



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Bernard Leach films, circa 1934-1937

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Bernard Leach films
Date:	circa 1934-1937
Identifier:	HSFA.1986.06
Creator:	Leach, Bernard, 1887-1979
Extent:	2 Film reels (black-and-white silent; 2245 feet; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Marty Gross Film Production, Inc. in 1986.

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Bernard Leach 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

Bernard Leach's film of Mashiko village pottery (1937) and his scenes of Japan, Hong Kong and Shanghai (1934-1935).

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Ceramics

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

East Asia

Hong Kong

Japan

Korea

Shanghai (China)

Container Listing

Mashiko Village Pottery, circa 1937

1 Film reel (black-and-white silent; 800 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film documents the traditional process of pottery making as performed and recorded in 1937 at the workshop of Totaro Sakuma in the village of Mashiko, Japan, historically one of the most prolific sites for the production of utilitarian ceramic ware for Tokyo. Film highlights the work of famed potter Shoji Hamada and Minagawa Masu, an illiterate itinerant teapot painter of great renown who plied her trade among the various kilns in the village. Film restored by Marty Gross.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Teapots ; Pottery Japan ; Ceramics Japan

HSFA 1986.6.1

Bernard Leach's Scenes of Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, 1934-1935

Film reels (black-and-white silent; 1200 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage, shot during Leach's travels in the Far East, includes filming in Mashiko village, Japan which documents the work of potter Shoji Hamada and ceramic painter Masu Minagawa, both central figures in Japan's Folk Craft Movement. Pottery footage includes: general overview of the Hamada compound including laborers, clay settling tanks, and kiln; Hamada at his *te-rokuro* (stick-turned wheel); throwing several large jars by the punch-out, coil, and throw methods; firing of the *nobori-gama* (multi-chambered climbing kiln); kiln in various stages of unloading; and Minagawa painting teapots. Other Japanese crafts documented include weaving, stencil dyeing, papermaking, and use of the treadle lathe to make *kokeshi* dolls. Scenes of Japanese life include: *koi nobori* (carp pennants) indicating the celebration of Boy's Day, May 5th; demonstration of *ninjutsu* techniques; one-man puppet performances known as *kuruma ningyo* (cart-doll) accompanied by *yoruri* chanters; winter travel scenes; and drummers at a village festival. Also included are various scenes in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Korea including a visit to the ancient Korean capital of Kyongju, a temple market, and the image of Buddha at Sokkuram Temple. The film MASHIKO VILLAGE POTTERY by Marty Gross was produced using this footage.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Pottery Japan ; Pottery Japanese ; Ceramics Japan ; Ceramics Japanese ; Firing (Ceramics) ; Weaving g ; Dollmaking ; Dyes and dyeing ; Papermaking ; Puppets ; Drumming ; Marketplaces ; Temples

HSFA 1986.6.2