



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

Raymond Corbey collection of  
African postcards, EEPA 2002-006

Paul Wood

2011

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	Raymond Corbey collection of African postcards
<b>Date:</b>	between 1900-1930
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.2002-006
<b>Source:</b>	Corbey, Raymond, 1954- (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	255 Postcards ((silver gelatin prints); black & white ; 9 x 14 cm.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Postcards collected by Dr. Raymond Corbey whose published works discuss most of the postcards in this collection. One part of the collection consists of postcards which Corbey acquired. The second part of the collection was compiled by a French colonial, known only as "Nic." Dr. Corbey organized the postcards according to theme and publisher. Themes include Northern Africa World Fairs and Religious Societies. Publishers include J. Geiser (Algiers), Lehnert and Landrock (Tunis), Gautron (Dakar), Fortier (Dakar), and Nels and Ernest Thill (Brussels). Among the more prominent postcard images is one of a minkisi by R. Visser (ca. 1890), depictions of installations and fairs at Tervuren (1900) colon sculptures in Savalou (Benin), circa 1920, an early depiction of a "Ricksha" boy, a Luba mask dancer, and a village chief in Dahomey.
<b>Container:</b>	Volume 1
<b>Container:</b>	Volume 2

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Purchased, 2002.

### Preferred Citation

Raymond Corbey collection of African postcards, EEPA 2002-006, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, 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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## Biographical Note

Dr. Raymond Corbey, a philosopher at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, who has written several essays and a book on postcards.

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## Arrangement

Postcards organized in two volumes.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Picture postcards

Names:

Corbey, Raymond, 1954-

Places:

Africa  
Benin  
Congo (Democratic Republic)  
Senegal