Guide to the J. C. Glessner films of Iraq, circa 1928-1957

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Overview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Number</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names and Subjects</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container Listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collection Overview

Repository: Human Studies Film Archives
Title: J. C. Glessner films of Iraq
Identifier: HSFA.1981.03
Date: circa 1928-1957
Creator: Glessner, J. C. (Jefferson Carlyle), 1895-1962
Extent: Film reels (1 hour 51 minutes; black-and-white color silent positive; 1600 feet; 16mm)
Language: Moving image materials are silent; supplementary materials are in English
Digital Content: Audio: J. C. Glessner films of Iraq video clip 1
Audio: J. C. Glessner films of Iraq video clip 2

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Received from Lois Kratz in 1981.

Provenance
Previously titled "Reverend J.C. Glessner's Footage of Iraq ca. 1928-1957"

Processing Information
Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation
J.C. Glessner films of Iraq, 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

Footage shot in Mesopotamia (Iraq) while Glessner worked as a missionary for the United Mission. Indigenous peoples filmed include the Iraq Bedouin, Yezidi, Kurds, Arabs, and Turkamen. Documentation covers a wide range of daily subsistence and domestic, ceremonial, and religious activities including: outdoor church services, animal husbandry (sheep), harvesting and threshing of wheat, water wells and wheels, Bedouin tents and dancing at Sulimani, Yezidi festival and whitewashing of a Yezidi shrine, circumcision
ceremony, women carrying pans of yogurt on head to Bagdad, operations of a brick factory in Bagdad, tarring roads, and building Glessner home as well as other mission buildings. Footage annotated by Mrs. Glessner and daughter, Lois, in 1983.

Supplementary materials: 3,4

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 1981.3.1

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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:
  silent films

Places:
  Iraq
  Middle East