



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Richard Hawkins Imbalu films

Human Studies Film Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Bibliography.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Richard Hawkins Imbalu films
Date:	1967
Identifier:	HSFA.1985.01
Creator:	Hawkins, Richard C., 1922-2015 (Filmmaker) Heald, Suzette (Anthropologist) MacDougall, David
Extent:	2 Videocassettes (158 minutes; color sound)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Richard Hawkins in 1985.

Provenance

The camera original film has been lost. Workprint and sync track were returned to donor and and NAFC/HSFA made a 3/4" master that is now the archival original.

Preferred Citation

Richard Hawkins Imbalu 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

Collection consists of footage from the edited film *Imbau*, documenting a young men's initiation ceremony performed in 1967 by the Gisu of Uganda. Collection also contains an article written by Suzette Heald, transcriptions 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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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.

Bibliography

Heald, Suzette, 1982. "The making of men: the relevance of venacular psychology to the interpretation of a Gisu ritual." *Africa* vol. 52(1):15-36.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Circumcision
- Gisu (African people)

Cultures:

- Gisu (African people)

Types of Materials:

- Video recordings

Places:

- Africa, East
- Uganda

Container Listing

Imbalu film project, 1967

1 Videocassette (97 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Full film record made in association with the University of California, Los Angeles, Ethnographic Film Program documenting a male initiation ceremony among the Gisu of the Mt. Elgon region of eastern Uganda. Footage explores circumcision as a central social institution which defines adult male identity and the unity of the Gisu as a people. Footage includes: discussions among kinsmen of the candidates' fitness, dancing and drumming around the initiates' compounds, animal sacrifice and divination by reading entrails to assess the propitiousness of the event, brewing of millet beer for the ceremony, anointing of initiates with beer yeast, and initiates' seclusion and circumcision by a ritual specialist.

HSFA 1985.1.1

Imbalu, 1967

1 Videocassette (61 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film made in association with the University of California, Los Angeles, Ethnographic Film Program documents a male initiation ceremony among the Gisu of the Mt. Elgon region of eastern Uganda. The story of Gisu circumcision emerges through the narrative of two boys who announce their intention to undergo the ordeal of circumcision together. Film provides insight into circumcision as a central social institution which defines adult male identity and the unity of the Gisu as a people. Film includes: discussions among kinsmen of the candidates' fitness, dancing and drumming around the initiates' compounds, animal sacrifice and divination by reading entrails to assess the propitiousness of the event, brewing of millet beer for the ceremony, anointing of initiates with beer yeast, and initiates' seclusion and circumcision by a ritual specialist.

HSFA 1985.1.2