

American Museum Congo Expedition Inventory

This inventory provides an overview of the materials relating to the The American Museum Congo Expedition (1909-1915). Many of these materials have been digitized and are available through various Museum databases. Others are available in the American Museum of Natural History Library or in various departments of the museum. The expedition was headed by mammologist, Herbert Lang and ornithologist, James P. Chapin. Its purpose was to make a biological and zoological survey of the Congo; to collect specimens and ethnological material.

A. 1916 estimates of material collected by the Expedition:

- Mammals: 5,800
- Birds: 6,241
- Reptiles & Batrachians: 4,800
- Fishes: 5,400
- Total of Vertebrates: 22,241
- Invertebrates - land (including Entomology): 110,000
- Molluscs: 8,000
- Crustaceans: 4,000
- (land and sea): 20,000
- Myriapoda: 500
- Arachnids: 5,000
- Isoptera: 2,000
- Coleoptera: 15,000
- Hemiptera & Homoptera: 14,000
- Hymenoptera: 20,000
- Diptera: 8,000
- Orthoptera: 1,500
- Lepidoptera: 7,500
- Ethnographical material: 3,800
- Photographs (40 albums): 9,500

B. Materials summary

- 9000 black and white glass and safety negatives
- 2 reels microfilm
- 39 folders correspondence
- 7 bound books (see bibliography)
- 36 journal articles (see bibliography)
- 29 manuscript notebooks, varying sizes, approx. 100 pages each: 7 are on microfilm, 11 Lang, 18 Chapin

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- 1 gazetteer, approx. 100 p.
- audiotapes
- transcripts of audiotapes
- 98 watercolor sketches

C. Material in Library collections:

9,000 black and white negatives & prints: About 4680 are ethnology; about 4320 are zoology, botany and geography. Prints on file cards are stored in 35 Hollinger boxes; 6 large, 29 small. Average of 260 prints per box.

- Primates
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Miscellaneous (large)
- Aberambo, album 1
- Azande: 4 boxes, albums 2 through 5
- Bara and Baka, album 6
- Logo: 2 boxes, albums 7 and 8
- Makere (large), album 9
- Mangbetu, album 10
- Mangbetu & others, album 11
- Mangbetu women, album 12
- Mayoga and Matuki, album 13
- Medje Balika and others, album 14
- Mobali Babeyru and Bandoka, album 15
- Mongelima, Popo, album 16
- Pygmy: 2 boxes, album 17 and 18
- Giant Eland, album 35
- Large Mammals, album 2
- Rhinoceros simus (large), album 3
- Botany (large), albums 21 and 22
- Botany, shore views and okapi habitat, album 23
- General geography: 2 boxes, album 24 and 24a
- Reptiles, album 28
- Birds, album 29
- Okapi (large), album 37
- Antelopes (large), album 34
- Photocopy of photo log (from Mammalogy): AMNH #'s 221000 - 227599
- 355 b/w and hand-colored lantern slides: mostly ethnology

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- 133 4x5 color positive transparencies: including studio shots of anthropological artifacts shot for African Reflections
- 136 35mm slides: (anthropological artifacts)
- A collection of approx. 160 35mm slides: Special Collections Slide Box #19
- Approx. 1,550 b/w glass plate stereo negatives
- Approx. 1,000 stereo prints
- 1 reel of microfilm, microfilmed document #43. Includes Lang's Mammalogy field notes: Small mammal catalog, specimen #'s 1-1920, Small mammal catalog, specimen #'s 1921-2628, Large mammal catalog, specimen #'s 1-639, Large mammal catalog,
- specimen #'s 640-1088, Large mammal catalog, specimen #'s 2500-2549, 1 notebook, Lang's expense record, small notebook, "Accessories for okapi group"
- 3 boxes of documents relating to the expedition including autograph letters from Theodore Roosevelt
- Correspondence 1918-1920: 7 folders, microfilm collection #144
- Lang-Chapin Congo Expedition: Correspondence: 10 folders, mostly typed, some carbons, some handwriting: Annual Report, 1916 submitted 2/5/17, Lang-T. Roosevelt correspondence, Letters to Lang from Herman Bumpus, Letters May 8, 1909 to Nov. 12, 1915, "Plan of the Congo book" , Reports May 8, 1909 to Nov. 12, 1915 Folder I , Reports May 8, 1909 to Nov. 12, 1915 Folder II, Reports May 8, 1909 to Nov. 12, 1915 Folder III, Reports May 8, 1909 to Nov. 12, 1915 Folder IV
- Map: (w/ Lang's handwriting)
- AMNH Financial Records, Lang-Chapin, 1900-1920. Box 5: (Box 5 of 32) 8 folders, invoices, bills of lading, expenses. Most handwritten, much in French.

D. Materials in Scientific Collections

Anthropology:

- 3,865 Lang-Chapin artifacts
- 3,865 Lang-Chapin catalog records
- Some 4,000 King Leopold artifacts
- Archive material
- Correspondence(?)
- 1 folder:"Plans of Okondo's house" text and sketches on cards, approx. 3x4" "Toy top" text (Chapin's handwriting) and sketch of artifact # 90.1/3290 ABC.
- 3 notebooks: in one Hollinger box Cabinet 1, T2.
- "Anthropology-Ethnology 1909-1912": 6x8" notebook, full. Lang's handwriting. Specimen numbers 1-1639.

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- 6x8" notebook:full, Lang's handwriting. Specimen numbers 1640-2366.
- Smaller notebook: only 26 pages used, Lang's handwriting. Specimen number 2367-3758

Mammalogy:

- 13 folders of Lang's correspondence: mostly typed
- 7 notebooks, 5177 numbered descriptions of mammal specimens: handwritten and with AMNH Mammalogy numbers
- Small mammal catalog 1-1920: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- Small mammal catalog 1921-2628: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- Large mammal catalog 1-639: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- Large mammal catalog 640-1088: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- Large mammal catalog 1087-1837: (not microfilmed)
- Large mammal catalog 1838-2499: (not microfilmed)
- Large mammal catalog 2500-2549: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- 2 notebooks cataloging: "skins sent to J. Clark"
- 1 catalog of photos taken, AMNH #'s 221000 - 227599: (photocopy in Special Collections)
- 1 notebook, Lang's expense record: (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- 1 small notebook, "Accessories for okapi group": (also on microfilm, Special Collections #43)
- 1 typescript with hand annotations "MSS on botany prepared about 1922 by Dr. Joseph Bequaert, intended to be part of an introductory volume to series of papers on results of the Lang-Chapin Congo Expedition...": Photocopy in Library.
- 5177 specimens

Ichthyology:

- 1452 "lot records"
- 1 field notebook

Ornithology:

- 6,241 bird specimens
- 1 Hollinger box archive material: 8 6x8" notebooks: 6,241 numbered descriptions of bird specimens, handwritten 6 3x5" notebooks: daily journals 4 smaller notebooks: scribbled notes 1 folder correspondence, about 100 pages typed & handwritten (some overlap w/Library)
- Manuscripts: "Birds of the Belgian Congo" 1922 typescript of Part I, 417 pages (carbon) Part II, 78 pages, bound Map gazetteer of Congo place names, 100 pages

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- audiotapes: reminiscences told to E. T. Gilliard
- typed transcript of audiotaped reminiscences
- 3 looseleaf binders of drawings, some of which may be Congo: Must be checked by date and/or location.
- bound volumes of Chapin publications
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Herpetology:

- Lang's 1916 Annual Report: estimated 4,800 "Reptiles and Batrachians"
- Between 4500 and 4700 data records in departmental database
- 1 Hollinger box archive materials · 3 notebooks: "Reptiles & Batrachians" specimens 1-1233. Approx. 100 pages, 6x8", full. · "Reptiles & Batrachians 1911-1914" specimens 1233-3080. Approx 100 pp, 6x8", full. "Reptiles & Batrachians 1914" specimens 3081-3431. 5x7", about 1/3 full.
- 1 folder, "Itinerary.": 2 leaves, legal size. Copy in Library, original in Herpetology

Invertebrates:

- 632 cataloged lots of specimens: encompassing 3-4,000 specimens (non-molluscs)
- 632 catalog records: some in a database, all on cards