Decolonizing the Camera: Photography in Racial Time

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Decolonising the Camera: Photography in Racial Time

By Mark Sealy

Chapter 1: The Congo Atrocities, A Lecture To Accompany a Series of 60 Photographic Slides for the Optical Lantern. By W.R. (Revised by Mr E.D. Morel and Rev. J.H. Harris.) Price 6d.

Fig. 1
Alice Seeley Harris with a large group of Congolese children. Alice Seeley Harris and her husband John Harris were missionaries in the Belgian Congo at the turn of the century. Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.

Date c1905

Fig. 2
Lantern slide Image of H. M. Stanley.
Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.

No Caption. Circa late 1890s

Fig. 3
Original Lantern slide Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London. Slide shows two dead baby elephants in the Congo Circa 1904

Fig. 4
Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.

Caption Reads
‘Woman with amputated foot, mutilated by sentries from a rubber concession.’ 1905

Fig. 5
Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.

Caption Reads
‘Lokonal, Three head sentries of the ABIR with a prisoner. 1905’

Fig. 6
Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.

Caption Reads
‘MR.E.D.Morel’
‘No date’ Circa 1904
Fig. 7
Photo held as part of the Congo Reform Association Campaigns in the Archives of Anti-Slavery International, London.
Caption Reads
‘Nsongo District Nsala of Wala with severed hand and foot of his five year old daughter murdered by BAIR militia. This was all that remained of a cannibal feast following the murder of his wife, son and daughter. 1904’

Chapter 2: Race, Denial and Imaging Atrocity

Fig. 8 Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May 7, 1945
Page 32 Atrocities Feature
Life Magazine. Left Hand Page Photograph By George Rodger
Page. 33
Right Hand Page Top Left Photo By George Rodger Right Hand Page Top Right Page
George Rodger
Right Hand Page Bottom Right Page Photo By Margaret Bourke-White Bottom Right Hand
Page Photo By By Margaret Bourke-White

Fig. 9 Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May 7, 1945
Page 34-35 Atrocities Feature
All Photographs by William Vandivert

Fig. 10 Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May 7, 1945
Page 36 Photographer Johnny Florea
Page 37 Photographer George Rodger

Fig. 11
Cover Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May, 7, 1945
The German People
Photograph By William Vandivert

Fig. 12 Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May 7, 1945
Feature Title,
San Francisco Security Conference Starts
Page 38
Photographer Ralph Crane
Page 39
All Photographs Ralph Crane

Fig. 13 Life Magazine Vol. 18, No 19 May 7, 1945
Feature Title,
San Francisco Security Conference Starts
Page 40
Photographer Ralph Crane
Chapter 3: Violence of the Image

Fig. 16
Christmas photograph of staff at the African Oil Nuts Company And Miller Brothers. Three rows of bare chested African workers pose for the camera, each man’s chest painted with a letter to spell out “1923, Badagry, Merry Xmas”. Four Europeans dressed in white sit on a makeshift bench up front beside Three African children, possibly domestic servants.
Badagry, Nigeria, circa 1923,
Badagry, Lagos, Nigeria,
Western Africa, Africa.’ Photograph held at the International Slavery Museum Liverpool.

Fig. 17
From Without Sanctuary Collection. With Statement from James Allen - Collector.

Fig. 18
Images from Without Sanctuary Collection James Allen

Fig. 19
Empire War Workers in Britain. A Tank Worker from Nigeria. Imperial War Museum

Fig. 20
On War Work in Britain No6. Nurse Jill. Imperial War Museum

Fig. 21
Poster Royal West African Frontier Force. Imperial War Museum

Fig. 22
United We Win
America War Posters
1943 the Office of War Information USA issued the poster “United We Win,”

Fig. 23
‘Together’ Vertical and Horizontal versions of the poster. War Poster at recruiting centre in Accra…Imperial War Museum

Fig. 24
Picture Post
November 10, 1945
Pages 19
Africa Speaks in Manchester.
All Photographs By John Deakin

Fig. 25
Picture Post
November 10, 1945
Pages 20
Africa Speaks in Manchester.
All Photographs By John Deakin

Chapter 4: Decolonial Frames

Fig. 26
Photographs Robert Lebeck
Images from Lebeck’s publication titled Robert Lebeck Leopoldville.
Pages 86 -87

Fig. 27
Photographs Robert Lebeck
Images from Lebeck’s publication titled Robert Lebeck Leopoldville.
Pages 88 -89

Fig. 28
Photographs Robert Lebeck
Images from Lebeck’s publication titled Robert Lebeck Leopoldville.
Pages 90-91
Fig. 29  
Photographs Robert Lebeck  
Images from Lebeck’s publication titled Robert Lebeck Leopoldville.  
Left to Right Pages 92-93  
94-95  
Bottom Right  
Pages 96-97  

Fig. 30  
Wayne Miller  
JAPAN. Hiroshima. September 8, 1945. Victims of the atomic blast are treated in primitive conditions at the fly-infested Kangyo Ginko bank. Many suffered from radiation burns and shock.  

Fig. 31  
Wayne Miller  
JAPAN. Hiroshima. September 8, 1945. Discharged Japanese soldiers crowd around trains as they take advantage of free transportation to their homes after the end of WWII. Hiroshima railroad station.  

Fig. 32  
Wayne Miller  

Fig. 33  
Wayne Miller  
Japan September 1945  
Out Door Hair Cut Near Tokyo  

Fig. 34  
Wayne Miller  
USA. Illinois. Chicago. 1946. A tenement on South Indiana Avenue, the type of housing for half of the city's black children  

Fig. 35  
Wayne Miller thrown over the railings of the back porches. Most of the area's tenants were transient.  

Fig. 36  
Wayne Miller  
Fig. 37
Wayne Miller
USA. Illinois. Chicago. 1947. Black safety inspector, the supervisor of his white co-worker at International Harvester.

Fig. 38
Wayne Miller

Fig. 39
Wayne Miller

Chapter 6: Rights and Recognition

Fig. 40
Photographs By
Armet Francis
Funeral Kensal Rise Cemetery London 1974

Fig. 41
Photograph By
Armet Francis Notting Hill Carnival, London 1979

Fig. 42
Vanley Burke
No Title
Birmingham
No Title Circa 1970’s

Fig. 43
Photograph by
Vanley Burke
Birmingham
No Title
"Austin Road Pentecostal Church. The two ladies kiss each other as a sign of peace after they had washed each other's feet." Two black women kissing each other, more black women in the background. 1970’s

Fig. 44
Photograph by
Vanley Burke
Boy with Flag, Wilfred in Handsworth
Birmingham
Boy with flag, Handsworth Park.
A black boy standing in the middle of the road, 1968.
Fig. 45
Photographs by Joy Gregory
Autoportrait 1989-1990

Fig. 46
Photographs by Joy Gregory
Autoportrait 1989-1990

Fig. 47
Photograph By
Rotimi Fani-Kayode
Golden Phallus circa 1988-89

Fig. 48
Africa Explores Exhibition Publication
20th Century African Art 1991
Portrait of a Couple 1950’s, Unknown
Portrait of Two Men 1955, Unknown