

**National Archives of Namibia**

**Findaid 2/131**

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**Hans Schinz**

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**Findaid 2/131 (A.1002: Hans Schinz)**  
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## Introduction

### Provenance

The photos in this accession were taken by the Swiss botanist and ethnographer Hans Schinz (1858-1941) who travelled through southwestern Africa between 1884 and 1886. Vintage prints of the photos are held by three archives in Switzerland, apart from the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich (“Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich”), the “Staatsarchiv Aargau” and the “Historisches und Völkerkundemuseum St. Gallen”. They were digitised and handed over to the National Archives of Namibia by the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich.

### Background

Schinz, who initially was a member of the Adolph Lüderitz expedition to southern Namibia in late 1884, travelled through central Namibia (Rehoboth, Otjimbingue, Omaruru) before reaching northern Namibia where he stayed in Olukonda in the Ndonga kingdom for several months. He briefly visited the Uukwambi, Uukwaluudhi and Omandja areas before turning east and reaching the Ngami area. Whilst travelling he accumulated large collections of primarily botanical and ethnographic specimens and photographed as much as possible. Most of his photographs remained unpublished and have only recently surfaced in the context of a 2012 exhibition initiated by the Ethnographic Museum in Zurich on Schinz’ travels in Namibia.

### Content

Some 30 photographs of Hans Schinz have survived and are digitally represented in this accession. They can be regarded as important historical visual documents for a period of time in the 1880s which saw a marked increase in photographic activity in southwestern (Southwestern?) Africa, not the least because of European imperial expansion into the region and increasing research ventures in the name of colonial sciences. Many photographs of the period were taken by scientists, missionaries or colonial officials and they survive primarily in archives in South Africa, Finland and Germany. Schinz took not only photographs of landscapes and for geobotanical purposes. He also, for example, photographed Kaptein Tseib of Keetmanshoop in late 1884, otjiHerero speaking men and women in Omburo in 1885, or mission congregations at the Finnish mission stations of Olukonda and Omandongo in 1886. Some of his photographs document rare themes such as one depicting the impressive water well structures in southern Namibia. Two very rare photographs depict several San in the vicinity of the Etosha Pan. Another one shows a trading party of men and women from the kingdom of Ondonga.

The accession also comprises of two books, the Zurich exhibition catalogue and a book about Schinz’ collection activities, which were taken into the Archives Library.

*Werner Hillebrecht, based on information from Thomas Laely and Dag Henrichsen  
April 2017*

## Contents

### 1) Images from Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich (EMZ)

<b>Inv.-Nr.</b>	<b>Original title indicated on photograph <i>and notes</i></b>
VMZ 395.01.001	„Omuherero. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 41.
VMZ 395.01.002	„Omuherero. Hereroland. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 42. <i>Probably taken at Omburo in July 1885.</i>
VMZ 395.01.003	„Omuherero. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 43. <i>Probably taken at Omburo in July 1885.</i>
VMZ 395.01.004	„Omudonga. Amboland. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 44.
VMZ 395.01.005	„Omudonga. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 45.
VMZ 395.01.006	„Buschleute von Oshando (Süd-Ost-Ondonga) 1886 (Rasse unrein). I. Grosser Zauberer. Südwest-Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich 1882. P. Afr. 46. <i>Photo taken by Hans Schinz on 15 March 1886 in Oshando, southeast of Etosha. See Henrichsen (2012).</i>
VMZ 395.01.007	„Kornstampfende Weiber Olukonda Amboland“. Südwest-Afrika. Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 47. <i>See Henrichsen (2012), p. 160.</i>
VMZ 395.01.008	„Transvaal-ochse, Zugtier unter einem Combretum“. / „Afr. Zugochose. Afrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 57. <i>Taken in the Kalahari in late June 1886. See Henrichsen (2012), p.160.</i>
VMZ 395.01.009	„Omuherero Hereroland“. Südwestafrika. Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 61. <i>Probably taken by Hans Schinz in Omburo in July 1886.</i>
VMZ 395.01.010	„Grabstätte eines Omaherero (sic) Omburo 1885. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich 1882. P. Afr. 63.
VMZ 395.01.011	„Ovaherero. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 64. <i>Probably taken by Hans Schinz in Ombruo in July 1886.</i>
VMZ 395.01.012	„Omukumbi Mossamedes“. Südwestafrika. Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 65. <i>See F.MG/0213 above.</i>
VMZ 395.01.013	„Omukumbi. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 66. <i>See F.MG/0213 above.</i>
VMZ 395.01.014	„!Haikoin. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 68. <i>Taken by Hans Schinz on 5th August 1885 in Ombika, south to Etosha. See Henrichsen (2012), p.63.</i>
VMZ 395.01.015	„Aandonga. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich. P. Afr. 71. <i>Labeled by Hans Schinz in his book (1891) as “Mit Salz, Feldfrüchten und Töpfen reisende Handelskarawane aus Ondonga”, photographed 1885/6.</i>
VMZ 395.01.016	„Mission in Omandongo (Ondonga Stamm). Omandongo 1885. Südwestafrika.“ Dr. Hans Schinz, Zürich 1882. P. Afr. 73. <i>It shows Missionary Weikkolin and family, with children from the Christian congegation, probably taken on 19/20 August 1885 when Schinz visited Omandongo.</i>
VMZ 395.01.017	„Ovaherero mit der Lederhaube“. <i>Probably taken in Omburo in July 1885.</i>

### 2) Images from Staatsarchiv Aarau

<b>Inv.-Nr.</b>	<b>Original title indicated on photograph <i>and notes</i></b>
F.MG/0213	„Mädchen von Onkumbi“. <i>Hans Schinz stayed in Humbe ((Onkumbi) in southern Angola in late September 1885.</i>
F.MG/0214	„Verheiratete Frau“. <i>The same photograph exists in the Ethnography Museum Zurich and has the legend „Omudonga. Amboland“. Hans Schinz stayed in the Ndonga kingdom from August</i>

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1885 to February 1886.

- F.MG/0217 "Erste Lüderitzsche Faktorei in Bethanien, Gross-Namaland".  
*Schinz stayed in Bethanien at various times in late 1884 and early 1885.*
- F.MG/0220 „Verheiratete Frau“.  
*See F.MG/0214.*
- F.MG/0222 „Hottentotte“.
- F.MG/0246 „Lüderitzsche Factorei Gross-Namaland“.
- F.MG/0249 „Missionsstation Olukonda“.  
*Schinz stayed here from August 1885 to February 1886.*
- F.MG/0250 „Kirche in Keetmanshoop“.  
*Schinz stayed here in December 1884 and January 1885.*

### 3) Images from Historisches und Völkerkundemuseum St. Gallen

- | Inv.-Nr. | Original title indicated on photograph <i>and notes</i>  |
|----------|--|
| 34       | „Brunnen bei Guos/Gross-Namaland/Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 35       | „Buschfeldformation / Gross Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 36       | „Flussbett bei I Ans / Gross-Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>   |
| 37       | „Acacia horrida (Girafenakazie) / Gross-Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 38       | „Acacia horrida / Gross Namaland / Südwestafrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>   |
| 39       | „Hererofamilie im Dienste eines Missionars / Hereroland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>The legend could be wrong.</i>  |
| 40       | „Gruppe von Hottentotten bei Ua[?] // gama / Gross-Namaland / Südwestafrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 41       | „Granitfelsen bei I Aus / Gross-Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 42       | „Ruschfeld innerhalb der Tafelberge / Gross-Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 43       | „Steilküste von Angra Pequena bei Eppe / Gross – Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.   |
| 44       | „Afrik. Reisewagen; im Hintergrunde die „Lüderitzsche“ Factorei, IAus / Gross Namaland / Südwest Afrika“.<br><i>This photograph has probably not been taken by Hans Schinz. See the discussion in Henrichsen (2012), p. 157.</i> |
| 45       | „Granitfelsen mit Euphorbia / Küras / Gross Namaland / Südwest – Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885, see also the discussion in Henrichsen (2012), p. 158.</i>  |
| 46       | „Granitkuppe mit Euphorbia, bei Küras / Gross-Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885. See the discussion in Henrichsen (2012), p. 158.</i>   |
| 47       | „Granithügel bei Tiras / Gross-Namaland / Südwest- Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |
| 48       | „Trockenes Flussbett bei I Aus mit Dornbäumen bestanden (Acacia horrida) / Gross Namaland / Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885. See also the discussion in Henrichsen (2012), p. 159.</i>                                 |
| 49       | „Oranje Fluss unfern die Mündung / Gross-Namaland/ Südwest-Afrika“.<br><i>Probably not taken by Hans Schinz as he never travelled in this region.</i>  |
| 50       | „Brunnen bei IAus / Gross – Namaland / Südwest Afrika“.<br><i>Taken 1884 or 1885.</i>  |

**4) Books taken to Archives Library:**

Beckmann, Gitte (2012) and Caroline Schütz and Kathrin Schwarz: "Man muss eben alles sammeln": Der Zürcher Botaniker und Forschungsreisende Hans Schinz und seine ethnographische Sammlung Südwestafrika. - Zürich: Verlag Neue Zürcher Zeitung ; Völkerkundemuseum der Univ. Zürich

**Shelved as BB/3299**

Schinz, Hans (2012) and Dag Henrichsen: Bruchstücke: Forschungsreisen in Deutsch-Südwestafrika, Briefe und Fotografien. - Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien

**Shelved as BB/3300**