

KOLONIALE VERBINDUNGEN
Düsseldorf/Dschang – Rheinland/Grasland – Deutschland/Kamerun

Robbie Aitken/Eve Rosenhaft

Black Germany

The making and unmaking of a diaspora community 1884-1960

Cambridge 2013, S. 2

individuals (though of widely ranging status and provenance).⁷ Once a German nation state was formed in 1871, its emergence as a maritime and colonial power generated a metropolitan black population that displayed the potential for continuous growth. Coming mainly from Cameroon, Togo and East Africa, and very occasionally from South West Africa, colonial subjects formed the core of this population, which saw several thousand passing through Germany before 1914 and probably numbered up to 1,000 at any one time. And at the same time, the popular media which flourished under the very conditions of rapid economic and social development that fuelled Germany's maritime project articulated metropolitan interest in and curiosity about these new neighbours. These media produced and reproduced in print the vision of a collective black presence as well as refining visual and verbal stereotypes of Blacks themselves.⁸