



5 FACTS ABOUT ZAMBEZI

Zambezi Is an American Print

1

Created by H.R. Mallinson and Company in New York in 1929, it has no basis in Africa other than common motifs found in popular culture in the 1920s

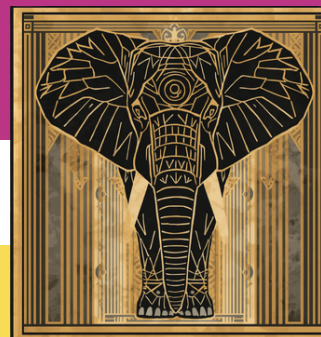
H. R. Mallinson and Company, *Zambezi*, 1929, silk, plain weave, roller printed, 47.6 x 38.1 cm, Cleveland Museum of Art, acc. No. 1930.114, Gift of H.R. Mallinson Company.
Madelyn Shaw, "American Silk from a Marketing Magician: H.R. Mallinson & Co.," in *Silk Roads, Other Roads: Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Symposium of the Textile Society of America* (Northampton, MA: Textile Society of America, 2002). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/415/>.

It is a stand alone print

2

Unlike other H.R. Mallinson prints, *Zambezi* is not part of a series. Mallinson created several series, including State flowers, National Parks, and others.

Madelyn Shaw, "American Silk from a Marketing Magician: H.R. Mallinson & Co.," in *Silk Roads, Other Roads: Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Symposium of the Textile Society of America* (Northampton, MA: Textile Society of America, 2002). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/415/>.



Not for Ready-to-Wear

3

Mallinson prints, including *Zambezi*, were made and sold by the bolt for custom-made clothing. The rise in the ready-to-wear clothing in the 1930s caused issues for H.R. Mallinson and Company

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Nothing to Do with the Real Africa

4

During the 1920s, the fantasy version of Africa was the basis for Western ideas about Africa. None of the artists that worked for Mallinson were basing the images off of knowledge of Africa.



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In 2 Collections at the Same Time

5

Zambezi is part of two collections at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The Extension and the Permanent Collections. So while there is a piece of *Zambezi* silk that can be handled, there is also one in the textile collection.

H. R. Mallinson and Company, *Zambezi*, 1929, silk, plain weave, roller printed, 47.6 x 38.1 cm, Cleveland Museum of Art, acc. No. 1930.114, Gift of H.R. Mallinson Company.