Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Roland S. Morris films of Japan, 1917-1920

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Roland S. Morris films of Japan
Date:	1917-1920
Identifier:	HSFA.1982.03
Creator:	Morris, Roland S. (Roland Sletor), 1874-1945
Extent:	7 Film reels (1 hour 58 minutes; black-and-white silent; 4050 feet; 16mm)
Language:	Moving image materials are silent; supplementary materials are in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Sarah Morris Machold and William F. Machold in 1982.

Preferred Citation

Roland S. Morris films of Japan, 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

Collection consists of films collected by Roland S. Morris while he was U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Films include BEAUTIFUL JAPAN, '17-18 film made by Benjamin Brodsky of travels through Japan and copies of two Pathe newsreel stories about the Morris family in Japan, c. late teens. Collection also includes a map, article, shot logs, and translations.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Ainu
Japanese

Cultures:

Ainu
Japanese

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

East Asia
Japan

Container Listing

Beautiful Japan , 1917-1918
5 Film reels (1 hour 40 minutes; black-and-white silent; 3600 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Edited film, shot under the auspices of the Imperial Japanese Railways, represents various aspects of Japanese life as it existed around the turn of the century. Depicted are a wide variety of subjects including scenes of daily life in Tokyo, Kyoto, Yokahama, Hakodate, Kobe, Nagasaki, and other cities. Points of ethnographic interest include market and street scenes, the caves and tombs of the Ainu at Matsushima, the Bear Festival of the Hokkaido Ainu, cormorant fisherman on the Nagara River, a *hiwatari-shiki* (firewalking) ceremony performed by Shinto priests, the festival of the water goddess Benten, and a temple procession in Hakodate. Other scenes of interest include: a sumo wrestling tournament, school ceremonies and athletic competitions, Yokahama shipyards, cement factories and steel mills at Moji, pottery making, working of rice terraces, pearl industry in Omura, harvesting tea in Shidzuoka, the health resort at Unzen, cherry blossom festival, the coaling of a United States ship by Japanese laborers, and rail travel through the "Japanese alps."

Legacy Keywords: language and culture ; Ritual bear festival Ainu Japan ; Markets vendors Japan ; Shrines Kasuga shrine Nara Japan ; Tea harvesting of Japan ; Palaces defenses moats Tokyo ; Food preparation noodle making Tokyo ; Music ; Statuary religious Buddha Nara ; Ceremony fire walking hinatari-shiki Japan ; Priests shinto fire walking Japan ; Pottery manufacture of Japan ; Fishing use of comorants Nagara River Japan ; Ethnic groups Ainu Shiraoi Japan ; Tattooing ; Sports wrestling sumo Tokyo ; Diving pearls Omura Japan ; Agriculture rice tea Japan ; Japan ; Tokoyo (Japan) ; Kyoto (Japan) ; Yokahama (Japan) ; Nara (Japan) ; Hakodate (Japan) ; Kamiiso (Japan) ; Shidzuoka (Japan) ; Nagasaki (Japan) ; Kōbe-shi (Japan) ; Beppu (Japan) ; Chuzenjii (Japan) ; Asia

HSFA 1982.3.1

Pathe News Item - Japan Number 1, circa 1917
1 Film reel (7 minutes; black-and-white silent; 172 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Newsreel story about the arrival of American Ambassador Roland Morris and his family to Japan.

Legacy Keywords: International relations Asia ; Diplomats Japan ; World politics

HSFA 1982.3.2

Pathe News Item - Japan Number 2, 1920
1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white silent; 278 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Newsreel story about Ambassador Roland Morris and his family attending the launching of the S/S Eastern Glen at the Chiwaka-cho Shipyards, Yokohama.

Legacy Keywords: International relations Asia ; Diplomats Japan ; World politics ; Ships

HSFA 1982.3.3