



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to the Austrian Motorcycle Expedition  
Through Africa, Capetown to Cairo film, 1935-1936

Human Studies Film Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland 20746  
hsfa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Human Studies Film Archives  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Austrian Motorcycle Expedition Through Africa, Capetown to Cairo film            |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1935-1936  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | HSFA.1979.01   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Bohmer, Josef  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 Film reel (37 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1365 feet; 16mm)<br>Linear feet |
| <b>Language:</b>   | Moving image materials are silent; supplementary materials are in<br>English     |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Josef Bohmer in 1979.

### Preferred Citation

Austrian Motorcycle Expedition Through Africa, Capetown to Cairo film, 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.

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## Scope and Contents

Edited film of a motorcycle expedition by six Austrians who traversed Africa from October 1935 to March 1936. Footage documents the rigors of overland travel on motorcycle as well as encounters with three tribal groups: Zulus in South Africa, Kikuyu in Kenya, and Latukas in the Sudan. Film includes ceremonial dance at a Zulu wedding, Zulu homesteads, and activities around a mission school; Kikuyu women on the way to market and in a market and distinctive ear ornamentation worn by these women; and Latuka homesteads and *kraals*. Also included are shots of Victoria Falls, expedition members with African bearers climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, crossing the Nubian Desert, and logistics of setting up a mobile camp.

Collection also contains sound recordings and annotations (recorded narratives), photographs, field notes and maps.

Legacy Keywords: Dwellings circular thatched Zululand ; Schools mission schools South Africa ; Dance weddings Zulu South Africa ; Hair wearing of Zulu South Africa ; Markets marketwomen Kikuyu Kenya ; Corrals kraals Latuka Sudan ; Mutilation ear lobes Kikuyu Kenya ; Adornment ear ornaments Kikuyu Kenya ;

Tents use in expedition camping ; Motorcycles Putsh as overland transport Africa ; Water wheels ox-driven Sudan ; Architecture Great Pyramids Egypt ; Language and culture

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.

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## Local Number

HSFA 1979.1.1

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Arabs
- Kikuyu (African people)
- Lotuko (African people)
- Zulu (African people)

### Cultures:

- Arabs
- Kikuyu (African people)
- Zulu (African people)

### Types of Materials:

- silent films

### Places:

- Africa, Eastern
- Africa, North
- Egypt
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Sudan