



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Milton E. Merriman
travel films, circa 1927-1960

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Milton E. Merriman travel films
Date:	circa 1927-1960
Identifier:	HSFA.1976.04
Creator:	Merriman, Milton E.
Extent:	17 Film reels (silent; 16,000 feet; 16mm) Linear feet
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Paul H. Merriman in 1976.

Preferred Citation

Milton E. Merriman travel films, Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Scope and Contents

Cut and uncut film footage shot around the world by Milton E. Merriman, mostly in the twenties but spanning 1920-1952.

Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe and Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, and South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. Documentation ranges from developed urban centers to more rural areas and includes film of cultural festivals, marketplace scenes, and childhood activities. Contains detailed footage of monuments and architecture as well as aerial footage of landscapes.

Supplementary materials: photographs, content lists

Legacy Keywords: Travel ; Landscapes ; Landscape aerial shots of landscape ; Marketplaces ; Cities and towns ; Rural areas ; Architecture, Domestic ; Architecture, Colonial ; Architecture, Commercial ; Children ; Military China ; Fire

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or Anthropology Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

- Travelogs
- silent films

Places:

- Asia
- Central America
- Europe
- North America
- South America

Container Listing

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 1 consists of footage of Mexico shot by Milton E. Merriman. Sites in Mexico city include: the Plaza de la Constitucion (Zocalo); the Paseo de la Reforma; and the Cathedral of Mexico; and the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan. Scenes of ethnographic interest include extensive coverage of a bullfight.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-1

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 2 consists of footage shot by Merriman on board the paddle steamer Golden Eagle, along the inland rivers Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee. Documents: street scenes in Alabama; Shiloh National Military Park; a ticker-tape parade celebrating victory in the Pacific War; and in Louisiana, street scenes in New Orleans, including the Old Absinthe House; New Iberia; and the Longfellow Evangeline State Park on Avery Island. Also includes footage of the Los Angeles County Historical and Art Museum.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-2

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (15 minutes; silent; 384 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage briefly showing Cairo, Egypt and Bombay, India and extended documentation of Singapore. Footage of Cairo and Bombay includes arrivals of British diplomats. Footage of Singapore includes celebrations for the King of England with parades, floats, and bands. Also documented is fire walking done by Hindu devotees.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-3

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (40 minutes; silent; 1,032 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travels in Singapore focuses on the city of Singapore. Included are panoramas of the city, street scenes, and details of monuments and specific buildings in the area.

Film also documents certain street merchants and everyday activities of the people.

Legacy Keywords: Panoramas ; Street scenes ; Architecture ; Monuments

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-4

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 5 consists of footage of China. Documentation centers on Beijing and its environs, including: the Forbidden City; the Summer Palace; the Temple of Heaven; the Drum Tower; the Bell Tower; and the Great Wall of China. Temple activities include a priest at the prayer wheel of the Lama Temple, and incense burning at a Tung Yui Miao (temple) festival. Theatrical performances documented include a shadow play and a puppet show in the park. Records such aspects of daily life as: toymakers; market scenes; rickshaw driving; and children's games.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-5

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 6 consists of footage of China documenting Bei Hai Park on Qiong Hua Island, Beijing, including the White Dagoba and footage of visitors to the park. Also documents activity on boats and in the streets of the port city of Shanghai.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-6

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (41 minutes; silent; 1,068 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travel from central Asia through the Middle East and Europe. Sites documented include Basrah, Ur, Bombay, Damascus, Thebes, Venice, Florence, Jerusalem, Switzerland, Frankfurt, Cologne, Paris, London, and New York. The film incorporates footage of well-known monuments (Great Pyramids at Giza and the Great Sphinx) and sites in addition to detail of local peoples (children swimming and playing; dancing and music making; street vendors and a funeral) and customs.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-7

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 8 consists of footage of Seoul, Korea shot by Milton E. Merriman. Documents Yi Dynasty Tombs. Points of ethnographic interest include: children and adults at play; children fishing; a western style wedding; a stage performance of music and dance involving choirs and orchestras; street vendors; a boxing match; and crowds gathering for a trapeze act.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-8

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (30 minutes; silent; 760 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travels in southeastern Asia focuses on the islands of Java and Bali in the South China Sea. Film documents festivals with dancers and drummers, women selling food in marketplaces, details of several temples, and various cultural activities. Also included are detailed views of both textile designs and stone carvings in temples.

Legacy Keywords: Marketplaces ; Temples ; Textile fabrics ; Festivals

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-9

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960
1 Film reel (41 minutes; silent; 1,066 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s. ; Roll 10 consists of footage of travels on the islands of Ceylon, Manila and Japan. Depictions of Ceylon include shots of temples and Buddha statues, elephant training and local festivals. Footage of Manila documents the landscape with aerial shots and captures street scenes. The more extensive footage of Japan consists of street and park scenes, craft production, pagodas and temples and government institutions. Footage of Japan also contains film of still photographs taken by Merriman after the 1923 earthquake in Tokyo.

Legacy Keywords: Elephants domestication ; Earthquakes

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-10

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Milton E. Merriman, 1920s-1952. Most of the footage is of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The remainder features the Middle East; Europe & Great Britain; Mexico, Puerto Rico, & South America; and the United States. The edited footage was used by Mr. Merriman in his travel lectures presented during the 1950s.

Footage of: Mexico ; Egypt ; Bombay (India) ; Singapore ; Shanghai (China) ; Manila ; Java ; Japan ; China ; Jerusalem ; Baalbek (Syria) ; Europe ; Bali Island (Indonesia) ; Macau (China) ; Bangkok (Thailand) ; Korea ; India ; Mt Abu ; North America ; Mississippi River ; Los Angeles (Calif.) ; California ; New Orleans (La.) ; Louisiana Terrebonne Parish ; Whiting ; Indiana ; 1941 ; Trieste ; Paris ; France ; Florence (Italy) ; Venice (Italy) ; Italy ; Switzerland ; Schemmerling ; Austria ; London (England) ; England ; Great Britain ; United Kingdom ; U.K. ; UK ; New York ; New York (N.Y.) ; United States ; Taiwan ; Hong Kong ; Formosa ; Siam ; Thailand ; Ceylon ; Sri Lanka ; Sumatra ; South America ; Cuba ; Panama ; Panama Canal (Panama) ; Jamaica ; Peru ; Chile ; Straits of Magellan ; Argentina ; Brazil ; Trinidad ; Venezuela ; Curacao ; Peking (China) ; Beijing (China)

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-11

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (40 minutes; silent; 1,013 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travels in India focuses on Bombay but includes both urban and rural scenes (irrigation techniques, street and market activities and food preparation and collection) and details and panoramas of the architecture of palaces and temples. Documented is a Hindu festival.

Legacy Keywords: Festivals

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-12

Merriman World Travel Footage, circa 1927-1960

1 Film reel (30 minutes; silent; 767 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travels in India focusing on Bombay, Darjeeling and Goa. Documented are crippled people begging for money, Fakirs sitting on beds of pins, care of sacred cows and general activities of local peoples. Also filmed are several festivals in addition to many market and street scenes.

Legacy Keywords: Street scenes

Local Numbers: HSFA 1976.4.1-13