

**Colonialism and the Camera: Interpreting C. T. Eriksson's Photographs from the Early Twentieth Century South-Central Africa**

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Image 1. C. T. Eriksson, *The Victoria Falls as I re-saw them in October 1902*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1902, FHA, PC.

## **A collection of photographs attributed to a Finnish amateur photographer Carl Theodor Eriksson**

- Donated in 2003 by a private depositor to Picture Collections (PC) of the Finnish Heritage Agency (FHA)
- For the purposes of this research the 251 photographs of the collection were organised into four (a–d) categories:
  - a) ethnographic photography, portraiture, self-portraiture
  - b) expeditionary photography, landscapes, portrait-landscapes
  - c) documentation of the colonial economy
  - d) hunting photography
- Original captions in Swedish. All translations by the author.



Image 2. Unknown photographer, *Fundi-Wa-Kali himself, Kasempa 1901*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901, FHA, PC.

## Eriksson, Carl Theodor

- Born on 19 March 1874  
Helsinki
- Migrated to South Africa in  
1895
- Employed by a British mining  
company (Tanganyika  
Concessions, Ltd.), 1901-1906
- Settled to Insiza, near  
Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia  
(now Zimbabwe) 1907-
- Died at the Bulawayo  
Memorial Hospital on 12  
October 1940

- A 4" x 5" Sanderson field camera
- A brass-reinforced mahogany frame and long-focus objective lens
- With the use of struts it was effectively possible to achieve a triple extension, allowing wide-angle shots
- Most of the surviving pictures in Eriksson's collection were taken with the Sanderson, including a number of reproductions of pre-1903 images



Image 3. Unknown photographer, *A medicine man wearing his dispensary*, albumen print, no date, FHA, PC.



Image 4. C. T. Eriksson, *The most curious hair-dress in the world belongs to the Ba-Ila men, also known as the Mashukulumbwe*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901, FHA, PC.



Image 5. Unknown photographer, *untitled*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901, FHA, PC.



Image 6. C. T. Eriksson, *Our base camp in Kansanshi, 1901*, photographic print, 1901. FHA, PC.





Image 7. C. T. Eriksson, *It is Christmas Day, 1901, and Boijer, a member of the expedition, is dressed up for the occasion. He stands at the now-completed shaft-head at Kansanshi*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901. FHA, PC.



Image 8. C. T. Eriksson, *untitled*, gelatine dry plate negative, c. 1902, FHA, PC.



Image 9. Unknown photographer, *The author with two shot oribi antelopes and a rifle, the stock of which is decorated with various embedded ornament and its extension is made from ivory,* photographic print, 1901–1906, FHA, PC.



Image 10. C. T. Eriksson, *untitled*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901–1906, FHA, PC.



Figure 11. Unknown photographer, *Ivory*, albumen print, 1901–1903, FHA, PC.



Figure 12. C. T. Eriksson, *An encounter with two rhinoceros*, shot in turn with a camera and a rifle, a gelatine dry plate negative from a set of four charge photographs, 1901–1906, FHA, PC.



Figure 13. C. T. Eriksson, *A zebra in the wild standing still*, gelatine dry plate negative, 1901–1906, FHA, PC.

## Sources for the presentation

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