Guide to the Casimir Zagourski African Postcards

MS 1573

compiled by Larissa Leclair

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New Haven, Connecticut
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Paging Instructions

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Overview

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Email: mssa.assist@yale.edu
Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

CALL NUMBER: MS 1573

CREATOR: Zagourski, Casimir Ostoja, 1880-1941.

TITLE: Casimir Zagourski African postcards

DATES: 1924-1941

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE(S): Captions on verso of postcards are in French and English.

SUMMARY: The collection consists of approximately 250 postcards made from photographs taken by Casimir Zagourski in Africa between 1924 and 1941, which formed a part of his overall project, "L'Afrique Qui Disparait" (Disappearing Africa). The photos are set in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (formally known as Belgian Congo), Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Chad, Kenya, Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Congo Brazzaville. The postcards depict a variety of aspects of everyday life in these different settings, including housing styles and traditional grave sites of the Belgian Congo, Bakumu dancers, and Bongelima dignitaries. He also highlighted the beautification marks of the Gombe, the Bwaka, the Banza, and the Bapende of the Belgian Congo. Zagourski also focused on women at work, depicting them carrying goods home from market, collecting firewood, taking care of children, and preparing meals. Digital facsimiles of postcards in this collection, accompanied by more detailed descriptions, are available in the Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database (MADID) from the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1573.
Administrative Information

Provenance


Information about Access

The collection is open for research.

Use of original postcards is restricted. Researchers must use the digitized images in MADID.

Ownership & Copyright

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

Cite As

Casimir Zagourski African Postcards (MS 1573). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Associated Materials

African Collection, MS 605; Pamphlet Collection, MS 1351; African Postcard Collection, MS 1575. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical History

Casimir Zagourski was born in Poland in 1880. After a military career in the Russian air force and the Polish army, he left Eastern Europe and moved to Africa in 1924. He settled in Leopoldville, which is now Kinshasa, Congo, where he began his career as a photographer. During the next seventeen years, until his death in 1941, Zagourski traveled around Central Africa photographing its people, places, and local traditions. At the same time, he established and maintained a store in Leopoldville to sell these images as postcards and large prints. He also exhibited his work at the Paris World's Fair in 1937.

Description of the Papers

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Access Terms

Zagourski, Casimir Ostoja, 1880-1941.
Africa--Description and travel.
Burundi.
Cameroon.
Central African Republic.
Chad.
Congo (Brazzaville)
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Kenya.
Postcards--Africa.
Rwanda.
Uganda.