



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

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

Cataloging supported by Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Local Number.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

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

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## 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.

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## 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