



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Francis Speed films, circa 1966

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Francis Speed films
Identifier:	HSFA.1982.11
Date:	circa 1966
Creator:	Speed, Francis Harper, Peggy
Extent:	2 Film reels (22 minutes; black-and-white sound; 800 feet; 16mm)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Gordon Gibson in 1982.

Preferred Citation

Francis Speed films, 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

"Studies in Nigerian Dance, no. 1 and 2" made ca. 1966 by Francis Speed. Collection includes associated texts.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Dance
Irigwe (African people)
Music
Rites and ceremonies
Tiv (African people)

Cultures:

Irigwe (African people)
Tiv (African people)

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

Africa, West
Nigeria

Container Listing

Studies in Nigerian Dance, No. 1, circa 1966

1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white sound; 400 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film documents three variations of *icough*, a dance style which, at the time of filming, was popular among women's dance ensembles of southern Tiv country. *Icough* dances are performed at marriage ceremonies, for the entertainment of visitors, and on important social occasions to enhance the prestige of those who sponsor these performances. Such dance groups are also commonly seen at the five-day markets in the villages surrounding Gboko and Aliade, Nigeria. Shot in Gboko, the first dance is performed by an ensemble from Mbahor village and the second and third dances by an ensemble from Mbawon village. Whatever the variation sequence of movements, the outstanding feature of *icough* dancing is the sustained and controlled quality of the flow of movement through the body as dancers pass through the basic positions of the dance. Musical accompaniment is by an *agbande* drum ensemble.

Legacy Keywords: Dancing women gestures kinesics arm movements ; Choreography dance ; Drumming men ululations rattles ; Drumming rhythms ululations flute polymusicality ; Instruments musical instruments ; Rites and ceremonies ; Music ; Language and culture
HSFA 1982.11.1

Studies in Nigerian Dance, No. 2, circa 1966

1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white sound; 400 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film documents five male dances of the Irigwe people living in the Miango Village area of the Jos Plateau, Nigeria. Dancers wield fly whisks and adzes and the dances are performed to drumming and song in both ring and marching formations. The accompanying dance texts indicate that these dances were traditionally an integral part of Irigwe agricultural festivals.

Legacy Keywords: Dancing processional ; Choreography ring dance counterclockwise kinesics ; Dancing drumming choreography ring dance synchronized jumping ; Dress ceremonial leg rattles skirts headwear ; Choreography dance marching formation counterclockwise ; Music ; Instruments musical instruments ; Drums ; Language and culture
HSFA 1982.11.2