



Martin Rikli's Ethiopia

A German Photographer in Colonial East Africa

April 11th, 2011

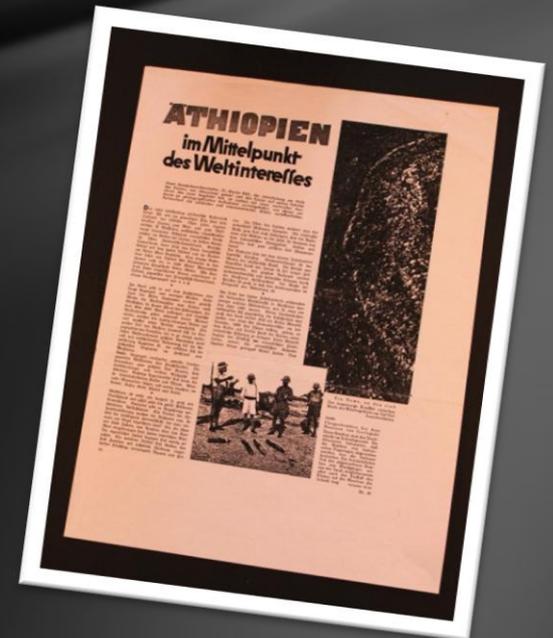
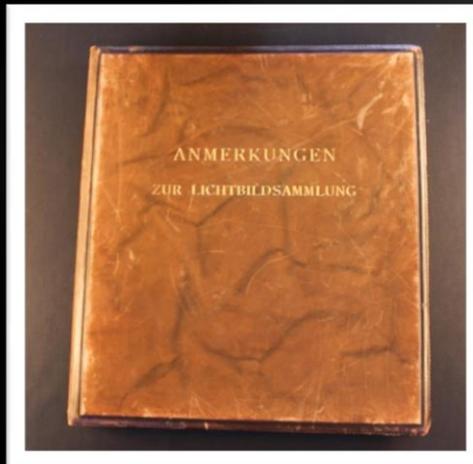
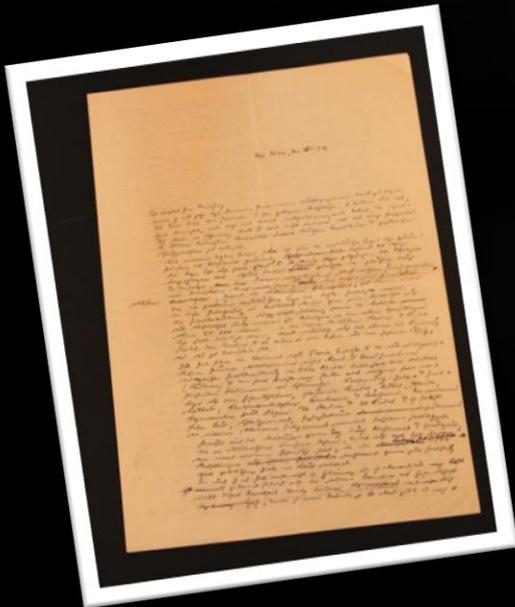
Amanda Kimble, Jessica Belcoure and Vivian Gornik

What will you see today?

- Our "Big Idea" for the exhibit
- Our four exhibit themes
- Object Check List
- The Layout
- Introductory Wall Text
- Examples of Object Labels
- Educational Outreach

Setting the Scene:

- 3 Photo Albums, with over 800 photographs.
- 1 Album of handwritten notes that correspond to photos in Albums 1-3
- Misc. objects, including a film program, a handwritten letter and various copies of old German newspapers.
- A photographer, Dr. Martin Rikli, who was many other things, including author and filmmaker.



Of the several exhibitions we could do with these photos, which one should we choose?

Art
Historical
approach?

Colonial
Africa?

Italy in
Ethiopia?

Rikli as a
person?

Our "Big Idea"

Introduce visitors to the people and places Martin Rikli encountered during his journey by:

Casting the Characters and Scenes of Martin Rikli's 1930s Ethiopian Photography

We want to interpret Martin Rikli's photo albums through the lens of a filmmaker.

- Characters and Scenes
- Conflicts and Resolutions



A Four Act Exhibition

➤ Rikli's characters and scenes fit into one of the following categories:

➤ Distinguished Characters

➤ Vacation and Leisure

➤ Exotic Ethiopia

➤ Culture Clashes

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➤ Exotic Ethiopia

Case by Case

Culture Clash



Open Albums



Vacation and Leisure



Distinguished Characters



Vacation and Leisure



Exotic Ethiopia

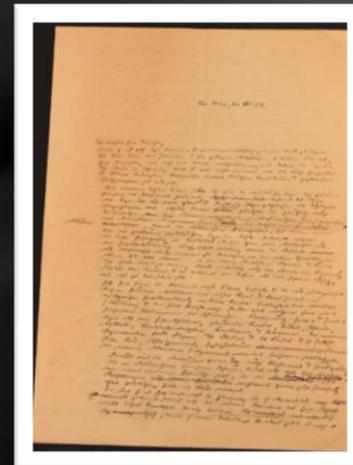


Culture Clashes



Chosen Objects

- In all, we chose 31 photographs to put on display within the four themed areas.
- We also are supplementing the exhibition with other objects, including maps, the original albums, a film program, a letter written by Martin Rikli, and various newspaper clippings that are relevant not only to Rikli, but 1930's Ethiopia in general.



The Object Check List



11. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Portrait of a European woman on a wooden boat], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 2
8.5 x 10.5cm (original)



12. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[European woman in her bathing suit poses for a portrait in the g
Photograph from Album 2
11.25 x 8.25cm (original)



13. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[European man and woman hold a monkey while an Ethiopian holds
Photograph from Album 2
8.75 x 11.75cm (original)

A copy of the object check list is included in the proposal packet.

Vivian, Amanda and Jessica
Rikli Exhibition Group
Object Check List

1. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Emperor Haile Selassie in profile view with Frau Hilde Johansson], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 1
11.5 x 9cm (original)



2. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Emperor Haile Selassie on throne with others nearby], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 1
11.5 x 8.5cm (original)



3. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Ethiopian Emperor seated with European Diplomat], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 1
11.5 x 8.5cm (original)



4. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Ministers Bodard and Barton toast with Brandy sniffers], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 1
11.75 x 8.75cm (original)



5. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Emperor Haile Selassie seen in background], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 1
16 x 12cm (original)

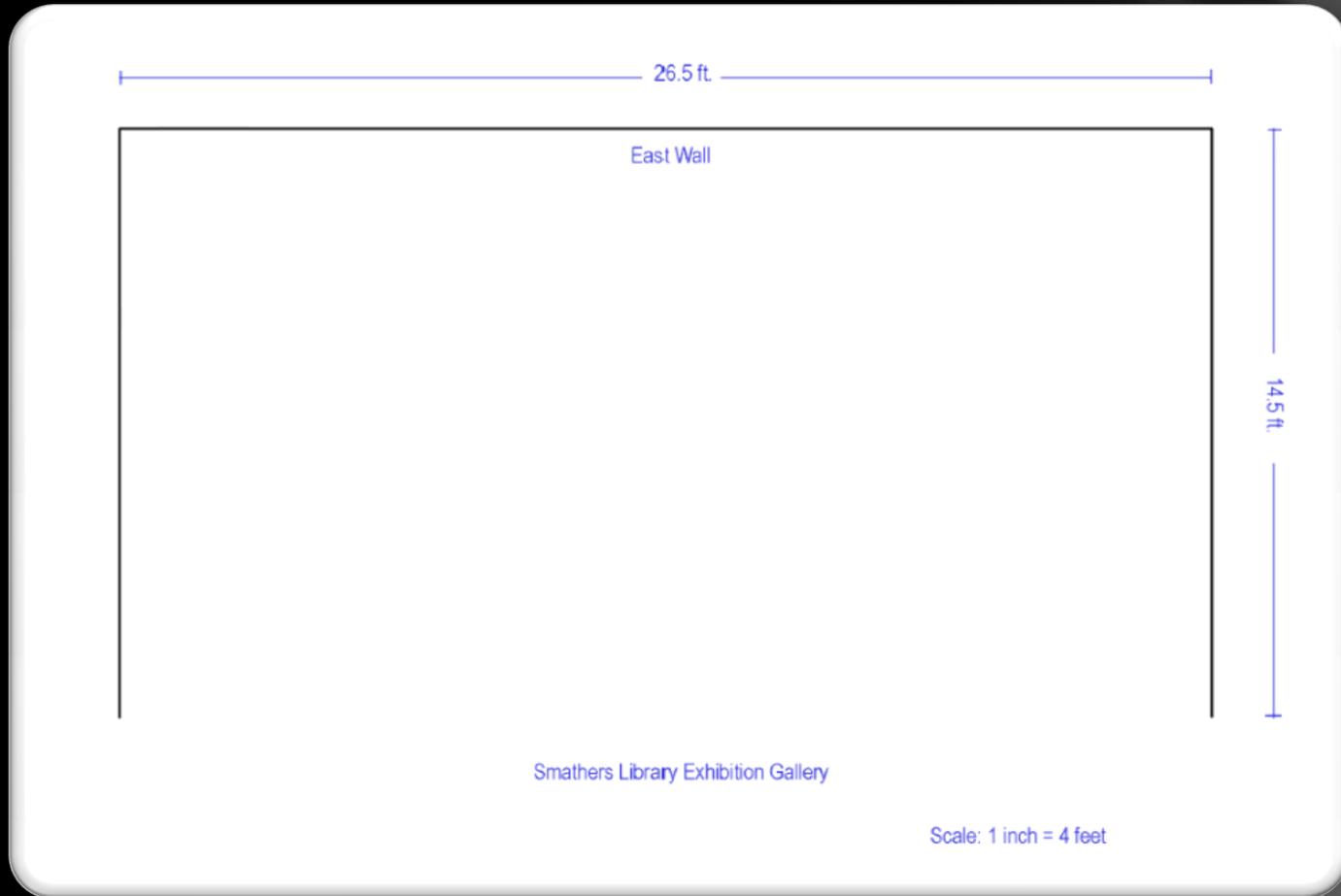


6. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[Two Europeans with Emperor Haile Selassie], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 2
11.75 x 8cm (original)



7. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
[A formal social occasion: Three European women in gowns and furs, along with Empress Menen], ca. 1935-1936
Photograph from Album 2
11.75 x 8.5cm (original)

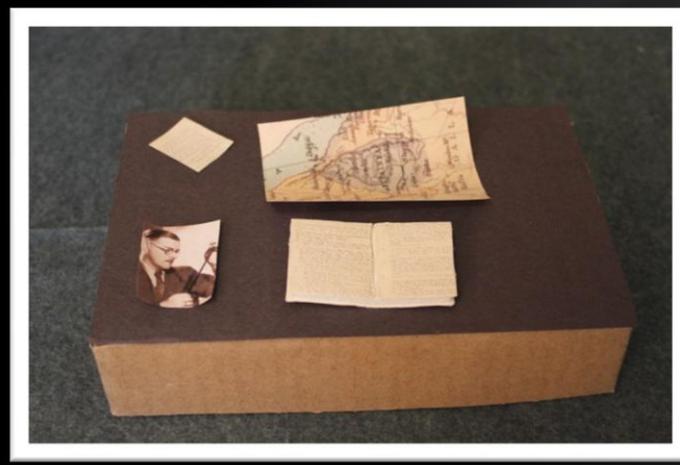
The Exhibit Space



Smathers' Current Exhibit



Our Floor Plan and Exhibit Design



Clockwise: The overall exhibition space; side view of exhibit; the big center case; example of album case.

Intro Wall Text

Casting the Characters and Scenes of Dr. Martin Rikli's 1930's Ethiopian Photography

- Introduces the reader to Dr. Martin Rikli and why he was in Ethiopia from 1935-1936.
- Addresses how many albums and photographs are in the collection.
- Briefly describes the broad range of subject material that photos cover.
- Invites the viewer to draw his/her own conclusions about Dr. Martin Rikli and his photographs.

Theme Labels

*Insert Snapshots of what posters will look like.
They'll include a photo and the wall text and title.

Object Labels

1. Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
"Abessinien 1935-1936", [Album 1 of 4]
Photo Album

2. Berliner Illustrierte Nachtausgabe
Saturday, August 31, 1935
"Abschiedsaudienz bei Kaiser Haile Selassie"
Newspaper article

This first of four albums compiled by Martin Rikli following his expedition to Eastern Africa contains the beginnings of his journey to and throughout Ethiopia. Rikli's group departed from Marseilles, France and traveled through Egypt via the Suez Canal before arriving in Eastern Africa. This album also includes a large selection of intimate photographs of the Emperor Haile Selassie, which illustrates Rikli's unique relationship with the Emperor as one of his official imperial photographers.

The headline of the newspaper article, "Abschiedsaudienz bei Kaiser Haile Selassie" translates to "Parting Audience with the Emperor Haile Selassie I." The caption for the main photo tells us that Dr. Martin Rikli, seen behind the Emperor Haile Selassie on the right-hand side, was present at this social gathering in the royal palace along with other distinguished European guests.

The caption for the second smaller photo tells us that Dr. Martin Rikli is in conversation with the governor of Walaga, Bedweded Makonnen. As a parting gift of friendship, the Governor gave Dr. Rikli a large elephant tusk.

Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
"Abessinien 1935-1936", [Album 2 of 4]
Photo Album

This second of four albums features pictures predominantly focused on the people and places in and around Addis Ababa, the capital city of modern day Ethiopia. Rikli documented several types of scenes including religious ceremonies, schools, market places and court hearings. Also included are pictures of European diplomats interacting with the other Europeans present in Ethiopia, as well as with the Emperor during formal social occasions.

Martin Rikli
Germany, 1898-1969
"Abessinien 1935-1936", [Album 3 of 4]
Photo Album

This third of four albums departs from the themes of the second album and turns to matters regarding military action as Rikli documents the Italian invasion of Ethiopia. The photos show a progression from military training and soldiers' barracks, to the result of the invasion as depicted by burned buildings, trashed streets and partially covered corpses in and around Addis Ababa, the capital city.

Outreach – Brochure

- The brochure has three sections:
 - The Collection
 - The Photographer
 - The Four Themes
- Our brochure also includes:
 - Web links to the Smathers Library website
 - Hypothetical dates for the Martin Rikli exhibition
 - Library Hours



Outreach – African Studies

- AFS 2002: The African Experience

Outreach – Question/Answer Board

- I learned...
- I would like to know more about...
- This exhibition changed my mind about...
- Martin Rikli's photographs are...
- I think Martin Rikli's message was...
- Martin Rikli's portrayal of Ethiopia was...

Closing Comments

*Insert last pitch?

The End.

Thank you for your time and
attention.

