

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

“Collection of old postcards from French West Africa”

2014-92

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.

*This is the “shop window” of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

The old postcards cover the period from 1900 to 1959. They are classified within the 4fi subseries and hold a special place in the iconographic collection of the National Archives of Senegal. They were acquired through donations or purchases.

Owing to their creation and purpose, the postcards offer a wealth of information that can shed light to entire chapters of Africa history as a whole, and Senegal specifically. Numbering 1515 items, they cover themes as diverse as they are varied, such as politics, religion, agriculture, economy, education, sport, infrastructures, etc.

The postcards were designed by publishing photographers who travelled all around French West Africa during that time frame, sometimes in difficult conditions. All the authors' concerns, characterized by the diversity of topics, can be found on these images: persons, habits and customs of populations, the fauna and flora, landscapes, economic, political and religious activities, infrastructures. This rich collection, acting as a witness to an activity or other performances thus recorded, helps in the writing of the African history.

Finally, this collection benefits the researchers doubly: on the one hand, thanks to the photographic message it conveys, and on the other hand, with the written correspondence between the sender and the addressee, found on the back of the postcards. In fact, major studies were carried out from these correspondences.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

The National Archives of Senegal

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The nominator is the conservation institution for the documentary heritage items that are hereby proposed for nomination.

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Mrs. Fatoumata CISSE DIARRA, Director of the National Archives of Senegal

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Fatoumata CISSE DIARRA	Administrative building, Leopold Sedar Senghor Avenue Dakar, SENEGAL

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(221) 33 849 76 48	(221)33 822 51 26	pmarchi@primature.sn fcisse64@yahoo.fr

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage**3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

“Collection of old postcards from French West Africa”

The collection contains an extensive range of old postcards relating to West Africa during the French colonization era. It showcases typical everyday situations of the populations and of this area, between 1900 and 1959.

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The collection consists of both a donation from the Association of History and Geography Teachers of Senegal and of purchases completed by the National Archives of Senegal. However, some of the cards were collected through counting carried out by the National Archives Service.

4.0 Legal information**4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)**

Name	Address
The Office of the National Archives of Senegal	Administrative building, Leopold Sedar Senghor Avenue Dakar, SENEGAL

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(221) 33 849 76 48	(221) 33 822 51 26	pmarchi@primature.sn

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
Association of History and Geography Teachers of Senegal (ASPHG)	Faculty of Science and Technology of Education and Training (FASTEF), Bourguiba Avenue, PO Box 5036, Dakar-Fann, Senegal

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(221) 33 824 22 42	(221) 33 825 47 14	http://www.fastef.ucad.sn/

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

This collection is the property of the Office of the National Archives of Senegal that has built it in the course of time.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

The collection is fully available at the National Archives of Senegal. It has been completely digitized and is now also accessible online on the website for the National Archives of Senegal, www.archivesdusenegal.gouv.sn.

It is not subject to any access restrictions of any kind; its consultation is completely open and free of charge.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

The copyright status does not apply, as the items of the collection are over 70 years of age.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

This documentary heritage consists mainly of a donation from the Association of History and Geography Teachers of Senegal. It is authentic, exclusively composed of original copies.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The old postcards are subjected to an ordering by countries. Those countries used to be the former colonies of French West Africa.

Copies may exist in some countries since the postcards are mass-produced. However, they are rare and their disappearance could cause damage to the knowledge and the writing of the history in the cultural space defined herein.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the "first of its kind"?

The collection depicts a time corresponding to the colonization of West Africa by France (1900-1959).

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

The collection represents the geographical space of French West Africa. As such, some items of the collection describe those physical environments.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document's creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

Indeed, publishers are the authors of the collection, of whom the famous Fortier and Tacher.

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

N/A.

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

The postcards are photographs from image experts. In this respect, they naturally display aesthetic value.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

Old postcards allow for the reconstruction of everyday situations in the colonies during the colonial era. Consequently, they convey an emotional value for the populations of that geographical location who are still alive and who they drive nostalgic.

The collection is not venerated but holds social, community and historical significations that almost bridge the gap between the colonial era and the current life. Many institutions decorate their offices with enlarged reproductions of the postcards.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

Old postcards, which come under public domain, are not unique. Nevertheless, they are rare, for this kind of items does no longer exist, especially in such high quantities.

6.2 Integrity

The collection, in its entirety, is conserved in the iconographic section of the National Archives of Senegal.

'Nomination form translated by Ms. Marion Cassat under the UNV Programme'