

“A MASTERPIECE OF EARLY ETHNOGRAPHIC CINEMA.”

—Brett Bowles, *THE ROUTLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM*

“Stands as a singular account, through its images and their subtext, of the complex and uneasy power dynamics inherent in erotic exchange, between men and women, the young and the old, the photographer and the subject, the colonizer and the colonized.”

—Thomas Beard and Ed Halter, *LIGHT INDUSTRY*



“An exceptional work of early ethnography [and] a stark reminder of ethnographic representations’ role in producing and reproducing Europe’s colonial discourse on and about Africa.”

—Dr. Clovis Bergère, University of Pennsylvania,
in *THE JOURNAL AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*

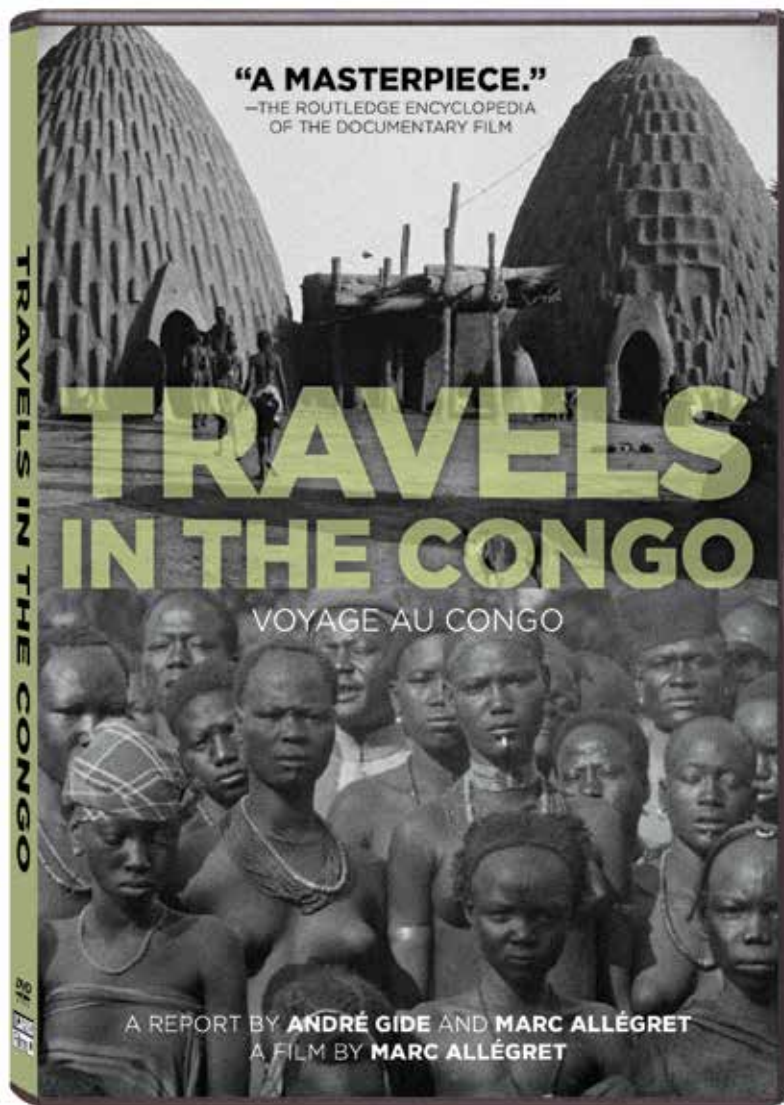
**With a new score by acclaimed
French composer Mauro Coceano**

In 1925, Marc Allégret accompanied André Gide on a journey to French Equatorial Africa, the Congo, as his secretary, and novice filmmaker. Filming throughout their 11-month travels, and only three years after *Nanook of the North*, Allégret’s goal was to immerse viewers “as we ourselves had been, in the atmosphere of this mysterious country.”

Unusual for its time *Travels in the Congo* (*Voyage au Congo*) is a largely observational documentary (with one dramatized sequence) showing aspects of the lives, culture, and built environments of diverse groups in the region, amongst them the Baya, Sara and Fula peoples, and without trying to shoehorn them into a dramatic narrative.

Travels in the Congo does, of course, retain a certain colonial gaze; in writing about the film, Allégret referred to its subjects as “a humanity without history.” But overall it remains steadfast in its approach, presenting its subjects on their own terms.

After *Travels in the Congo*, Marc Allégret had a long career as a filmmaker and photographer. André Gide wrote two books about their time in Africa, *Travels in the Congo* and *Return from Chad*, and went on to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.



Beautifully restored and digitized by Les Films du Panthéon in collaboration with Les Films du Jeudi, with the support of CNC and the Cinémathèque française



TRAVELS IN THE CONGO

A report by André Gide and Marc Allégret • A film by Marc Allégret
With a new score by Mauro Coceano • An Icarus Films Release
France • 1927 / Restored 2018 • 117 Minutes • B&W • In French With English Subtitles
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