



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Colonel Alexis B. McMullen photograph and postcard  
collection relating to West Africa, circa 1943-1944

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National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Colonel Alexis B. McMullen photograph and postcard collection relating to West Africa
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1943-1944
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.90-14
<b>Creator:</b>	McMullen, Alexis B. (collector and photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	70 Postcards (70 photographic postcards; silver gelatin) 86 Photographic prints (silver gelatin)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Sara Anne Lindsey, Colonel McMullen's daughter, 1990.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Air and Space Museum Archives Division holds the Colonel Alexis B. McMullen Collection, 1915-1983, documenting McMullen's aviation career and interests.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional Zagourski photographs can be found in the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives in EEPA 1987-0024 and the EEPA Postcard Collection.

### Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

### Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 90-14, Colonel Alexis B. McMullen photograph and postcard collection relating to West Africa, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

## Biographical Note

Colonel Alexis B. McMullen participated in American aviation activities for about 50 years. During World War II, he was the commanding officer of a United States Air Corps Air Transport Command (ATC) base in Accra, Ghana (then the Gold Coast).

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs made and collected by Alexis B. McMullen documenting peoples and culture in West Africa. The images created by McMullen and Captain D. B. McCloskey depict ceremonies at Kibib honoring Ofori Atta, a chief in the Central Province of the Gold Coast; a dance to the god of the sea at Teshi; and fishing boats and equipment. Additionally, the collection contains photographic postcards collected by McMullen and made by Casimir Zagourski, Leopoldville, and Methodist Book Depots, Cape Coast. These show African "types," a Bwake female circumcision ceremony (please note contains graphic images of circumcision), scarification (cicatrization), African animals (including giraffes, elephants, and a hippopotamus), agriculture, dances, and musical instruments. Depicted West African peoples include the Ashanti, Bangala, Banziri, Hausa, Kuba, Kumu, Mangbetu, Mputu and Tutsi.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 90-14

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Ashanti (African people)
- Banziri (African people)
- Boats and boating
- Cacao
- Cooking
- Dance
- Fishing
- Ghanaians
- Hausa (African people)
- Komo (Congolese (Democratic Republic) people)
- Kuba (African people)
- Mangbetu (African people)
- Mputu (African people)
- Musical instruments
- Ngala (African people)
- Ngbaka (African people)
- Scarification (Body marking)
- Tutsi (African people)
- West Africans
- female circumcision

Cultures:

Ashanti (African people)  
Banziri (African people)  
Ghanaians  
Hausa (African people)  
Komo (Congoese (Democratic Republic) people)  
Kuba (African people)  
Mangbetu (African people)  
Mputu (African people)  
Ngbaka (African people)  
Tutsi (African people)  
West Africans

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Postcards

Names:

Zagourski, Casimir

Places:

Africa, West  
Congo (Democratic Republic)  
Ghana  
Kenya  
Rwanda