

**Eugen Teuber Papers**  
**(Bulk, 1912-1914) 1910-1994**  
**Mss.Ms.Coll.57**

American Philosophical Society  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Teuber, Eugen, 1889-1958.
<b>Title</b>	Eugen Teuber Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1912-1914
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1910-1994
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.Ms.Coll.57
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Linear feet
<b>Location</b>	LH-B-47-6
<b>Language</b>	German
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>As a young graduate student at the University of Berlin in 1912, Eugen Teuber (1889-1958) was hired to help establish the Anthropoiden Station auf Teneriffa (Tenerife Primate Station) for the Prussian Academy of Sciences, the first field station devoted to behavioral research on primates. As its first director, Teuber played a crucial role in setting up the facilities and acclimating the chimpanzees to their new environment, and he was a co-participant in the first trials of Wolfgang Köhler's famous experiments to evaluate the intelligence of apes.</p> <p>The papers of Eugen Teuber document the founding and earliest years of the Anthropoiden Station auf Teneriffa. A small (0.5 linear feet), tightly focused collection, it contains a series of official documents relating to the establishment of the Station, approximately 20 letters between Teuber and officials in Berlin, including Wilhelm Waldeyer and Max Rothmann, some research notes, and over 100 photographs of the chimpanzees</p>

and facilities. The collection includes Teuber's notes on the first trial of Wolfgang Köhler's famous "fruit basket" experiment in December 1913.

**Preferred Citation**

Cite as: Eugen Teuber Papers, American Philosophical Society.

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## Background note

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As a young graduate student at the University of Berlin in 1912, Eugen Teuber (1889-1958) was hired to help establish the Anthropoiden Station auf Teneriffa (Tenerife Primate Station) for the Prussian Academy of Sciences, the first field station devoted to behavioral research on primates. As its first director, Teuber played a crucial role in setting up the facilities and acclimating the chimpanzees to their new environment, and he was a co-participant in the first trials of Wolfgang Köhler's famous experiments to evaluate the intelligence of apes.

Born and raised in Berlin, Teuber was educated at the Collège Français before entering the University of Leipzig to study under Wilhelm Wundt. Influenced by Wundt's psychology, Teuber enrolled at the University of Berlin to pursue a doctorate. In the midst of his studies, the neurophysiologist Max Rothmann proposed establishing a research station under the auspices of the Prussian Academy of Sciences not only as a means of supplying experimental animals for neuroanatomical research, but as a place to study the behavior of higher primates in an environment relatively similar to their natural habitat. Although his first request for support in 1910 was declined, Rothmann persevered and obtained approval his station on reapplication in 1912, securing funding from both the Academy and from private sources, including the Plaut and Selenka Foundations and the recently-established Albert Samson Foundation, chaired by the eminent anatomist Wilhelm Waldeyer. The difficulties of working on mainland Africa persuaded Rothmann to locate his facilities in the Canary Islands, comparatively near the German colony of Cameroon (a source for his experimental subjects).

At the suggestion of the psychologist Carl Stumpf from the Academy, Rothmann considered the young Wolfgang Köhler, Max Wertheimer, and David Katz for the position of director at the Station, but he initially favored Oskar Pfungst, the experimental psychologist known for his work debunking Kluge Hans, the calculating horse. In November 1912, however, Pfungst declined the position, and with the first shipments of chimpanzees slated to arrive soon at Tenerife -- some having already been held in captivity for several months -- the need for a replacement became critical. Under the circumstances, Waldeyer suggested that Eugen Teuber, then only 23, might be suitable for the position, and despite Stumpf's reservations about Teuber's inexperience in animal psychology, Teuber agreed to a one year contract on Dec. 17, 1912.

On January 8, 1913, Teuber and his wife Rose (who also acted as assistant) landed at Tenerife, carrying with them a set of architectural plans for the new facility. Drawn in Berlin by the architect Erich Levy, but never implemented, the plans would have resulted in a building that more resembled a Schwarzwald chalet than a research station, however other needs more pressing than construction soon took precedence. Discovering that the seven chimps who had recently arrived (Sultan, Rana, Chica, Grande, Konsul, Tercera, and Tchego) were suffering from colds, and that one had died, Teuber moved quickly to improve their conditions and nurse them back to health. A ordered the construction of a large, open-air pen enclosed by high netting in which the apes could run about, while work proceeded on an ape house with four sleeping chambers and a long runway for exercise. Although it was small, the attached laboratory had up to date facilities for photography and sound recording.

Although much of Teuber's time was occupied with the details of care and feeding of the animals and construction of the station itself, Teuber also engaged in observations on chimpanzee behavior and, at the suggestion of Rothmann, he took notes their physical development. Teuber was particularly interested in the spontaneous behaviors exhibited the young male, Sultan, who often took the lead in their boisterous play, but he also made important observations on chimp communication and emotional expression, including vocalizations, facial expressions, gestures, and "dances." Using both the camera and sound recordings to document his work, Teuber concluded that chimp vocalizations were expressions of affect rather than a true language, though at one point, he considered the possibility that chimps might be able to learn sign language (likely, he thought), and he and Rothmann considered whether chimps could be taught to recognize vocal or visual signs as representatives of "certain objects," such as foods (not probable).

When Rothmann toured the station in August 1913, he found things in excellent order and reported positively on the health of the animals, the state of the buildings, and Teuber's diligent care. When Köhler arrived in December 1913 to take over control of the Station, the laboratory was already fully functional. Under Köhler, the priorities of research at the station shifted dramatically, moving away from the project of finding a substitute for language to performing "language-free" experiments of goal-oriented behavior to reveal "insight" or thought. Teuber and his wife remained in Tenerife for a few weeks to help Köhler find his bearings and to ease the transition for the chimpanzees, and they were co-participants in the first version of Köhler's famous fruit basket experiment on Dec. 31, 1913, the first conclusive demonstration of ape intelligence.

The Teubers left for Berlin in mid-January 1914, only ten months before the start of the First World War. During the war Eugen Teuber served as a communications officer on the Eastern front, after which he completed his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Rostock in 1921 with a dissertation on the artistic philosophy of Jean-Baptiste Dubos. Rather than entering academia, however, Teuber signed on as scientific director for Adrema, a business machine company. He was transferred to Denmark in 1938 to serve as director of exports, and he and his wife both became Danish citizens.

Köhler remained at the Anthropoiden Station throughout the War, but when the owner of the property on which the Station was located sold out to a British firm in 1918, Köhler was forced to relocate. The Station closed permanently in October 1920, five months after Köhler returned to Germany to become Director of the Psychological Institute at the University of Berlin.

## Scope & content

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The papers of Eugen Teuber document the founding and earliest years of the Anthropoiden Station auf Teneriffa (Tenerife Primate Station), the pioneering research station established by the Prussian Academy of Sciences in 1912. A small (0.5 linear feet), tightly focused collection, it contains a series of official documents relating to the establishment of the Station, approximately 20 letters between Teuber and officials in Berlin, including Wilhelm Waldeyer and Max Rothmann, some research notes, and over 100 photographs of the chimpanzees and facilities. The collection includes Teuber's notes on the first trial of Wolfgang Köhler's famous "fruit basket" experiment in December 1913.

The visual documentation in the collection is outstanding, with 58 different images (97 developing-out or printing-out prints, 5 lantern slides, and 22 negatives) depicting Teuber, the chimpanzees, and the Station itself. These provide a good sense of the physical appearance of the ape quarters, and hint at some of Teuber's research priorities, with several views of chimps standing upright, socializing, or reaching for treats of cocoa or other foods. The collection also includes a draft and published version of a paper written by Teuber's daughter-in-law, Marianne L. Teuber, "The Founding of the Primate Station, Tenerife, Canary Islands" (1994).

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

American Philosophical Society 2003

## **Provenance**

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### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Marianne L. Teuber, 1988.

### **Processing Information**

Recatalogued by rsc, 2002.

## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Material**

The APS also houses the papers of Wolfgang Koehler, Teuber's successor at the Tenerife Primate Station.

## **Indexing Terms**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Anthropoiden Station auf Teneriffa

### **Genre(s)**

- Lantern slides
- Photographs



## Personal Name(s)

- Köhler, Wolfgang, 1887-1967.
- Waldeyer-Hartz, Wilhelm von, 1836-1921

## Subject(s)

- Animal psychology.
- Chimpanzees.
- Primatology

## Bibliography

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Teuber, Marianne L., "The founding of the primate station, Tenerife, Canary Islands," *American Journal of Psychology* 107 (1994): 551-581.

## Eugen Teuber Papers

## Collection Inventory

<b>Eugen Teuber Papers</b>	<b>1910-1994</b>	<b>0.5 linear feet</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
<b>Dexler, H.</b> Betrachtungen über den dermaligen Stand des Krallismus  On Clever Hans (Kluge Hans)	1914	Pr. Ms (incomplete), pp.3-28	
<i>In Memoriam Otto Rothmann</i>  Printed memorial silk ribbon for Otto Rothmann (son of Max Rothmann) killed in the war.	1914	Silk ribbon	
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Records	1914	3 folders	
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Arbeitsplan  Program of observations to be made o the chimpanzees.	1913	TMs, 2p.	Folder 1
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Der Kaufpreis für Land...	1913 Jan. 22	TMs, 2p.	Folder 1
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Die Untersuchung der Chimpansen  Program of observations to be made o the chimpanzees, with marginal notes by Teuber.	1913	TMs, 4p.	Folder 1
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Vertrag [with Eugen Teuber]	1913	TD, 3p.	Folder 1
<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Accounts	1913-1914	8 items	Folder 2

## Eugen Teuber Papers

Accounts periodically submitted for building materials, fruit, cocoa, bread, and rice for the animals; straw and blankets; apparatus; motion picture camera; phonograph; stopwatch; salaries for the caretaker and construction worker.

<b>Tenerife Primate Station.</b> Miscellaneous records	1913	4 items	Folder 3
Includes Verzeichnes der Böcher der Anthropoiden-Station and 3 items on construction of pens for the primates			
<b>Tenerife Primate Station [Erich Levy]</b> Blueprints	1913	1 item	
Elevation and floorplan for scientific laboratories drawn by Erich Levy, Berlin.			
<b>Levy, Erich</b> Agreement with Eugen Teuber	1912 Dec. 20	TDS, 1p. (5 copies)	
Agreement with architect			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Correspondence	1912	2 items	
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1912 Dec. 8	ALS, 1p.	
<b>Russak, Hugo</b> To Eugen Teuber	1912 Dec. 12	TLS, 1p.	
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Correspondence	1913	10 items	
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> To Wilhelm Waldeyer?	1913 Feb. 8	ALS, 4p. (inc.)	
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 Feb. 11	TLS, 1p.	

## Eugen Teuber Papers

"Cimpanzee corpse" prepared by George Perez has arrived in good condition at the Anatomical Institute.

<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 May 6	ALS, 1p.
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> To Wilhelm Waldeyer?	1913 Apr. 1	ALS, 3p. (inc.)
<b>Rothmann, Max</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 May 15	ALS, 7p.
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 June 17	ALS, 3p.
<b>Lander</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 July 4(?)	Tgm, 1p.
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 Nov. 26	ALS, 4p.
<b>Ahlers, Jakob</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 Dec. 15	TLS, 2p.
German Consul regarding travel arrangements for return trip to Germany for the Teubers.		
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1913 Dec. 17	ALS, 2p.
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Correspondence	1914	4 items
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1914 Feb. 1	ALS, 2p.
Acknowledges Teuber's gift of books and inquires about what Köhler might need. Mentions that Teuber has been praised by Köhler for his outstanding and exemplary administration of the Station (see also the letter May 11, 1914).		

## Eugen Teuber Papers

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> To Herr Hertzner	1914 Mar. 12	ALS, 2p. (inc.)	
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1914 May 11	TLS, 1p.	
<b>Waldeyer, Wilhelm</b> To Eugen Teuber	1914 May 12	ALS, 1p.	
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Correspondence	n.d.	4 items	
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 1	1913	6 items	
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber and chimpanzee Terzera	1913	6 copies	Folder 1
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 2	1913		
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> "Chimpanzee walking upright" [reaching for cocoa]	1913	4 copies	Folder 2:1a-b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> "Chimpanzee walking upright" [reversed]	1913	2 copies	Folder 2:1c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee walking upright	1913	1 print	Folder 2:1d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee walking upright	1913	4 copies	Folder 2:2a-b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee reaching for food	1913	4 copies	Folder 2:2c-d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913		

## Eugen Teuber Papers

## Photographs, Folder 3

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Two chimpanzees standing	1913	1 print	Folder 3:1a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Two chimpanzees standing	1913	1 print	Folder 3:1b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee reaching for food	1913	1 print	Folder 3:1c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee with arm extended, begging for cocoa	1913	1 print	Folder 3:1d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee standing	1913	1 print	Folder 3:2a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee standing, arm extended	1913	2 prints	Folder 3:2b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee reaching into open window	1913	3 prints	Folder 3:2c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee standing upright	1913	1 print	Folder 3:2d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 4	1913		
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Young chimpanzee standing, arm extended	1913	1 print	Folder 4:1a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Young chimpanzee standing, arm extended	1913	1 print	Folder 4:1b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 4:1c

## Eugen Teuber Papers

Young chimpanzee standing, arm extended			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	2 prints	Folder 4:1d
Two chimpanzee swinging on pole			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	7 prints	Folder 4:2a-d
Close-up of chimpanzee			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913		
Photographs, Folder 5			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	3 prints	Folder 5:1a-b
Chimpanzee standing, arm extended			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:1c
Chimpanzee in motion			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:1d
Chimpanzee looking out window			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:2a
Close-up of chimpanzee			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:2b
Close-up of chimpanzee in cage chin held up			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:2c
Teuber holding chimpanzee			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 5:2d
Underside of chimpanzee foot			
See 11c.			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913		
Photographs, Folder 6			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	7 prints	Folder 6:1a-d

## Eugen Teuber Papers

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Chimpanzees on a ladder

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 6:2a
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Chimpanzees destroying the banana tree

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913 May	1 print	Folder 6:2b
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Sultan, below, Rana in top, trying to  
destroy a banana tree

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 6:2c
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Chimpanzee walking on knuckles

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913		
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Photographs, Folder 7

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 7:1a
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Three chimpanzees in cage

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 7:1b
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Three chimpanzees in cage

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	3 prints	Folder 7:1c-d
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Three chimpanzees in open pen

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 7:2a
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Two chimpanzees in open air runway by  
pens

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	1 print	Folder 7:2b
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Chimpanzee sitting on crate in open air  
runway by pens

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913	3 prints	Folder 7:2c-d
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Two chimpanzees in open air runway by  
pens

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<b>Teuber, Eugen</b>	1913		
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Photographs, Folder 8

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## Eugen Teuber Papers

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Man holding young chimpanzee by the arms	1913	1 print	Folder 8:1a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Man standing next to young chimpanzee	1913	1 print	Folder 8:1b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzees by their pens	1913	1 print	Folder 8:1c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee at food troughs	1913	1 print	Folder 8:1d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with young chimpanzee in pen	1913	2 prints	Folder 8:2a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with young chimpanzee in open air runway  See 11a.	1913	1 print	Folder 8:2b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with two young chimpanzees	1913	1 print	Folder 8:2c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 9	1913		
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Two chimpanzees in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:1a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Two chimpanzees in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:1b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzees in cage	1913	2 prints	Folder 9:1c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:1d

## Eugen Teuber Papers

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with chimpanzee in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:2a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with chimpanzee in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:2b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:2c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with chimpanzee in cage	1913	1 print	Folder 9:2d
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 10	1913		
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Young chimpanzee on crate	1913	1 print	Folder 10a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with two chimpanzees	1913	1 print	Folder 10b
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Portrait of two women [proof]	1913	1 print	Folder 10c
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs, Folder 11	1913		
Folder 11 includes the highest quality selection of prints that are duplicated elsewhere.			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Eugen Teuber with Tchego	1913	1 print	Folder 11a
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> In the runway of the primate house	1913	1 print	Folder 11b
See also 7.2c.			
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee foot	1913	1 print	Folder 11c

## Eugen Teuber Papers

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee walking upright  See also 2.1c	1913	1 print	Folder 11
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzees on ladder  See also 6.1a.	1913	1 print	Folder 11e
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> In the runway of the primate house  See also 3.2c	1913	2 prints	Folder 11
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Rose and Eugen Teuber with Consul, caretaker in background	1913	1 print	Folder 11g
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs (negatives)	1913		Folder 12
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Photographs (glass plates and lantern slides)	1913		
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimp (Sultan) with arm extended, begging for cocoa	1913	Lantern slide	Folder 13
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Anthropoiden Station	1913	Lantern slide	Folder 14
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimp (Sultan) with arm extended	1913	Lantern slide	Folder 15
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Teuber with two chimpanzees (slide broken)	1913	Lantern slide	Folder 16

## Eugen Teuber Papers

<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Chimpanzee sitting on crate in runway	1913	Lantern slide Folder 17
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Research notes: Intelligenz Handlungen  Köhler's fruit basket experiment, including observations on chimp Sultan.	1913 Dec. 31	AMs, 5p.
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Research notes: Missie  Observations on chimp Missie (Perhaps formerly called Tercera).	1913	AMs, 8p.
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Research notes: Über Nachahmung  Introductory remarks on imitation	1913	AMs, 2p.
<b>Teuber, Eugen</b> Misc. notes	1913-1914	15 items
<b>Teuber, Marianne L.</b> The founding of the Primate Station, Tenerife, Canary Islands  Final draft	1988	TMs, 29p.
<b>Teuber, Marianne L.</b> The founding of the Primate Station, Tenerife, Canary Islands  Published in <i>American Journal of Psychology</i> 107 (1994): 551-581	1994	Pr. Ms., 30p. (2 copies)
Magazines: <i>La Alhambra</i>  Issue of <i>La Alhambra</i> 13, 303 (1910)	1910	1 item
Magazines: <i>Berliner Tageblatt</i>	1913 Aug. 9	1 item
Magazines: <i>Die Gartenlaube</i>	1911	

**Eugen Teuber Papers**

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Misc. issues

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