



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of Natural History*

## Hector Acebes photographs of African and South American peoples, 1949-1960

Sarah Ganderup

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National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Hector Acebes photographs of African and South American peoples
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.94-28
<b>Date:</b>	1949-1960
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Copy prints 153 Prints (silver gelatin)
<b>Creator:</b>	Acebes, Hector
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Hector Acebes, 1994.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Uaica photographs collected by Acebes held in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4389.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 94-28, Hector Acebes photographs of African and South American peoples, 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.

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## Biographical Note

Hector Acebes was born in 1921 in New York City and raised in Madrid and Bogota. While in college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he operated his own photo studio. After graduating from MIT in 1947 with a degree in mechanical engineering, he moved back to Bogota. Throughout the late 1940s and the 1950s, Acebes undertook expeditions in Africa and South America and started to work as

a professional filmmaker and lecturer. Acebes wrote, filmed, directed, and edited each of the forty-three films his production company, Acebes Productions, released.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs made on Hector Acebes's expeditions in Africa and South America, mostly during the 1950s. Many of the images document people and markets in Africa (1949 and 1953), including Kikuyu, Masai, Mangbetu, Fulani, and Bassari peoples. There are also photographs made in the French Sudan, Guinea, Togo, Dahomey, Cameroon, the Congo Republic, Ruanda, Kenya, and Tanganyika. These prints were made for an exhibit.

Other sets include images of Jivaro, January, 1950; the Vaupés River and nearby tribes, September, 1950; a journey up the Orinoco to the Guaica, February, 1951; Arhuaco peoples, 1958; and Yuco peoples, 1960. Many photographs depict scenery and dwellings or are portraits (some show body and face paint). There are also images of fishing and hunting (Guaica); musical pipes (Guaica), a bridge, weaving, and bows and arrows (Arhuaco). Some photographs depict expedition members, including Acebes. The collection also includes photographs of the cover of Acebes' *Orinoco Adventure*, 1954, and coverage of his expeditions in *Look*, April 8, 1952, and *Time* (Latin American edition), December 24, 1951.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 94-28

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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:

- Akawaio (Acawai)
- Bassari (Senegalese and Guinean people)
- Fulbe (African people)
- Ika (Ica/Arhuaco)
- Kikuyu (African people)
- Maasai (African people)
- Mangbetu (African people)
- Shuar
- Yanomamö (Yanomamo)
- Yukpa (Macoa/Macoita/Yupa)

### Cultures:

- Akawaio (Acawai)
- Bassari (Senegalese and Guinean people)
- Fulbe (African people)
- Ika (Ica/Arhuaco)
- Kikuyu (African people)
- Maasai (African people)
- Mangbetu (African people)

Shuar  
Yanomamö (Yanomamo)  
Yukpa (Macoa/Macoita/Yupa)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Geographic Names:

Africa  
Benin  
Cameroon  
Congo (Democratic Republic)  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Mali  
Ngorongoro Crater (Tanzania)  
Orinoco River (Venezuela and Colombia)  
Rwanda  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Uaupés River (Colombia and Brazil)

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Addl. KW Subj

Fulani  
Jivaro  
Guaica  
Yukpa