



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Thomas Ofcansky collection, EEPA 2015-012

Eden Orelove

May 2018

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:	Thomas Ofcansky collection
Date:	1678-circa 2005
Identifier:	EEPA.2015-012
Creator:	Ofcansky, Thomas P., 1947- (Collector)
Extent:	1 Booklet (sheet music) 30 Engravings 6 Photographic prints 6 Posters 1 Drawing 2 Documents 12 Maps
Language:	Multiple languages .
Summary:	The collection dates from 1678 to circa 2005 and consists of 58 maps, engravings, posters, original documents and photographs related to East, Central and South Africa. There is a special focus on Ethiopia (Abyssinia), Tanzania and the Sudan, and the collection's subjects include East African geography, history, political affairs and African leaders, as well as European (German, Italian, British) and American colonization, exploration and warfare in Africa.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Collected by Thomas Ofcansky. Purchased by the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art, in February 2015.

Processing Information

Processed by Eden Orelove, May 2018.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Ofcansky Collection, EEPA 2015-012, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas P. Ofcansky (1947-) is a former African affairs analyst with the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and a retired professor of political science from the University of West Virginia. In the 1990s, he developed a detailed database that tracked the suppliers and shipments of small arms to Africa (PBS/Frontline interview, February, 2002). Ofcansky is the author of numerous publications including *Uganda: Tarnished Pearl of Africa* (1999), *Paradise Lost: A History of Game Preservation in East Africa* (2002), and has co-authored numerous volumes in the *Historical Dictionary of Africa* series and *Ethiopia: A Country Study* (1993–2014).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 58 maps, engravings, particularly satirical comics, posters, original documents and photographs related to East, Central and South Africa. There is a special focus on Ethiopia (Abyssinia), Tanzania and the Sudan, and the collection's subjects include East African geography, history, political affairs and African leaders, as well as European (German, Italian, British) and American colonization, exploration and warfare in Africa. A number of engravings feature Benito Mussolini, Menelik, and the first Italian-Ethiopian War of 1895-1896. Additionally, there is a photograph of Haile Selassie. Many of the chromolithographs appeared in popular publications in England, France and the U.S., including *Punch, or The London Charivari*, *The London Illustrated News*, *The Graphic*, and *Le Petit Journal* during the late 19th – early 20th century.

There are a few ephemeral items related to travel and transportation in Africa, including African Steamship travel tickets, menus and a Uganda railway poster. Other items are related to exploration, hunting and safaris, including original sketches and engravings of motor safari camps in East Africa.

Arrangement

Arranged in one series by medium.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Certificates
- Engravings
- Letters
- Pamphlets
- Photographic prints
- Posters
- Sheet music

Places:

- Africa -- Colonization
- Africa -- Discovery and exploration
- Africa -- Maps
- Ethiopia

Sudan
Tanzania

Container Listing

Maps	
Map-case 2, Folder 1	EEPA 2015-012-0001: "Johnson's Africa", circa 1880 1 Map (color; 26.5 x 18 inches) Image(s): "Johnson's Africa" [Map of Africa Delineating European Colonies] Notes: From <i>Johnson's New Illustrated (Steel Plate) Family Atlas with Descriptions, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical</i> . Published by Johnson and Browning.
Map-case 2, Folder 1	EEPA 2015-012-0002: " Geologische Uebersichiskarte von Deutsch – Ostafrika " by Dr. Carl Peters [Map of German East Africa], circa 1900 1 Map (color; 25.25 x 20.5 inches)
Map-case 2, Folder 1	EEPA 2015-012-0003: " Mapa de Abisinia " [Italian Map of Ethiopia], circa 1930 1 Map (color; 19.25 x 23.5 inches) Language: Italian.
Map-case 2, Folder 2	EEPA 2015-012-0004: " Map of Africa Showing its Most Recent Discoveries ", circa 1860 1 Map (color; H x W: 16 x 18.5 inches (with mount))
Map-case 3, Folder 1	EEPA 2015-012-0005: "Abyssinia and Surrounding Countries", circa 1890 1 Map (color; 14 x 11 inches) Image(s): Abyssinia and Surrounding Countries
Map-case 3, Folder 2	EEPA 2015-012-0006: "Empire des Abyssins" [Map of the Abyssinian Empire], circa 1683 1 Map (color; 11.5 x 9 inches (with mount)) Image(s): "Empire des Abyssin" [Map of the Abyssinian Empire] Notes: By Alain Manesson Mallet, Paris. Part of his series <i>Description de l'Univers</i> (1683-c.1719). Published in section about Africa, "De L'Afrique", Figure XCIV, p. 237.
Map-case 3, Folder 3	EEPA 2015-012-0007: Côte Française de Somalis , circa 1920 1 Map (color; 18.25 x 13.75 inches (with mount)) Notes: Edited by L'Illustration.
Map-case 2, Folder 3	EEPA 2015-012-0008: " The Haile Selassie Map of Ethiopia " [reprint], after 1923-late 1900s 1 Map (color; printed on poster board; 36 x 24 inches) Notes: Original map held by Library of Congress Reprint on poster board. Drawn by Kh. B. Papzian and designed by Zoehar Design. Labeled as no. 1464.
Map-case 3, Folder 4	EEPA 2015-012-0009: " Bacon's War-Map of Egypt including The Soudan, Abyssinia, etc. ", 1896

1 Booklet (color; 25 x 17.25 inches)

Map-case 3, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0010: "British Map of Somaliland", October 1922 1 Map (color; 23.75 x 39.5 inches) Notes: Published by the British War Office
Map-case 3, Folder 6	EEPA 2015-012-0011: "Map of Africa Designed to Accompany Smith's Geography for Schools", 1839 1 Map (color; 11 x 17 inches) Notes: Engraved by Stiles, Sherman and Smith, N.Y.
Map-case 3, Folder 6	EEPA 2015-012-0012: Map of Deutsch-Ostafrika [German East Africa], circa 1886 1 Map (color; 11 x 17 inches)

Lithographs

Map-case 3, Folder 7	EEPA 2015-012-0013: "Le Pain Complet" [Political cartoon depicting Makalle (Ethiopia) as loaf of bread being poked in the German Kaiser's eye by Menelik II], 1896 February 6 1 Lithograph (color; 17 x 12 inches) Notes: Cover of <i>Le Petit Journal</i> , no. 273 (France) Names: Menelik II, Negus of Ethiopia, 1844-1913
Map-case 3, Folder 7	EEPA 2015-012-0014: "Destruction d'une Expedition Allemande en Afrique" [Destruction of a German Expedition in Africa], circa early 20th century 1 Lithograph (color; 17 x 12 inches) Notes: Illustrated supplement to <i>Le Petit Journal</i>
Map-case 3, Folder 8	EEPA 2015-012-0015: "Riconoscimento Militare ad Adua Eseguita dal Maggiore Di Maio E Dal Plotone Cacciatori a Cavallo" [Military Reconnaissance in Adua Performed by Major Di Maio and Plotone Cacciatori a Cavallo], 1890 January 19 1 Lithograph (black and white; 14.5 x 10.5 inches) Image(s): "L'Illustrazione, Italiana" [Italian soldiers riding on horseback into a village in Ethiopia] Notes: Published in <i>L'Illustrazione, Italiana</i> .
Map-case 2, Folder 3	EEPA 2015-012-0016: "Abyssinian Wedding on Adowa", 1884 June 28 1 Lithograph (black and white; 18.25 x 22.5 inches (with mount)) Notes: Published in <i>The Graphic</i> .
Map-case 2, Folder 3	EEPA 2015-012-0017: "Gruel for Theodore" and "Waiting for Death! The Real Abyssinian Difficulty", 1867 November 20-circa 1900 2 Lithographs (color; 31 x 12.5 inches) Notes: The lithograph "Gruel for Theodore!" was drawn by Proctor and published in <i>Judy, or the London Serio-comic Journal</i> , November 20, 1867. Caption reads: "Mr. Bull. What do you want with Money at this Time? Mrs. Benjamin (the Housekeeper). Please, Sir, It's for some Gruel for Master

	Theodore." The lithograph, "Waiting for Death", was drawn by Matt Morgan.
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0018: "The American Mission to Abyssinia: The Arrival at Addis Ababa", 1904 February 20 1 Lithograph (black and white; 12 x 16.5 inches) Notes: Drawn by F. de Harnen, from photographs by an American officer; Published in <i>The Graphic</i> , pg. 233.
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0019: "The Joyous Adventures of the 'M. Ts' in East Africa" [Safari Expedition Scenes], 1918 April/May 1 Engraving (black and white; 11.25 x 17.5 inches) Notes: Supplement to <i>Doings</i> .
Map-case 3, Folder 9	EEPA 2015-012-0020: "Stanley Cutting His Way Through the Darkness", 1889 1 Chromolithograph (color; 7.5 x 10 inches) Notes: Published by Avil Co., Philadelphia, pg. 101
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA.2015-012-0021: "The War in Soudan: An Affair with Outposts", 1885 January 3 1 Chromolithograph (color; 7.5 x 10 inches) Notes: Drawn by R. C. Woodville; Published in <i>The Illustrated London News</i> , pgs. 20-21.
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0022: "War in the Desert: A Running Fight", 1885 February 7 1 Chromolithograph (color; 16 x 22.25 inches) Notes: Drawn by R.C. Woorville; Published in <i>The Illustrated London News</i> , pgs. 154-155.
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0023: "The Nile Expedition - The Advance on Khartoum: Capturing the Enemy's Supplies", 1885 January 31 1 Chromolithograph (color; 16 x 22.25 inches) Notes: Published in <i>The Illustrated London News</i> , pgs. 110-111.
Map-case 3, Folder 10	EEPA 2015-012-0024: "Seyyid Bargash Bin Said: Sovereign of Zanzibar", 1875 June 19 1 Lithograph (black and white; 15.5 x 11.75 inches) Notes: Published in <i>The Graphic</i> , v. 11, no. 290, pg. 577
Map-case 2, Folder 5	EEPA 2015-012-0025: "En Abyssinie: Mise en Liberte des Prisonniers Italiens" [In Abyssinia: Release of Italian Prisoners], circa 1890 1 Engraving (color; 16.75 x 12 inches) Image(s): "En Abyssinie: Mise en Liberte des Prisonniers Italiens" [In Abyssinia: Release of Italian Prisoners] Notes: Drawn by F. Mehulle; Illustrated supplement to <i>Le Petit Journal</i> , p. 384
Map-case 3, Folder 11	EEPA 2015-012-0026: Portrait of "Rionga, King of Unyuo", circa 1890 1 Engraving (black and white; 10 x 7.5 inches)

Notes: Source unknown

Map-case 3, Folder 12	EEPA 2015-012-0027: "Battle of Isandhlwana", circa 1970 1 Engraving (color; 11.5 x 14.75 inches) Image(s): "Battle of Isandhlwana" [British Battle with Zulu People in South Africa] (reprint) Notes: Reproduction from the <i>Chevron History Series</i> ; original created circa 1890.
Map-case 3, Folder 13	EEPA 2015-012-0028: "The White Elephant: 'She goes her Imperial Way...' - Signor Gayda Writing of Italy" [Political cartoon depicting Mussolini riding an elephant labeled 'Abyssinia'], 1938 January 12 1 Engraving (black and white; 10.5 x 8 inches) Notes: Drawn by Bernard Partridge; Published in <i>Punch, or The London Charivari</i> . Names: Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945
Map-case 3, Folder 14	EEPA 2015-012-0029: "The Dawn of Progress, 'But how am I to see it? They've Blinded me.'", 1936 April 8 1 Engraving (black and white; 10.75 x 8.25 inches) Image(s): "The Dawn of Progress, 'But how am I to see it? They've blinded me.'" Notes: Published in <i>Punch, or The London Charivari</i> .
Map-case 3, Folder 15	EEPA 2015-012-0030: "German [word crossed out] East Africa" [Political cartoon depicting a lion with Union Jack], 1917 December 12 1 Engraving (black and white; mounted; 10.5 x 8 inches) Notes: Drawn by Cravenhill; Published in <i>Punch, or The London Charivari</i> .
Map-case 3, Folder 16	EEPA 2015-012-0031: "Musical Chairs at Geneva: Mussolini. 'All right, that puts the lid on it. I shan't play any more!'" , 1936 September 30 1 Engraving (black and white; mounted; 10.5 x 8 inches (with mount); 14 x 11.25 inches (with mount)) Notes: Drawn by Bernard Partridge; Published in <i>Punch, or The London Charivari</i> Names: Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945
Map-case 3, Folder 17	EEPA 2015-012-0032: "In Darkish Africa. The Dove of Peace. 'Perhaps if I flap my wings very hard indeed it may distract their attention.'" [Bird speaking to tiger labeled 'Abyssinia', facing a hunter], 1935 May 22 1 Engraving (black and white; 10.75 x 8 inches) Notes: Drawn by Bernard Partridge; Published in <i>Punch, or The London Charivari</i> .
Map-case 3, Folder 18	EEPA 2015-012-0033: "The Abyssinian Expedition, Grand Divertimento. Descriptive of the Battle and Entry into Magdala, for the Piano-Forte, by John Pridham" , circa 1868 1 Engraving (musical score for piano; color; 13.5 x 10 inches) Notes: Published by Standard & Son, lithographers

Map-case 2, Folder 6	EEPA 2015-012-0034: " Menelik's Campaign against the Mad Mullah, The British Officers attached to the Abyssinian Army ", 1901 June 1 1 Engraving (black and white; mounted; 19 x 13.5 inches (with mount)) Notes: Drawn by Ernest Prater from material supplied by a British officer; published in <i>The Sphere</i> , page 237
Map-case 2, Folder 7	EEPA 2015-012-0035: " Les Incidents D'Ethiopie " [The Incidents of Ethiopia], 1908 March 1 1 Engraving (black and white; 20.75 x 15.25 inches) Notes: Cover of Illustrated Supplement to <i>Le Petit Journal</i> , no. 902
Map-case 2, Folder 8	EEPA 2015-012-0036: " Ceux que nos soldats combattent dans le Centre Africain: Les 'Cuirassiers' de Ouadai " [Those Whom our Soldiers Fight in the Center of Africa: the 'Cuirassiers' de Ouadai"], 1907 January 6 1 Engraving (black and white; 17.5 x 12.25 inches) Notes: Depicts the Ouadai (Wadal) Empire calvary in Central Africa. Illustrated supplement to <i>Le Petit Journal</i> , page 48, no. 542.
Map-case 2, Folder 8	EEPA 2015-012-0037: " With the British Navy in Mid-Africa: The 'Jules Verne' Journey of the 'Mimi' and the 'Tou-Tou'. Trekking with Motorboats to Defeat the Germans on Lake Tanganyika: By Train and Traction-engine and Bullock-team, by River and Sea ", 1916 June 3 1 Engraving (black and white; 15.75 x 22 inches) Notes: Drawings by S. Bagg, from sketches by a member of the expedition; published in <i>The Illustrated London News</i> , pages 706-707
Map-case 3, Folder 19	EEPA 2015-012-0038: " Massai Warrior ", circa 1900 1 Engraving (black and white; 10.75 x 8 inches) Notes: Unknown publication
Map-case 3, Folder 20	EEPA 2015-012-0039: " H.E. Daud Pasha, Governor of Mount Lebanon ", circa 1900 1 Engraving (black and white; 9 x 5.75 inches) Notes: Note: "Engraved for the Eclectic by Perine & Giles N. York"
Map-case 3, Folder 21	EEPA 2015-012-0040: " Lieutenants Melville and Coghill (24th Regiment) Dying to Save the Queen's Colors ", 1900 1 Engraving (color; 6.25 x 8.5 inches) Notes: Depicts Lieutenants Nevill Coghill and Teignmouth Melvill during the Battle of Isandlwana during the Anglo-Zulu war in 1897. Published in <i>South Africa and the Transvaal War</i> , volume 1, by Louis Creswicke, 1900. Topic: Isandlwana, Battle of, South Africa, 1879
Map-case 3, Folder 22	EEPA 2015-012-0041: " Mr. H.M. Stanley's Arrival at Zanzibar - Addressing the Officers and Men of H.M.S. 'Turquoise' after Church Service ", 1890 January 25 1 Engraving (black and white; 16 x 11.5 inches) Notes: Published in <i>The Graphic</i> , volume XLL, no. 1052

Map-case 3, Folder
23

EEPA 2015-012-0042: "The Burglar's Dream: or, The League as Some
Would Like to See It", 1936 May 20

1 Engraving (black and white; 10.75 x 8.25 inches)

Image(s): ["The Burglar's Dream: or, the League as Some Would Like to See it"](#)

Notes: Drawn by Bernard Partridge; Published in *Punch, or The London Charivari*

Map-case 3, Folder
24

EEPA 2015-012-0043: ["The Black Man's Burden. Abyssinia. 'I Sometimes Wonder Whether it was Worth my While Joining this European League'"](#), 1935 September 11

1 Engraving (black and white; 10.75 x 8.25 inches)

Notes: Drawn by Bernard Partridge; published in *Punch, or The London Charivari*

Documents

Map-case 3, Folder
25

EEPA 2015-012-0044: [Stamped, Unsigned Document Ceding of Rights to Government, Territories to Imperial British East African Company, Mombasa, circa 1880s](#)

1 Document (color; 13.5 x 8.5 inches)

Notes: Published by the Imperial British East African Company, Mombasa

Map-case 3, Folder
26

EEPA 2015-012-0045: [Rhodesia Mining and Development Ltd. Shares Certificate, 1911 September 28](#)

1 Document (black and white; 10.75 x 13.5 inches)

Notes: Made out to Nathaniel Aarons[?] Arnold. Signed [illegible], B. J. [illegible] and by Donald J. Baker (Secretary).

Photographs

Box 1, Folder 1

EEPA 2015-012-0046: [Group Portrait of Military Officers in Sudan \(copy 1\), early-mid 20th century](#)

1 Photographic print (black and white; framed and matted; 14.5 x 17 inches (including mount))

Notes: Photograph by A. Kazandjian, Khartoum.

Box 1, Folder 2

EEPA 2015-012-0047: [Group Portrait of Military Officers in Sudan \(copy 2\), early-mid 20th century](#)

1 Photographic print (black and white; framed and matted; 14.5 x 17 inches (including mount))

Notes: Photograph by A. Kazandjian, Khartoum.

Map-case 3, Folder
27

EEPA 2015-012-0048: Portrait of Haile Selassie (reprint), circa 1950
1 Photograph (black and white; 8 x 10 inches)

Image(s): [Portrait of Haile Selassie, Seated at Desk \(reprint\)](#)

Names: Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, 1892-1975

Map-case 3, Folder
28

EEPA 2015-012-0049: Orthodox Christian Church, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, circa 1935

1 Photographic print (black and white; 8 x 10 inches)
Image(s): [Ethiopia Orthodox Christian Church, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)
Notes: Reprint form World Vision, 1989. World Vision photo by Bruce Brander.

Map-case 3, Folder
29

EEPA 2015-012-0050: ["Princely Guest from Ethiopia": the Sultan of Gimma \(left\) and Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini Salute Parading Troops, 1938 April 9](#)

1 Photographic print (black and white; 9 x 7 inches)

Notes: Photo by Associated Press. Caption on verso reads: "Princely Guest from Ethiopia: Premier Mussolini is shown with the Sultan of Gimma, ruler of a Mohammedan Region of the newly-annexed portion of the Italian Empire. The sultan attended many functions and displays, dressed in these picturesque robes, in his official visit at Rome. Here he gives the fascist salute at a parade of cadets, April 9. He was keenly interested in the wonders of the city. Associated Press photo ZT 1145A 4-19-38"

Names: Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945

Map-case 3, Folder
30

EEPA 2015-012-0051: ["Study Room, Governors Home, El Geneina, Anglo Egyptian Sudan, Africa", circa 1920](#)

1 Photographic print (reprint; black and white; 5 x 7 inches)

Posters

Map-case 2, Folder
6

EEPA 2015-012-0052: ["Towards the New Sudan" SPLM \[Sudan People's Liberation Movement\] political poster, 2005](#)

1 Poster (color; 23.25 x 15 inches)

Notes: Poster signed "To My Dear Friend Tom, Thanks for all your support, Dr. John"

Map-case 2, Folder
9

EEPA 2015-012-0053: ["I Conquistatori dell' Abissinia" \[political poster with photos of Benito Mussolini and soldiers; graphics and flags\], mid-20th century](#)

1 Poster (color; 20 x 15 inches)

Names: Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945

Map-case 2, Folder
9

EEPA 2015-012-0054: ["British Tanks Hurlled Italy out of Abyssinia, and in Libya Completely Wrecked Axis Plans of Conquest", circa 1930s-1940s](#)

1 Poster (color; 15 x 20 inches)

Notes: Initials "P.A." appear at bottom of page. Stamped on back: "British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City" and "Toledo Public Library, History, Travel and Biography, October 13, 1944"

Map-case 3, Folder
31

EEPA 2015-012-0055: ["Getting a Move on" Uganda Railway poster, circa 1898](#)

1 Poster (black and white; 16.5 x 11 inches)

Notes: Poster reads: "Uganda Railway: No Speed-Limit in the Progress of British East Africa."; Published by Thomas Cook and Son. Lists the address of the publicity

department for the Uganda Railway as Deware House,
Haymarket, London, S.W.

Map-case 2, Folder
3

EEPA 2015-012-0056: [Poster Advertising The African Steamship Company, Listing Itineraries to Madeira, Teneriffe, Grand Canary Islands, and the West and SW Coasts of Africa; and Ship Menus, 1909](#)
1 Poster (poster and menus; color/black and white; 30 x 14 inches)

Sketch

Map-case 3, Folder
32

EEPA 2015-012-0057: ["Wamu River, German East Africa, 1916"](#), 1916
1 Drawing (black and white; 10.75 x 12.25 inches)
Notes: Signed by J. Hamilton Machenzie.