

## **Conference: «Looted, lost or hidden. Archives and Politics»**

Tuesday 9.30-17.00 February 27th, 2018

Where: National Archives at Sognsvann in Oslo (Wergeland Auditorium)

Conference language: English

Ever since ancient times, people have created archives that have documented activity of different kinds. To organize, preserve and have knowledge of archives lies as a foundation in the identities of nations, groups and individuals. Proper storage and use of archives allows us to investigate and find knowledge about the past. But the archive is a selective memory. It is both a tool for remembering and expression of oblivion. For some reasons, some stories have been hidden in the archives, or the archives have been kept hidden from the public. Some archives have been destroyed. This shows that archives can be explosive because they can be tools for power or opposition in different societies.

We wish to point out some of the fields in which archives and the processing of these have become central, both because they are suppressed, contribute as identity and propaganda and are examples of archives that have been collected and reconstructed precisely because one feels that they are missing.

### **Partners:**

The conference is a collaboration between Preus Museum (the National Museum of Photography); The National Archives of Norway; Department of Archivists, Library and Information Sciences/Faculty of Social Sciences/OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University, the e-journal [www.tidsskriftetarkiv.no](http://www.tidsskriftetarkiv.no) and the Publisher ABM-media.

### **Program**

09.30 Registration

10.00 Mandy Banton: A culture of secrecy? - the management of records of Britain's imperial past.

10.45 Joanna Sassoon: Chasing shadows, finding skeletons. Tracking the archives of the photographer, E.L. Mitchell.

11.30 Sigrid Lien: Colonial shame and bourgeois pride. The History of an unknown painting.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Gudmund Valderhaug: The Bicycles at Storskog. Some Reflections on the Marginalization of Refugees and Migrants in Public Records.

13.45 Ellen Røsjø: The Oslo Multicultural Archives Project in Oslo City Archives

- 14.30 Coffee break
- 14.45 Ole Martin Rønning: Norwegian Labour Records during German occupation. Loss and reconstruction.
- 15.30 Harald Lindbach: The hidden Sámi Archives
- 16.15 Rona Sela: Looted and Hidden: Palestinian Archives in Israel (film 45 minutes)
- 17.15 End

### Speakers:

**Dr. Mandy Banton** (Great Britain) is a former senior archivist at the National Archives of the UK, an expert on the records of the British Colonial Office and author of the standard guide to those records. She is now a senior research fellow in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, a member of the International Council on Archives Expert Group on Shared Archival Heritage, and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

**Dr. Joanna Sassoon** (Australia) is an internationally respected historian and archivist. She has managed archival collections in cultural institutions in Western Australia and Canberra, worked in social justice/policy research in the State and Commonwealth public service, and has taught in several universities. Her research has resulted in award-winning papers on photography, oral history, and heritage, environmental and Australian history. She is based in Western Australia where she enjoys a mix of teaching, working with community archives/museums and conducting her own research in the history of photography. This talk will draw on her book *Agents of Empire: how E.L. Mitchell shaped Australia*  
<http://scholarly.info/book/544/>

**Prof. Sigrid Lien** (Norway) is professor in art history and photography studies at the University of Bergen, Norway. Project leader for the Norwegian team in the HERA-project PhotoClec (Museums, Colonial past and Photography) 2010-2012, head of "Negotiating History: Photography in Sámi Culture», funded by the Norwegian Research Council (2014-2017). Has published extensively on nineteenth century as well as modern and contemporary photography in a Norwegian context. Latest books: *Norsk fotohistorie frå daguerreotypi til digitalisering* (Norwegian History of Photography. From Daguerreotype to Digitization), *Det Norske Samlaget* 2007 (with Peter Larsen), *Kunsten å lese bilder* (The Art of Reading Images), *Spartacus* 2008 (also with Larsen), *Lengselens bilder. Fotografiet i norsk utvandringshistorie*, (Pictures of Longing. Photography in the History of the Norwegian US emigration), Scandinavian Academic Press, 2009. She recently edited *Uncertain Images: Museums and the Work of Photographs*, Ashgate 2014, (with Elizabeth Edwards) 2014: *Museumsforteljingar. Vi og dei andre i kulturhistoriske museum* (Museum stories. We and the Others in Cultural History Museums, *Det Norske Samlaget* 2016, (with Hilde Nielssen).

**Gudmund Valderhaug** (Norway) is associate professor at Oslo Metropolitan University, where he has been teaching archives and records management since 2003. He was director for archival issues at the Norwegian Authority for Archives, Libraries and Museums 2003 - 2006. Before this he worked for 20 years in municipal archives. He has published articles in professional journals and anthologies, and is the editor of the e-journal Tidsskriftet Arkiv ([www.tidsskriftetarkiv.no](http://www.tidsskriftetarkiv.no)).

**Ellen Røsjø** (Norway) is a senior advisor at the National Archives, Norway from 2013. She has been the project leader for the Private archives part of SAMDOK - samla samfunnsdokumentasjon / an integrated societal memory. She was in Oslo City Archives for 21 years as head of the section for historical archives and outreach and project leader for The Oslo Multicultural Archives Project.

**Dr. Ole Martin Rønning** (Norway) is a historian who works as deputy director at the Labour Movement Archives and Library, Oslo. His PhD-thesis: «Stalin's students. Comintern Cadre Schools and the Communist Party of Norway, 1926-1949» was awarded in 2010 and he has published several articles about the Norwegian and Scandinavian Labour Movements. His key fields of research: Norwegian/ Scandinavian Labour, the international Communist movement, relations between the Soviet Union and Norwegian/Scandinavian Labour.

**Harald Lindbach** (Norway) is an archivist and historian on the verge of finishing his PhD in «Media- og Dokumentasjonsvitenskap» (Media and Documentation Sciences) at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He is employed at the Research Department of the National Archives of Norway: Research topic: Sami and Kvensk history, 18<sup>th</sup> Century, archives, archival theory, minorities and indigenous people.

**Dr. Rona Sela** (Israel) is a curator and researcher of visual history and a lecturer at Tel Aviv University. Her research focuses on the visual historiography of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian photography, colonial Zionist/Israeli photography, colonial Zionist/Israeli archives, human rights violation, plunder and looting of Palestinian archives and their subjugation to repressive colonial mechanisms, and on constructing alternative postcolonial archives. She also researches the development of alternative visual practices connected to civil society systems, asking to replace the old Israeli official gatekeepers. She recently directed a film entitled Looted and Hidden: Palestinian Archives in Israel (2017) and published various articles and a book on the subject. For more information, visit [www.ronasela.com](http://www.ronasela.com).

Chasing  
shadows  
Finding  
skeletons

Tracking the archives  
of  
E.L. Mitchell

Joanna Sassoon



AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES. - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SMALL PICTURE FILE



*Handwritten notes:*  
57 + 3/2  
Side on  
2 photos

9378



*Broome Natives  
(North West)*

*West Australia*



Backs of photographs show captions and reveal lives of individual prints

# Excavating the archive

- **Mitchell's choices and lifestyle** shaped his archives
- **Mitchell (and the market)** placed different values on the various different parts of his archive
- **Institutional practice** has subsequently shaped his archive

# Mitchell's choices and lifestyle shaped his archives



Mitchell & Co, travelling photographer c1902/1906 Print

Mitchell (and the market)  
placed different values  
on the various different parts  
of his archive







Interior of Mitchell's house Whole plate glass negative

# Institutional practice has shaped Mitchell's archive



Hackett Hall, Public Library of WA, 1913 Whole plate glass negative



Mitchell's house in Claremont, Perth. Print



Ludwig Glauert remains of fossil marsupials from Mammoth Cave, 1914 Whole plate glass negative

Lodge Cambrian  
No. 19, U.G.L. of N.S.W.  
Wor. Bro. HORACE W. G. TALKES, W  
of the Company of

Lodge Cœur de Lion  
N.S.W.

MASTER,  
MURRAY,  
Cœur de Lion  
on of Wor-  
Murray, to  
n, Moruya,  
004, at 2.30.



E. L. Mitchell Esq  
of the Company of

Dear Sir Bro

I convey to  
passed by  
Framed  
present

to the  
reg  
ca

St. Andrew  
A. A. C  
N° 110-SC H  
UNDER THE SUP  
RAC GRA

# De-lamination

## From archives to orphans

- Removing from containers destroys **contextual information**
- Sorting and weeding changes an archive into a **collection**
- Numbering and documenting fixes new **order**
- Digitising focuses on image **content**



Mitchell and his friends, Stanthorpe, Qld c1907  
Photocopy of print weeded from collection during processing

AG 213

ROOT CROPS

3264B/170  
67

53843P

AGENT GENERAL FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA,  
"SAVOY HOUSE", 115/116, STRAND, LONDON, W.



Western Australia <sup>Grows</sup> Potatoes

Potato growing in Western Australia is highly profitable, and disease is practically unknown in the crops. The illustration shows an Osborne Park potato strip giving about 10 tons to the acre, in some districts from 15 to 20 tons per acre have been produced. The price on the local market at present ranges from £5 to £10 per ton.

Potato growing Osborne Park

Print



VIEWS  
of  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Photograph



To M.S. BROOKS Esq.

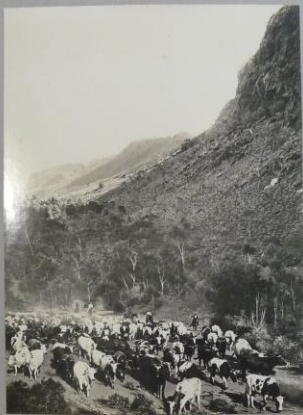
With Compliments from  
Grave & Dwyer Motor Co. Ltd.  
Perth, Western Australia

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924



← In context  
Photograph in album

Digital orphan

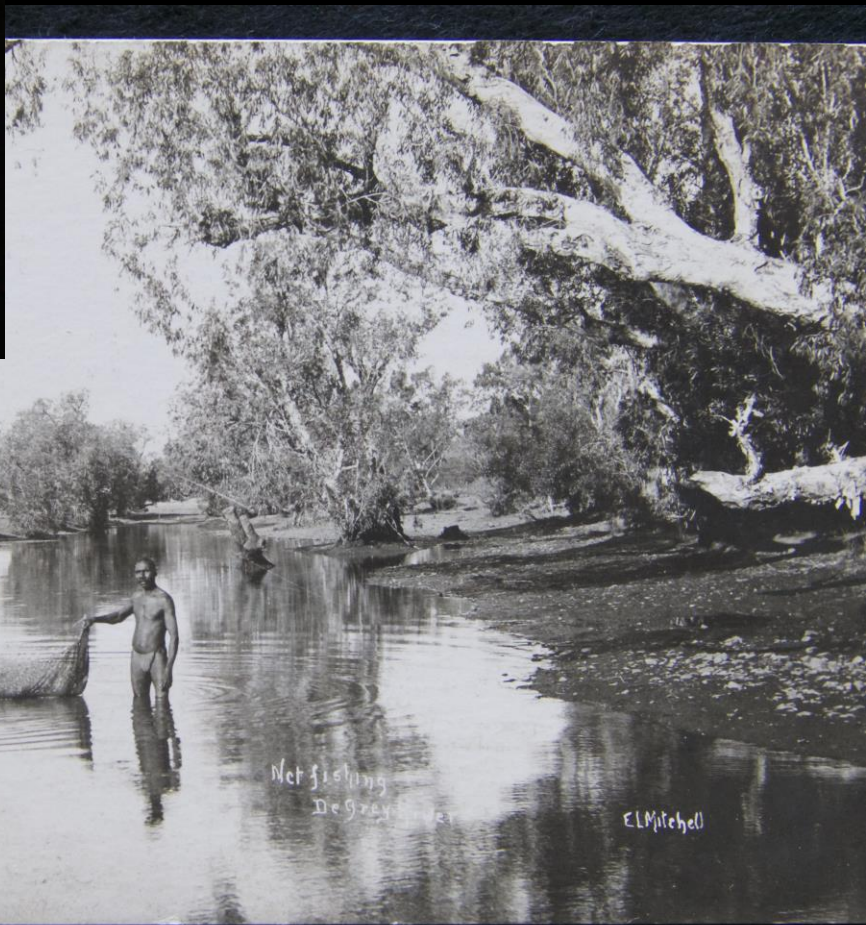


— Overlanding Cattle - Kimberley —



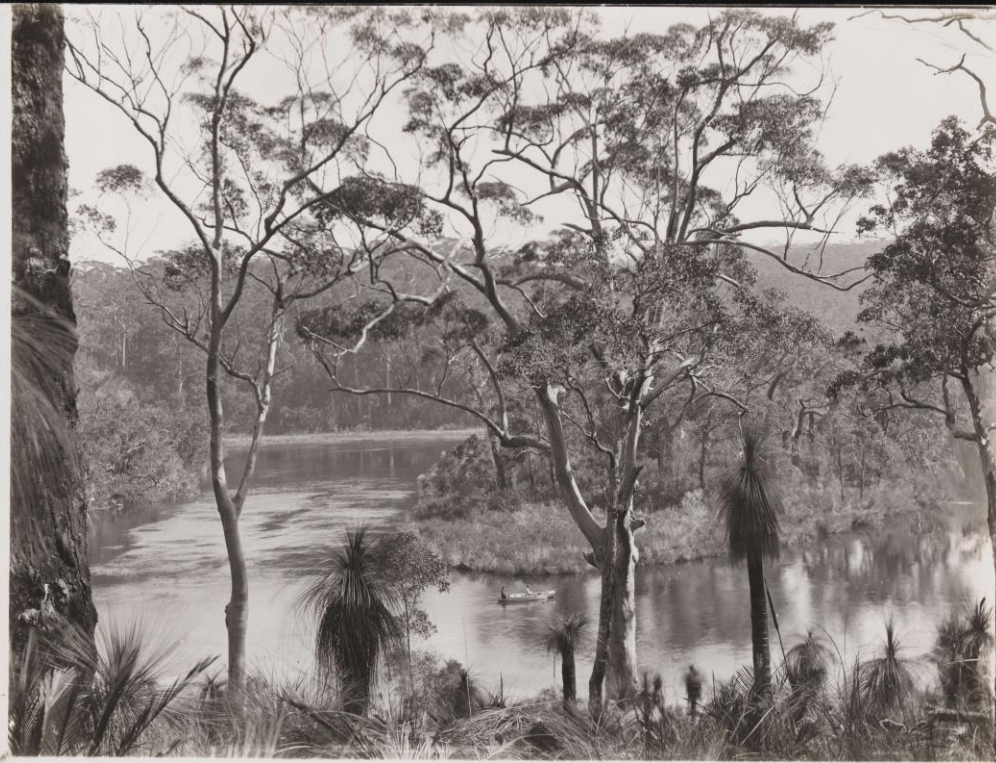
— Overlanding Cattle - Kimberley —

Net fishing De Grey  
Print from private album  
Lantern slide digitised in reverse



# Thinking with photographs

- Photography is a technology of **multiples**
- Each print created from a single negative is an **individual document**
- Each print was created to **communicate** a specific message
- **Context** shapes its meaning



A bend on the Frankland River near  
Nornalup, WA, 1917  
Print

AG 173

Franklin River

32648/161 (6)

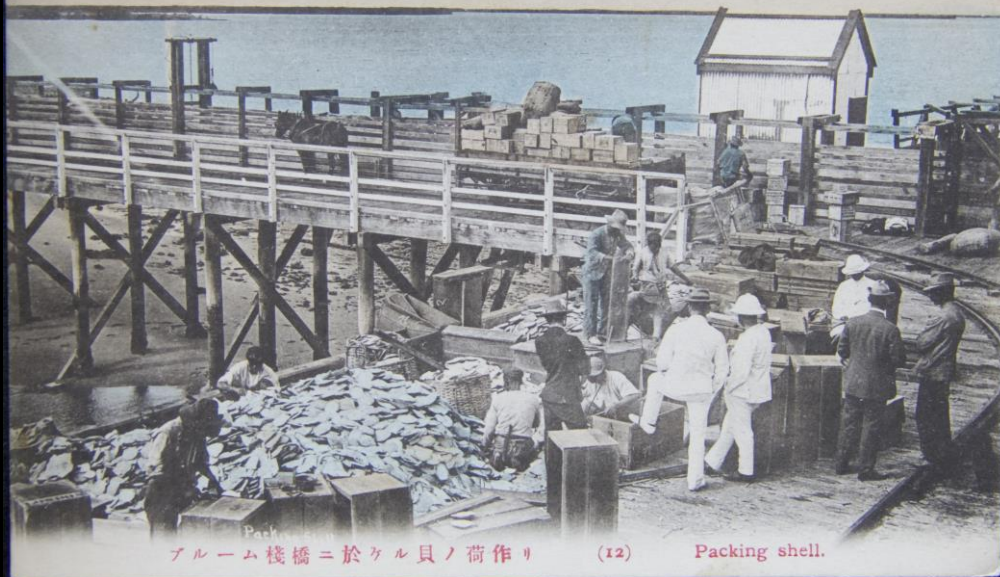
398

# Context shapes meaning

- Captions were often general
- Photographs became **Western Australian** when placed in state and Agent General collections
- Photographs became **Australian** when moved into the official Commonwealth collections
- Photographs became **emblematic** when published internationally



Packing Shell



ブルーム橋ニ於ケル貝ノ荷作り (12) Packing shell.

BUREAU OF VISUAL INSTRUCTION  
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Packing shells, West Virginia.*





No. 1432

1432

From Kilroy Harris, P. O. Box 362, Cleveland, O.

1432

THIS PHOTO IS FOR YOUR USE ONLY.  
IT IS NOT TO BE LOANED, SOLD OR SYNDICATED.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE

Photo Copyrighted by Kilroy Harris

PHOTO FROM KILROY HARRIS

No. 1432

(State of) WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(Commonwealth of) AUSTRALIA

Caption:

Packing Pearl Shell  
on the Jetty at PORT HEDLAND,  
Western Australia

1432

CREDIT LINE SHOULD READ  
PHOTO FROM KILROY HARRIS

← Shearing team, New Norcia

Shearing team, North West



Why did one  
become iconic and  
one never become  
public?





Aboriginal people from the Murchison selected to perform a corroboree for the French Mission, Guildford, 1918



FIG. 86.—Australian aborigines ready for a corroboree.  
*(Commonwealth Government Photo.)*



**AGENTS OF  
EMPIRE**

HOW  
E.L. MITCHELL'S  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
SHAPED  
AUSTRALIA

JOANNA SASSOON

**Looted, lost or hidden.  
Archives and Politics**

**Oslo**

**27.02.2018**



An image brought to me  
by a friend...

Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.



Stuen med det gamle  
Hardhensmaleriet.







Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.



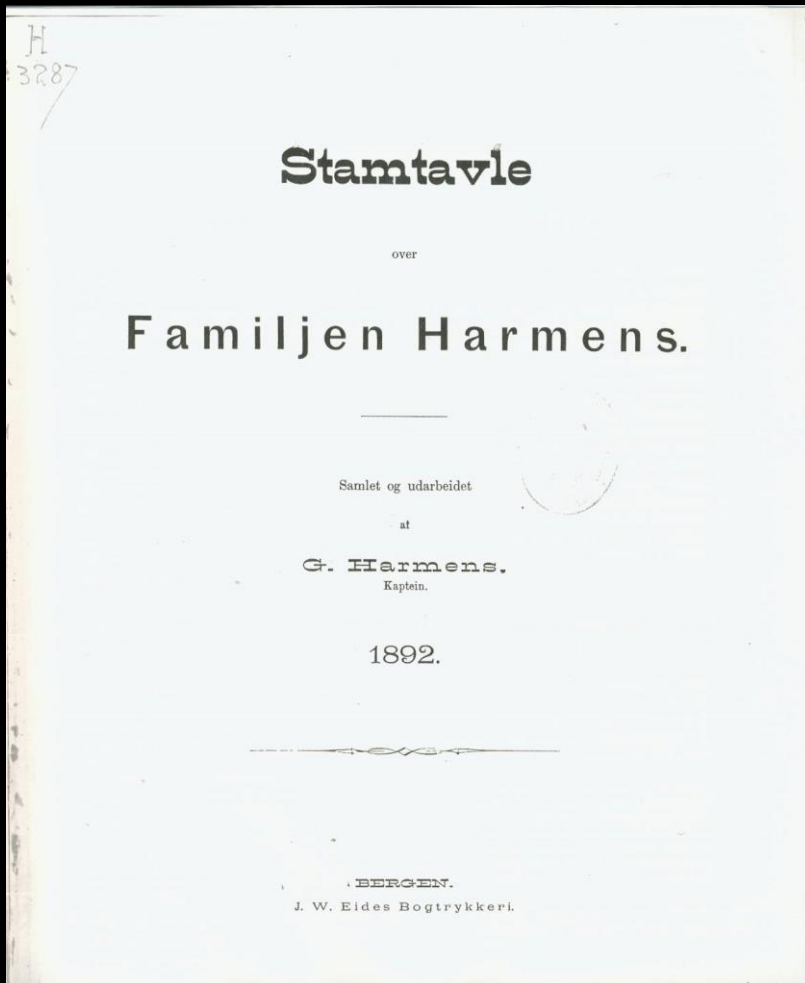
J.F.L. Dreier:  
"The White Bear"  
Christopher Harmens (1774-1829)





Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.

Detective work in the archives:



Family chronicle from 1892





Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.



The Harmens office in the old German quarter in Bergen





## Danish-Norwegian connections: A comparison



JENS JUEL: DET RYBERGSKE  
FAMILIEBILDE, 1797.  
OLJE PÅ LERRET, 253 X 336.5 CM.  
STATENS MUSEUM FOR KUNST,  
KØBENHAVN.



KIRSTEN ALSAKER KJERLAND & KNUT M. RIO (RED.)

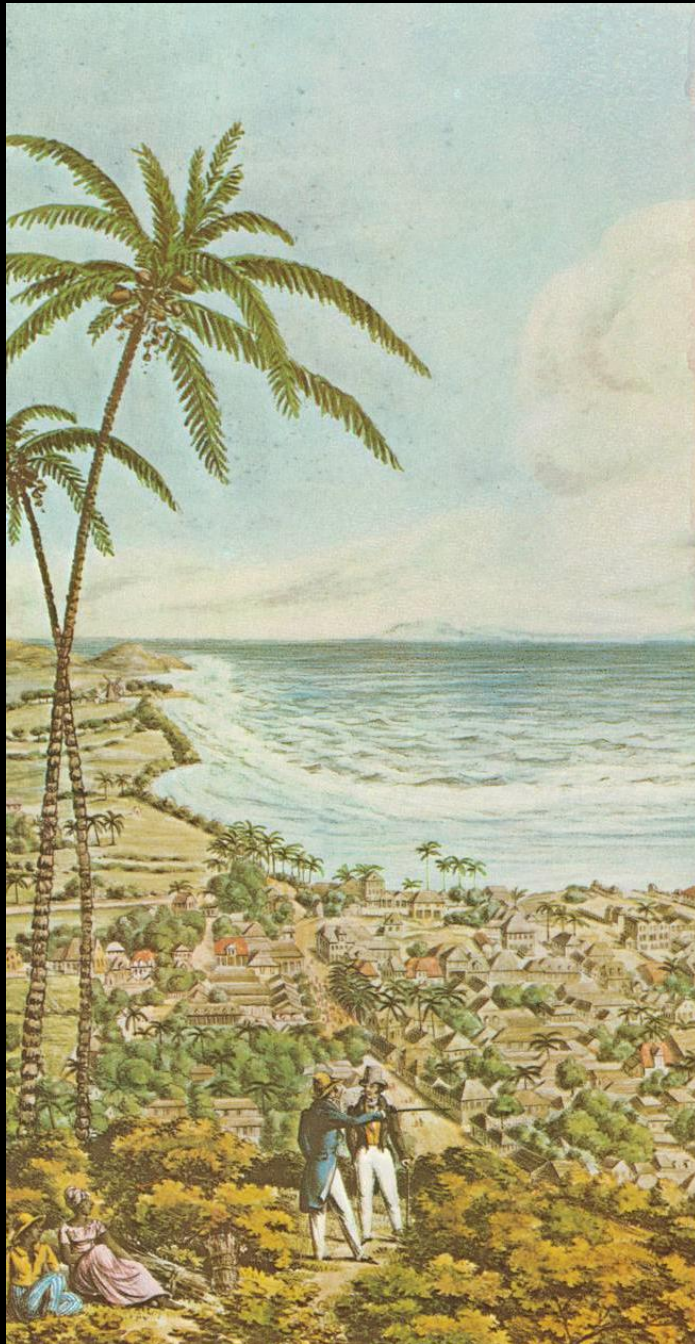
# KOLONITID

Nordmenn på eventyr og big business i Afrika og Stillehavet

No longer a small and innocent country colonised by others

New research on Norway's colonial engagement.

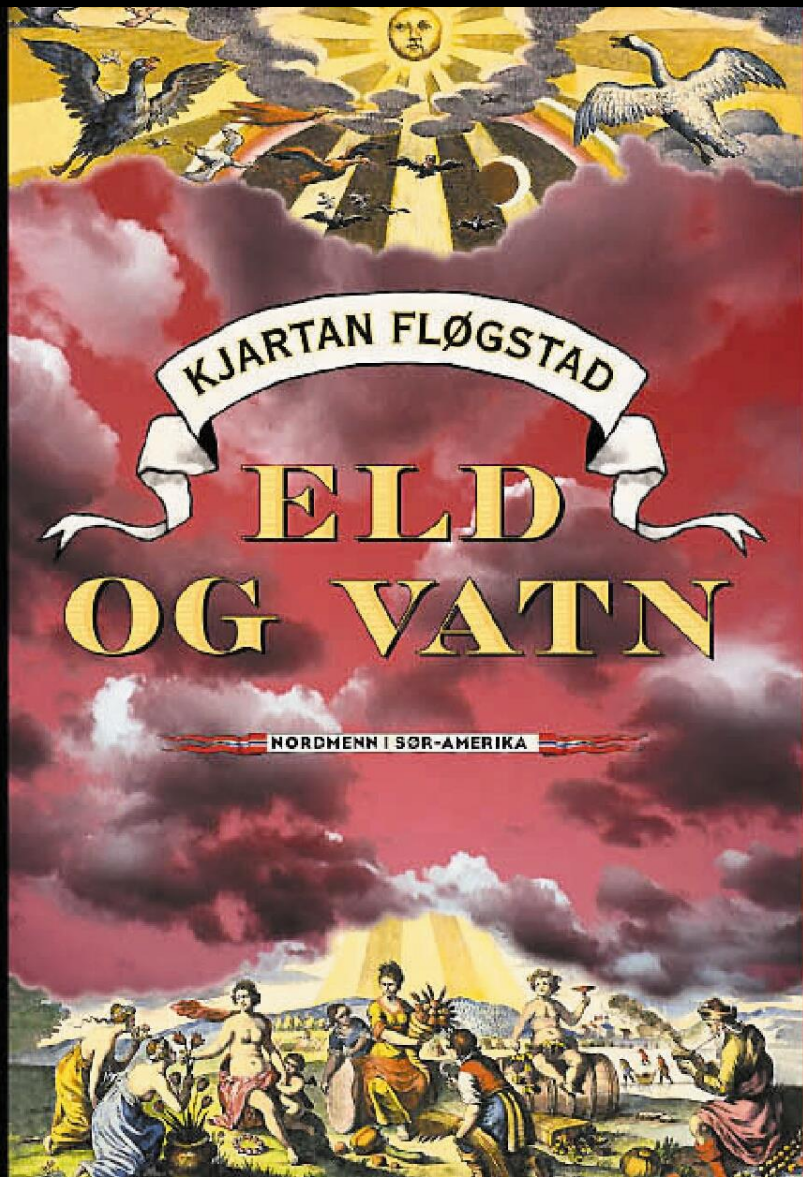




Denmark-Norway purchased St.Croix  
from France in 1733.

"Idyllic scene with blacks and Danish  
People at St.Croix."

Illustration from:  
Per Eilstrup og Niels Erik Boesgaard,  
*Fjernt fra Danmark. Billeder fra vore  
Tropetolonier, Slavehandel og Kinafart*,  
Lademanns Forlagsaktieselskab,  
København 1974.



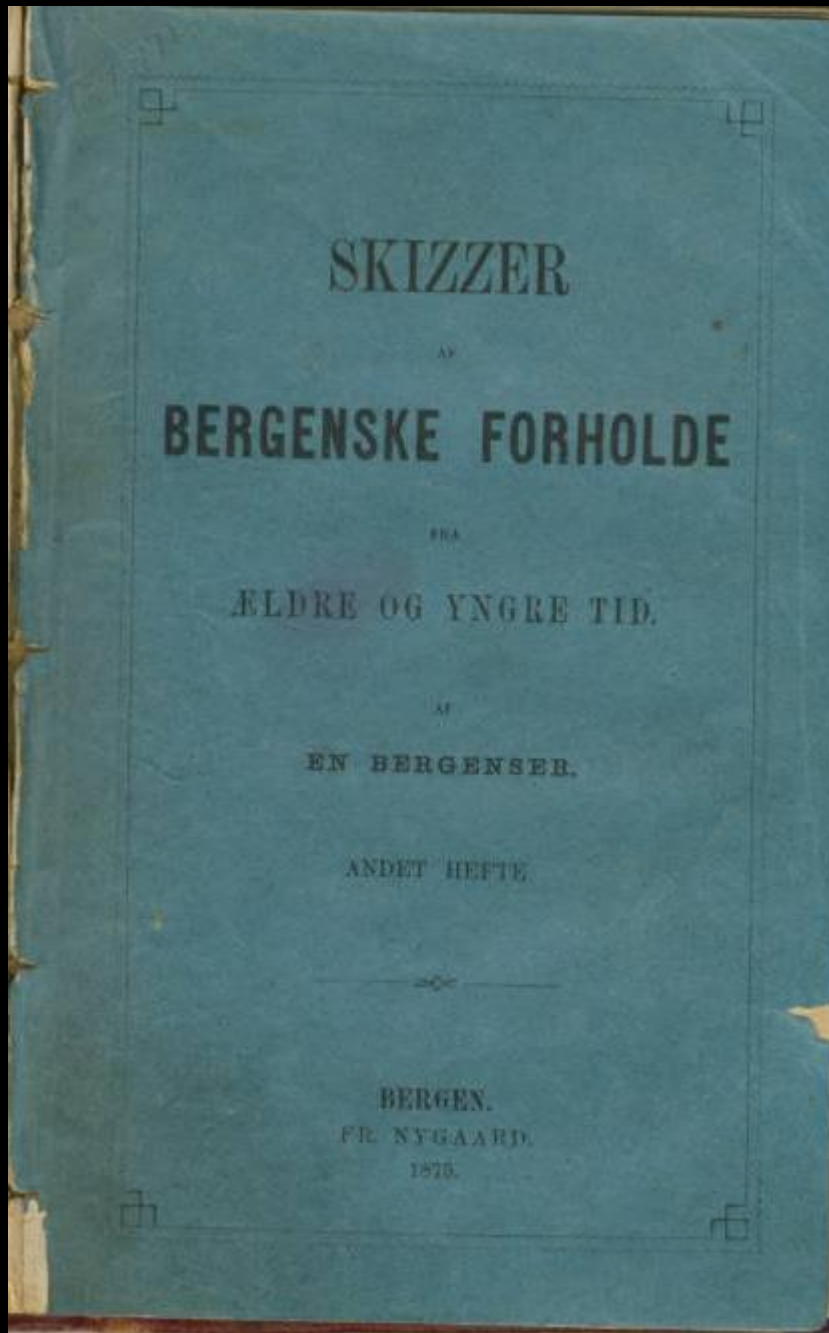
Kjartan Fløgstad's book, *Fire and Water: Norwegians in South America* from 1999



Danish plantation owner, and his slave.  
From Per Eilstrup og Niels Erik Boesgaard,  
*Fjernt fra Danmark. Billeder fra vore  
Tropokolonier, Slavehandel og Kinafart*,  
Lademanns Forlagsaktieselskab, København 1974.



Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.



Jens Gran,  
Sketches from Bergen  
in old and newer times,  
1873



## Krustugt

Kjøbmand Kühlemann var Kjøbmand af den gamle Skolen, eller rettere sagt: af den allerældste. Han var en af de ægte Tyskebryggefyrene, en af de seigeste Stokbergsenerne, en af dem, som i længste Laget gik med Knæbukser og Pidskeparyk

Hans Liv var oplinjeret som en Regnskabsbog og indrettet som et Slaguhr. Der skulde svære Ting til forat gjøre Kruseduller paa den Linje eller Forsenkelse i det Værk.

Og om end Kjøbmand Kühlemann som vi andre syndige Mennesker ikke orkede saa

Fra Tante Mine fortæller  
Historier fra de gode, gamle Dage  
Nedtegnede af H. Wiers-Jenssen  
H. Aschehoug, Kristiania 1912



### *Trøst*

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Og om end Kjøbmand Kühlemann som vi andre syndige Mennesker ikke orkede saa

“But the girl may be good even though she is a stranger, and what if he loves her Heinrich? What? Loving a catholic? I give a damned about the whole love thing, because that will pass, but catholic grandchildren, who neither may get a proper Christian baptism, nor upbringing, that will not pass. Or do you perhaps want to be ridiculed by everyone in your old age as the grandmother of half negro-children? I certainly don't!”

Fra Tante Mine fortæller  
Historier fra de gode, gamle Dage  
Nedtegnede af H. Wiers-Jenssen  
H. Aschehoug, Kristiania 1912



*Paternal Discipline* – as a musical at the national theatre in Bergen, DNS, 2011





Fra DNS: Peder Paaske  
Maria, kreolerinnen  
Fotograf: Leif Gabrielsen  
Dorina Marie Eldøy-Iversen



LATEST: [Sony takes on Apple as it unveils its fi-](#)

# Africans' Presence in Europe: Historical Perspective

By [Heidi Moen](#)

Feature Article | Sat, 08 Dec 2007

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Most of us seem to think that the presence of Africans in Europe is of recent times, though history shows otherwise. Africa had flourishing societies and highly developed cultures long before Europe, and of course people of Africa did travel and explore other continents. Black legions invaded Germany with Julius Ceasar, there have been discoveries in France, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, England and Finland, Scandinavia and as far north as the Arctic

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ARTIKLER

Afrikanere i Norge gjennom 400 år

MULTIMEDIA

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AKTUELT

Aktuelle temaer, mennesker og begivenheter.



## AFRIKANERE I NORGE: 1600 TIL 2000



### Afrin takker sine samarbeidspartnere

Vi ønsker å takke alle våre samarbeidspartnere i 2008 som vi samarbeidet med i forbindelse med at vi viste en unik utstilling på Norsk folkemuseum om et stykke norsk historie som er ukjent for folk flest.

Vi takker Norsk kulturråd for økonomisk støtte og enkeltindivider som har hjulpet oss med research.

Foreningen startet et spennende samarbeid med Norsk lokalhistorisk institutt i november i fjor, blant annet i forbindelse med prosjektene Mangfoldige minner og lokalhistoriewiki.no. I 2009 har vi fått økonomisk støtte fra Fritt ord. I løpet av året ønsker vi blant annet å utvide nettstedet vårt og ser også fram til å samarbeide med blant andre Riksarkivet.

### Velkommen til utstillingen

#### "Afrikanere i Norge"

på Norsk Folkemuseum  
17.april til 25. august!

Utstillingen er et samarbeid mellom organisasjonen Afrikanere i Norge (afrin) og Norsk Folkemuseum, og viser et lite utvalg av organisasjonens tekst- og billedmateriale.

Vi presenterer noen glimt fra 12 års arbeid i skandinaviske og europeiske arkiver. Dette er en del av norsk historie, som vi håper kan utdypes videre i samarbeid med privatpersoner, institusjoner og universiteter.

Alle som ønsker å dele en historie eller et bilde med oss er velkommen til å ta kontakt med oss på [info@afrin.org](mailto:info@afrin.org) eller Afrikanere i Norge, postboks 177 Bogstadveien, 0323 Oslo.

Utstillingen er støttet av Norsk Kulturråd.

Kontakt oss

Dere kan sende oss egne historier, forslag eller forespørsler. [Klikk her](#) dersom dere ønsker å kontakte oss. Vi vil svare på hver henvendelse så snart vi kan. Takk for at du besøkte siden vår.



Anonymous: *Hustukten*,  
(*Paternal Discipline*), Oil-  
painting on canvas, Bergen,  
Norway, ca. 1795-1820.