L'Afrique Qui Disparaît".

Scope and Contents

The photographs belong to the series of 417 images, entitled "L'Afrique qui disparaît", which Casimir Zagourski (1883-1944), a Polish photographer who lived in Léopoldville, created in the years between 1924 and 1935. He edited the series in different forms. One of the postcards includes a mistake in the captioning

which could occur in the printing process. There are three larger unique silver gelatin prints. These images and several postcards were framed in the display frames. The three pen and ink drawings by are signed "Henry," and were framed.

Arrangement

postcards:organized in one volume and arranged numerically by original postcard number

prints:organized in one box

frames:organized in nine boxes

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Photographic prints
- Picture postcards

Places:

- Africa
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Senegal
- South Africa

Container Listing

L'Afrique Qui Disparait! Rwanda, Dancers, [19--]
1 Postcard (b&w; 9 x 14 cm.)
Photographer: Zagourski, Casimir
Language: French.
Notes: Image indexed by negative number.
Postcard image of a group of dancers. Text on verso reads:
"L'Afrique Qui Disparait! 99. Ruanda - Danseurs; Photogr. C.
Zagourski, Leopoldville; Reproduction Interdite."
Topic: Dance
Place: Africa
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Rwanda
Genre/Form: Postcards