



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History films

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	University of Colorado Museum of Natural History films
Date:	circa 1930s
Identifier:	HSFA.1987.05
Creator:	University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (Collector)
Extent:	2 Film reels (16 minutes; black-and-white color silent; 900 feet; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History 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

Two amateur films of archeological content: "Sticks and Stones" and "Broken Flute Cave and La Plata" taken of work by Earl H. Morris in Arizona and southwestern Colorado.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Cultures:

Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Types of Materials:

silent films

Names:

Morris, Earl Halstead, 1889-1956

Places:

Arizona
Colorado
New Mexico
North America

Container Listing

Excavations at Broken Flute Cave, Arizona and La Plata District, New Mexico, circa 1930s

1 Film reel (13 minutes; black-and-white silent; 800 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage documenting two archaeological excavations at Anasazi sites in the American Southwest conducted by Earl H. Morris, University of Colorado. Broken Flute Cave, in Eastern Arizona, is thought to have been occupied from Basket Maker III culture through early Pueblo culture. Tree ring dating has revealed dates for the latter half of the AD 600s. Shown in the film are the excavated remains of pueblos and circular cliffside dwellings, as well as cultural materials. Included in these are the site's namesake, a broken wood or bone flute, as well as possible preserved organic material. The film dedicates a greater amount of time to the site of La Plata, in Northwest New Mexico. This film contains footage of the excavation of multiple kivas and pueblos, several human burial sites, typical black on white ceramics characteristic of the Pueblo III (Mesa Verde) period, corrugated wares representing different stages in Pueblo ceramic industry, and excavation techniques. La Plata is thought to have been occupied from Basket Maker III culture through Pueblo III, however much of the material remains captured in the film represent this later period.

HSFA 1987.5.1

Excavations at Canyon Del Muerto, Arizona and Durango Caves, Durango, Colorado, circa 1939

1 Film reel (3 minutes; color silent; 100 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage documenting archaeological sites representing Anasazi occupation in the American Southwest. Included is film of the excavation of settlement sites by Earl H. Morris in Hidden Valley, near Durango, Colorado. Film of the site is very brief, however, evidence has revealed occupation dates from the AD 700s. Basket Maker III occupation of the site was characterized by isolated pit houses and surface granaries, the excavation of one such unit being visible in the film. The footage also captures archaeological sites, however not excavations, at the Canyon del Muerto, in Southeast Arizona. Documented are dozens of petroglyphs representing animal forms as well as geometric designs. In addition, the Mummy Cave Tower is also visible in the film, notable because of E. Morris' discovery of prayer sticks embedded in the adobe walls of the structure. Interpretation has suggested initial occupation from Basket Maker II and III on through Pueblo III.

HSFA 1987.5.2