



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Paul Wirz films, circa 1930

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Paul Wirz films
Date:	circa 1930
Identifier:	HSFA.1976.06
Creator:	Wirz, Paul, 1892-1955
Extent:	Film reels (3 hours 24 minutes; black-and-white silent; 4950 feet)
Language:	Moving image materials are silent; supplementary materials are in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Dadi Wirz in 1976.

Provenance

Previously titled "Paul Wirz Research Footage of New Guinea and Indonesia ca. 1930."

Related Materials

DVD copy of documentary film based on Paul Wirz' work in Papua New Guinea, "The White Savage: A Family Saga Without Ending" by Renatus Zurcher is in the Smithsonian Institution's Anthropology Library.

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Paul Wirz 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

Outtakes shot during travels in the Humbolt Bay and Lake Sentani areas of Dutch New Guinea (Irian Jaya), Nias and Mentawai, Sumatra (Padang Highlands), Borneo, Bali, and India. People documented include the Papuan inhabitants of Lake Sentani and Humbolt Bay, Balinese, the Batak (Sumatra), and the Dayak, Banto,

and Barito (Borneo). Documentation features: male dances, *tapa* (barkcloth) manufacture, pottery making, chewing betel, a fish drive with men in canoes, and a funeral service which includes consultation of the Korwar oracle (Lake Sentani, Irian Jaya); a Batak shamanic performance (Sumatra); funeral preparations and men working on looms (Benares, India); sequence of the warrior ceremony and bird dancers (Nias); various dance sequences (probably Irian Jaya); and rice planting, house and architectural structures, and aftermath of an earthquake (Bali).

Collection also includes notes and published articles.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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.

Local Number

HSFA 1976.6.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Dance
- Fishing
- Funeral rites and ceremonies
- Shamans
- Weaving

Types of Materials:

- silent films

Places:

- Indonesia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Vārānasi (Uttar Pradesh, India)