



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Roger Hilsman films of the Philippines, circa 1929

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Roger Hilsman films of the Philippines
Date:	circa 1929
Identifier:	HSFA.1981.02
Creator:	Hilsman, Roger, 1890-1975
Extent:	5 Film reels (116 minutes; black-and-white silent; 3050 feet; 35mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Roger Hilsman, Jr. in 1981.

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Roger Hilsman films of the Philippines, 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

Silent footage shot by Captain Roger Hilsman of the U. S. Army in the Philippines in 1929. Footage is cut and uncut (outtakes) with some intertittling. Footage includes scenes of Northern Philippines tribes, Bontoc iggorotes, Ifagao, Kalinga and Negrito Pygmies, eruption of Mayon volcano, flagellente sect, Culion leper colony and scenes of Manila.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Subjects:

- Communicable diseases
- Geology
- Leprosy
- Rites and ceremonies
- Volcanoes
- Volcanology

Types of Materials:

- silent films

Places:

- Philippines
- Southeast Asia

Container Listing

The Wild Mountain Tribes of Northern Luzon, circa 1929

1 Film reel (53 minutes; black-and-white silent; 900 feet; 35mm)

Video: [The Wild Mountain Tribes of Northern Luzon, circa 1929, 1981.02.001, clip 1](#)

Video: [The Wild Mountain Tribes of Northern Luzon, circa 1929, 1981.02.001, clip 2](#)

Notes: Incomplete edited film with outtakes was shot in various locations including: upper Chico River (the Sabangan and central Bontoc area); Banawe, Ifugao, and northern Kalinga in border areas of eastern Abra; eastern Ilocos Sur; and Apayao (Mabaca, Pinokpok, and Buaya, Kilinga-Apayao Province). The peoples depicted include western and central Bontok Igorot, north-central Ifugao, northern Kalinga (or possibly Itneg or Isneg), and Negrito (location unknown, possibly Apayao or Ilocos Norte Province). Footage includes: Bontoc and Ifugao engaged in various subsistence activities; Bontoc performing a "war dance" accompanied by gong players; a Bontoc *ato* (men's house) flanked by carved effigies and objects displayed from previous feasting; a Bontoc *olog* (women's house); the Ifugao mountain rice terraces at Banawe; young Ifugao carvers; Ifugao "war dance" with gong players and men in ritual headwear; Negritos demonstrating dance; a Negrito village with stilt houses; Negritos butchering a horse (provided by Hilsman); Kalinga operating a two-man sugar cane press; a Kalinga thigh slapping contest; gong ensemble played by Kalinga; Kalinga women wearing sarong-like wraps of trade cloth from the western lowlands; and Kalinga man with ear plugs and beaded neck ornamentation.

HSFA 1981.2.1

Leprosy, circa 1929

1 Film reel (14 minutes; black-and-white silent; 450 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film documents leprosy victims in the Culion Leper Colony, Culion, Philippines. During the time that Captain Hilsman was Commandant of Cadets at the Ateneo de Manila (1928-1930) he was commissioned by the Philippines government to make this documentary about how lepers come in from hiding in the jungle to seek treatment. Authorities toured this film around the islands in an effort to encourage victims of leprosy to seek treatment.

HSFA 1981.2.2

The Eruption of Mt. Mayon Volcano, circa 1929

1 Film reel (black-and-white silent; 300 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film documenting the eruption of Mt. Mayon Volcano in the Philippines.

HSFA 1981.2.3 [sic]

The Flagellentes, circa 1929

1 Film reel (7 minutes; black-and-white silent; 300 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film documenting the Good Friday rituals of a Philippines flagellente sect. During the time that Captain Hilsman served as the Commandant of Cadets at the Ateneo de Manila (1928-1930) he was commissioned by the Philippines government to produce this film and several others.

HSFA 1981.2.3 [sic]

Philippines, circa 1929

1 Film reel (42 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1400 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Footage of Manila and the surrounding area. Peoples depicted include Ibaloi, Ifugao, Bontok, and southern Tagalog. Scenes include: Baguio Market (Old Stone Market) on the road to northern Luzon; the walled city, Intramuros; Manila Bay; the Pasig River; and the American camp John Hay. Shots of ethnographic interest include: Ibaloi women and children in native dress, Ifugao people, dancing and music-making with nose flute and bronze gongs and a mock battle by Bontok people, southern Tagalog housing, lighting of candles in a cemetery in Intramuros for the Feast of All Saints Day, manufacturing of Manila hemp rope, cutting and logging of Mahogany trees in the lowlands, and San Miguel Brewery.

HSFA 1981.2.4