

Findaid 2/151

A.0559

Axel Wilhelm Eriksson

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Axel Wilhelm Eriksson (NAN photo 0007)

Private Accession A. 0559 Axel Wilhelm Eriksson

Introduction

Provenance and content

This accession was transferred from the National Museum of Namibia to the Archives in 1991. No information how the material got into possession of the Museum could be obtained.

Description

The accession consists of four contracts (8 leaves), written on high-quality paper with the appearance of parchment, in large format (42.5 x 34 cm). They are pre-printed contracts with details filled in by hand. The contracts grant far-reaching concessions on prospecting, mining, industry, trade, etc. to Eriksson. They include a description of the boundaries of the respective community. Robert Stanley Mansel and Manuel Timbo¹ signed as witnesses.

The accession is stored with the large-format private accessions.

Biographical information

Axel Wilhelm Eriksson (1846-1901) was a trader, hunter, and naturalist. As a young Swede, he was sent to the Cape by Charles John Andersson's father under a three-year contract as apprentice to Andersson. In 1866, he was sent with Captain T.C. Een to Ovamboland. He also accompanied Andersson in 1867 on the trip during which Andersson died. In 1870, he settled at Omaruru, where he established a flourishing trade business (from 1871-1886 in association with Anders Ohlsson, a Swedish brewer and businessman resident in Cape Town). He conducted numerous trade and hunting expeditions to various parts of the country, mainly Ovamboland, and employed numerous Europeans to conduct trade operations for him. Later he settled on the farm Aukas near Grootfontein, where, with short absences, he stayed until his death.

Context

The four contracts concluded between A.W. Eriksson and four Kavango and Ovambo rulers in 1890, granting Mr Eriksson mining and prospecting rights against an annual rent, could be seen in the context of the rush to stake mining claims before the colonial regimes of Germany and Portugal effectively consolidated their colonial rule in this region. No record whether these claims were submitted to the German authorities has yet been found. There is also no record of payments to the local rulers under these contracts.

¹ It is not clear whether this is the former Mozambican slave Timbo who had worked for many European travellers and traders like Galton and Andersson, or one of his sons.

Listing

1.

Agreement on various concessions between Axel Wilhelm Eriksson and Hompa Nyangana [*in the document, spelled Yanganna*] of the Gciriku [*spelled Indiriko*], signed 4.9.1890

2.

Agreement on various concessions between Axel Wilhelm Eriksson and Hompa Bambamgandu [*spelled Bamangando*] of the Shambyu [*spelled Oshambio*], signed 12.9.1890

3.

Agreement on various concessions between Axel Wilhelm Eriksson and Hompa Kapango [*spelled Capango*] of the Mbunza [*spelled Ovambundja*], signed 21.9.1890

4.

Agreement on various concessions between Axel Wilhelm Eriksson and Ohamba Weyulu [*spelled Wayoura*] of the Ovakwanyama [*spelled Ovaguenyama*], signed 29.11.1890