



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Ernst D. Moore Papers

NMAH.AC.0321

Craig Orr

1990



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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Ernst D. Moore Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0321
<b>Date:</b>	1888-1932.
<b>Extent:</b>	1.6 cubic feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Arnold, Cheney & Co. Moore, Ernst D. (importer, trader)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	Papers documenting Moore's work as an ivory trader employed by Arnold, Cheney and Co. Includes copies of his diary entries while working as an ivory trader, financial documents, price lists, his writings on the subject of ivory, articles, a map, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Edith Sibley, January 30, 1989.

### Provenance

The copies in this collection were made during two separate visits to Moore's family, in December 1988 and in August 1989. The original documents in the collection were donated by his family in January 1990. The copy of *Ivory: Scourge of Africa* was obtained in August 1989 from a separate donor.

### Related Materials

The Archives Center also contains Collection #320, the Pratt Read Corporation Records. It includes a few photographs of E. D. Moore, as well as information on the ivory trade and the American ivory industry. The records of Arnold, Cheney & Company for the period 1873-1902 are to be found at the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts; they are in Collection #103, the Ropes Emmerton & Company Records. Additional records relating to both Arnold, Cheney & Company and Pratt, Read & Company can be found in the Cheney/Downing Collection at the Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock, Essex, Connecticut.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Craig Orr, 1990.

### Preferred Citation

Ernst D. Moore Papers, 1888-1932, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

## Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish these photographs must be obtained directly from the donor, who retains copyright. See repository for details.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ernst R. Domansky was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 1, 1884. He was an ivory trader employed by Arnold, Cheney & Co., ivory importers of New York city, serving as that firm's agent in Aden, Mombasa, and Zanzibar from 1907 to 1911. He negotiated for the purchase of tons of elephant tusks from the Arab traders who brought them from the interior of Africa, and made several trips into the interior himself. He also served briefly as U.S. Consul at Zanzibar in 1911.

Shortly after his return to the United States sometime between 1911 and 1913 Domansky changed his name to Ernst D. Moore. There were evidently several reasons for this: Moore had been his mother's maiden name and, while his own parents were dead by this time, his uncle, Dwight Moore, had always looked after his interests. Dwight Moore had, in fact, obtained Ernst's position with Arnold, Cheney & Co. for him. In addition, both of his brothers had already switched from Domansky to Moore.

In 1913, Moore married Miss Elsie Warner of Chester, Connecticut, where he took up residence. He was then employed by the piano manufacturing firm of Pratt, Read & Co., of Deep River, Connecticut. Pratt, Read was the chief customer for the ivory which Moore had purchased in Africa; the company used it in making piano keyboards. Moore served as Secretary, and later as Vice President, of Pratt, Read's subsidiary, the Pratt Read Player Action Company, located in Deep River. Following that, he was head of the Moore & Fisher Manufacturing Company, also of Deep River. He retained his interest in ivory and, after retiring, wrote a book describing his days in Africa and the ivory trade his *Ivory: Scourge of Africa* was published in 1931. He died on June 5, 1932.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists primarily of copies of records still in the possession of Moore's family. Foremost among these are copies of his diary entries for the time he was employed overseas by Arnold, Cheney & Co. These provide a daily, often humorous, description of the lifestyle of an American businessman trading in the outposts of the British Empire. Further documentation of this lifestyle is provided by Moore's personal account book, expense account statements, and receipts, as well as the materials on Club life in these spots. These include rule books for the Union Club at Aden, the Mombasa Club, the Mombasa Sport Club, and the Mnazi Moja and English clubs at Zanzibar, along with statements of Moore's accounts at each.

The collection contains a great deal of information on the ivory trade, primarily in Moore's correspondence, both business and private, and in documents relating to his contract and service abroad. Although most of these are xerographic copies, a number of originals are included; since these are fragile, it is recommended that the researcher use the copies. There are several items directly related to ivory, including three ivory pricelists from 1922, a small pamphlet about ivory published in 1921, and Moore's handwritten description of the characteristics and classification of ivory. Also contained in the collection are a number of articles written by Moore about ivory and the ivory trade, along with his book, *Ivory: The*

Scourge of Africa, in both typescript and published form. An additional folder contains a photographic copy of the map of "Ivory Country" used to illustrate the book.

The collection also contains copies of many of Moore's photographs. Most of them were taken during his days in Aden, Mombasa, and Zanzibar. These document all aspects of the ivory trade, from the elephant in the wild to the loading of tusks onto ships bound for New York. They depict ivory poachers, transport of tusks, weighing and measuring tusks, storage facilities in the traders' compound or "ivory house," trade goods used to purchase the ivory, and local scenes. Of especial interest are a number of photographs which show the visit of ex President Theodore Roosevelt to Mombasa in 1909. There are also three photoprints showing activities in Pratt, Read & Company's factory at Deep River, Ct. The remaining photographs are family snapshots, mainly of Moore's children. NOTE: Permission to publish these photographs must be obtained directly from the donor, who retains the copyright on them. The collection also includes a history of Pratt, Read & Company which Moore wrote in 1930.

Biographical information in the collection includes a chapter from a biography of Moore which was written by his daughter as a school assignment, autobiographical recollections of Moore's days as an ivory buyer, and a copy of his obituary.

Of additional interest are copies of documents relating to Moore's uncle, Dwight Moore. These deal with his service as U.S. Consul at Aden and Zanzibar in the 1880s 1890s, and correspondence between Moore and his uncle during Moore's service overseas.

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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:

- Elephants -- Africa -- Mombasa
- Imports -- 1880-1940
- Ivory
- Ivory industry
- Piano makers

### Types of Materials:

- Account books
- Articles -- 1880-1940
- Diaries -- 1880-1940
- Letters (correspondence) -- 1850-1900
- Letters (correspondence) -- 1900-1950
- Maps -- 1880-1940
- Photographs -- 1850-1900
- Photographs -- 1900-1950
- Receipts -- 19th century
- Receipts -- 20th century

### Names:

- Pratt, Read and Company
- Roosevelt, Theodore, President, 1858-1919

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Photoprints

Box 1, Folder 1	89 20435, Dwight Moore in Aden, May 19, 1892.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 4290, Postcard view of Aden, on the Arabian peninsula, ca. 1907 1908. This was Moore's first overseas station as an ivory buyer for Arnold, Cheney & Co., ivory dealers of New York.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 4273, Arnold, Cheney & Co's. establishment in Aden.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 16779 and 89 16793, Business office of Arnold, Cheney & Co. in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 16751, E. D. Moore (center rear) with business associates in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 16750, E. D. Moore at the cut leading to the Crater in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 20377, Tusks on floor of Arnold, Cheney & Co. warehouse in Aden, ca. 1907 1908
Box 1, Folder 1	89 20376, Weighing tusks inside the Arnold, Cheney & Co. warehouse in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 20378, Using calipers to check the diameter of a tusk inside the Arnold, Cheney & Co. warehouse in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 20380, Camel drawn carts being loaded with ivory tusks outside the Arnold, Cheney & Co. compound in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 1	89 20379, Cart load of Abyssinian ivory tusks spilled into the street outside the Arnold, Cheney & Co. compound in Aden, ca. 1907 1908.
Box 1, Folder 2	89 4269, Ex President Theodore Roosevelt re boarding the German East African Line ship Admiral (1), after a brief stop ashore at Mogadishu, Italian Somaliland. April 19 or 20, 1909.
Box 1, Folder 2	89 16778, German East African Line ship Admiral coming into Kilindimi Harbor, Mombasa, April 21, 1909.
Box 1, Folder 2	89 20439, Ex President Theodore Roosevelt (left, in white hat), in Mombasa, April 21, 1909.
Box 1, Folder 2	89 4288, Theodore Roosevelt entering the Mombasa Club for a dinner that was given in his honor on the evening of April 21, 1909, the day he landed in Africa to begin his year long hunting expedition. "That night we were given a dinner by the Mombasa Club; and it was interesting to meet the merchants and planters of the town and the neighborhood as well as the officials."(2)

- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4279, Theodore Roosevelt speaking with Moore in the doorway of the Mombasa Club, April 21, 1909.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 20438, Ex President Theodore Roosevelt (right center), in doorway of the Mombasa Club, April 21, 1909.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4286, Roosevelt (middle), with Moore (extreme right), and others probably taken in the garden of the Mombasa Club, April 21, 1909. 89 4275 President Roosevelt's party leaving Mombasa on April 22, 1909. "The day after we landed we boarded the train to take what seems to me . . . the most interesting railway journey in the world. It was governor Jackson's special train, and in addition to his own party and ours there was only Selous. . . On our train the locomotive was fitted with a comfortable seat across the cow catcher, and on this, except at mealtime, I spent most of the hours of daylight." (3) Seated, left to right, are Roosevelt; Lieutenant Governor Jackson, acting Governor of British East Africa; famed big game hunter Frederick C. Selous; and C. Sanford, Manager of Uganda Railways. 89 20430 Ivory tusks in Customs House, Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. 89 20428 Government ivory auction at Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. E.D. Moore sixth from left. 89 16787 E. D. Moore (in white hat) inspecting a shipment of tusks outside the Arnold, Cheney & Co. building in Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. 89 16788 E. D. Moore supervising the loading of tusks onto a cart in Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. 89 16786 Loading tusks onto a cart in Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. Box Folder 89 4282, Moore, flanked by tusks, in the doorway of his Mombasa warehouse, known as the "Ivory House."
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 20429, Ivory tusks in vault of "Nyumba Pembi" (Ivory House), Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910. L R: Mahomed, Nasibu, Alidina Tajpod, E.D. Moore, Alidina Visram.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 16753, E. D. Moore with tusks laid alongside the street probably on the docks at Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 16752, Ernst D. Moore in Africa probably in Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4270, Moore, known as "Hans" to his family, in Uganda.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 16785, Tea time in Africa probably Mombasa, ca. 1908 1910.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 16756, Probably a photo of the American Consul at Mombasa in his office, ca. 1908 1910.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4272, Young native girl photographed in Mombasa, January 14, 1909.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4268, Scene in a native village in Uganda.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4274, Big game country, British East Africa.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4284, Native porters on safari near Nairobi, British East Africa.
- Box 1, Folder 2 89 4283, Big game country, Uganda.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 20374, Ivory poacher (possibly James Ward "King" Rogers) sitting astride a fallen elephant, ca. 1908 1911.

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 3 89 20375 and 89 20440, Ivory poachers' caravan fording a stream in the Lado Enclave west of the Upper Nile (Belgian Congo), ca. 1908 1911. These tusks were later purchased by E.D. Moore after they arrived in British territory.
- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 20432, A detachment of the King's African Rifles on the march, ca. 1908 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 20434, Ivory slave coffle. Illustration by George Giguéra for dust jacket of E. D. Moore's book, *Ivory: Scourge of Africa* (N.Y.: Harper & Brothers, 1931).
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4285, Looking towards Zanzibar from the water.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 20433, Tusks being carried by yard coolies into Arnold, Cheney & Co. compound in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911.
- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4287, 89 16783, and 89 16792, Weighing tusks on the ivory scales in the warehouse in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16765, E. D. Moore and his staff of ivory workers posing on the roof of the Arnold, Cheney & Co. compound in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16763, Dried skins being weighed on the Arnold, Cheney & Co. scales in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16754, Skins drying on the roof of the Arnold, Cheney & Co. compound in Zanzibar, watched over by E. D. Moore's dog, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16781, 89 20373, and 89 20436, Ivory tusks being carried through the surf on the Zanzibar beach, ca. 1910 1911. First loaded onto small lighters, they were then transferred to ocean going vessels for shipment to New York.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16759, Bales of skins? of cotton goods? being loaded into a lighter on the Zanzibar beach for transfer to an ocean going vessel, ca. 1910-1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4280, A view of the piazza of Moore's house in Zanzibar.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16764, Piazza of Moore's house in Zanzibar, ca. 1910-1911. L R: wife of the German Consul, E. D. Moore, the German Consul, and the wife of the Telegraph Superintendent.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16760, The German Consul's wife in the Consulate's living quarters in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16762, The German Consul's wife posing with a pair of tusks in the Consulate's living quarters, ca. 1910 1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4267, Moore (right), with his good friend Frank W. Vining and a native in the African jungle. Vining served as U.S. Consul in Zanzibar from March to May, 1910, and from September to November, 1912.



- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4271, A native policeman, probably in Zanzibar.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 4292, Moore and his dogs riding in a gharri, probably in Zanzibar, ca. 1910-1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16761 and 89 16757, Street scene probably Zanzibar, ca. 1910-1911.
- Box 1, Folder 3 89 16755, 89 16758, and 89 16766, Askaris (native soldiers), probably in Zanzibar, ca. 1910-1911. Led by a white officer, the unit is marching through a narrow street, preceded by a band and followed by their women and children, carrying baggage.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4276, Moore during his service with the Connecticut "Home Guard" during World War One.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 20425, Ernst D. Moore, ca. 1930.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 20424, Ernst D. Moore, ca. 1930. Posed with typewriter in lap on porch of his home in Chester, Ct.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 20437, Ernst D. Moore holding tusk in the snow in Connecticut, undated
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4289, Richard Moore, the third of Ernst D. Moore's five children.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4281, Ely W. Moore, second child of Ernst and Elsie Moore.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4291 The Moore's second child, Edith Crawford Moore, at four months.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4266, Mrs. Elsie Warner Moore with Ely (left) and Edith.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4278, Wallace Moore, the Moore's fourth child
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4277, Ernst and Elsie Moore with Richard (left), Wallace (on swing), and Edith.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4262, Left to right: Ely, Richard, Mrs. Moore, and Edith, sitting on a hammock.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4265, The Moore children on vacation at Hancock, Somerset Lake, N.Y.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4263, Left to right: Ely, Edith, Richard, and Wallace, celebrating the Fourth of July.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 4264, Left to right: Richard, Ely, Wallace, and Edith.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 2042, Worker cutting ivory tusk inside Pratt, Read & Co. factory, Deep River, Ct., pre 1931.
- Box 1, Folder 4 89 20423, Women workers matching ivory "heads" and "tails" for piano keyboards inside Pratt, Read & Co. factory, Deep River, Ct., pre 1931. 89 20426 Worker cutting piano keyboards inside Pratt, Read & Co. factory, Deep River,

Ct., pre 1931. 89 16370 (28), 89 16370 (31), E.D. Moore's home in Chester, Ct., August 1989.

Box 1, Folder 5 Ernst D. Moore. Ivory: Scourge of Africa . New York: Harper & Brothers, 1931.

Box 1, Folder 6 Typescript of Ivory: Scourge of Africa

Box 1, Folder 7 Ivory: Scourge of Africa, related Items

Box 2, Folder 1 Diary, 1907

Box 2, Folder 2-3 Diary, 1908

Box 2, Folder 4-5 Diary, 1909

Box 2, Folder 6-7 Diary, 1910

Box 2, Folder 8 Diary, 1911

Map-folder 1 Photoprint copy of Map of "Ivory Company" used to illustrate Ivory: Scourge of Africa, 1931 [SI Neg. 89 6998]

Box 3, Folder 1 E. D. Moore: Biographical Information

Box 3, Folder 2 E. D. Moore: Contract Correspondence, 1907 1910

Box 3, Folder 3 E. D. Moore: Contract Correspondence, 1907 -1910 [ORIGINALS]

Box 3, Folder 4 E. D. Moore: Business Correspondence, September 1907 , November 1908; June 1910

Box 3, Folder 5 E. D. Moore: Business Correspondence, September 1907 -November 1908; June 1910 [ORIGINALS]

Box 3, Folder 6 E. D. Moore: Personal Correspondence, 1911-1932

Box 3, Folder 7 E. D. Moore: Personal Correspondence, 1912 & 1922 [ORIGINALS]

Box 3, Folder 8 E. D. Moore: Consular Documents, Zanzibar, 1910

Box 3, Folder 9 E. D. Moore: Expense Accounts, 1907-1911

Box 3, Folder 10 E. D. Moore: Clubs Aden, 1908 1910

Box 3, Folder 11 E. D. Moore: Clubs Mombasa, March 1909 January 1911

Box 3, Folder 12 E. D. Moore: Clubs Zanzibar, 1910-1911

Box 3, Folder 13-15 E. D. Moore: Receipts, September 1907-February 1911

- Box 1, Folder 2      89 4275, Photo from left to right of Teddy Roosevelt, Lt. Governor Jackson, acting Governor of British East Africa and big game hunter Frederick C. Selous, all sitting on the cow catcher of the train., April 22, 1909
- Box 4, Folder 1      Articles Written by E. D. Moore, 1931
- Box 4, Folder 2      History of Pratt, Read & Co., Written by E. D. Moore, 1930
- Box 4, Folder 3      Dwight Moore: Contract Correspondence, 1888 1891
- Box 4, Folder 4      Dwight Moore: Personal Correspondence, 1889 1890
- Box 4, Folder 5      Dwight Moore: Correspondence to E. D. Moore, 1907-1908
- Box 4, Folder 6      Dwight Moore: Consular Documents, Aden and Zanzibar, 1883-1893
- Box 4, Folder 7      Ivory Information: Ivory Pricelists, 1922; Handwritten Description of Ivory Classification, undated; Ivory: General Information (London: Lewis & Peat, Ltd., 1921)
- Box 4, Folder 8      Miscellaneous: Vereinigung der Musikfreunde, Tanga Concert Program, January 22, 1911; The Aden Focus, March 8, 1916

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