



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton films

Cataloging supported by Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Human Studies Film Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland 20746
hsfa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton films
Date:	1979-1987
Identifier:	HSFA.1988.05
Creator:	Gordon, Richard, 1953- Hinton, Carma
Extent:	Film reels (color sound) Linear feet
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton in 1988.

Preferred Citation

Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton 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

Footage shot by Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton documenting life in the village of Long Bow, Shanxi Province, North Central China.

Collection also includes associated texts, sound recordings, production logs, and field notes.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

- Agriculture
- Rites and ceremonies

Types of Materials:

- Sound films

Places:

- China
- East Asia

Container Listing

Long Bow Film Project, 1979-1982

Film reels (color sound; 125,000 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Outtakes from a film project documenting life in Long Bow Village, Shanxi Province, north central China. Filming included funerals, weddings, agricultural methods, two families at home and at work, village sideline industries, fairs, drinking games, *lao man yue* (full month) birthday parties, local operas, local historical songs and *kuai bar*, music, movies, vendors, markets, children's games, classroom scenes, architectural details and building practices, and street life. Also filmed were festivities at the lunar new year--Chun Jie (Spring Festival) including: stilt dancing, lion dances, giant swings, fireworks, new year's couplets, ancestor worship, and a Lantern Festival. Project also includes interviews with more than 20 people ranging from village officials to ordinary peasants covering topics such as: marriage, divorce, medical care and other social services, the Communist Party, religion, land reform, co-ops, the Great Leap Forward, an all-women's strike in a village workshop, practicing geomancy, footbinding, details of decollectivization, state of Catholicism in the area, and treating mental illness with traditional methods. The edited films, STILT DANCERS OF LONG BOW VILLAGE, ALL UNDER HEAVEN, FIRST MOON, SMALL HAPPINESS, and TO TASTE A HUNDRED HERBS were produced from this project.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Agricultural practices China ; Crops rice China ; Rites and ceremonies ; Marriage customs and rites g ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Music ; Instruments musical instruments ; Dance ; Domestic and family life ; Children games ; Marketplaces ; Religion ; Gender ; Politics and culture ; Architecture

HSFA 1988.5.1

Stilt Dancers of Long Bow Village, 1979

Film reels (27 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film shot in the village of Long Bow 400 miles southwest of Beijing, China. The film explores the tradition of stilt dancing done on New Year's Day and on other special occasions. Adult and child performers make up their faces, don costumes, and dance on stilts in cultural performances which portray folk heroes and villains. This performance tradition is contextualized historically with particular emphasis on its revival following the Cultural Revolution. The film provides examples of the aesthetics and athleticism involved in stilt dancing as well as showing how commentaries presented through this cultural form have become increasingly political and national in scope.

HSFA 1988.5.2

Small Happiness: the Women of a Chinese Village, 1982

Film reels (59 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film presents China's rural women telling their own personal histories. Topics include love and marriage, childbearing and birth control, family relationships, work, and foot binding.

HSFA 1988.5.3

All Under Heaven, 1982

Film reels (60 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film investigates the process through which the Chinese villagers of Long Bow, a community of about 2,000 in north central China, dissolve agricultural collectivism and return to a system of individual farming. Film follows various inhabitants of this peasant community through their round of daily activities before, during, and after the change, discussing the causes and effects of the new policy.

Legacy Keywords: Agricultural practices China ; Crops rice China ; Language and culture

HSFA 1988.5.4

To Taste a Hundred Herbs: Gods, Ancestors and Medicine in a Chinese Village, 1982

Film reels (60 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film provides a portrait of a traditional Chinese peasant doctor, Shen, whose Catholic faith shapes his values and gives him a special role within his rural community. The film introduces viewers to the social division within the village between Catholics and "the Big Religion."

HSFA 1988.5.5

First Moon, 1987

Film reels (38 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film shot in China among villagers of the Yellow River Valley. Film depicts the festivities of New Moon, the traditional 15 day period of New Years' celebrations which coincides with the end of the annual agricultural cycle. Events represented include private ceremonial observances within households associated with ancestor worship, the propitiation of Gods which influence various spheres of peasant life, and the public phases of celebration lasting until the 15th day. Also included are processions of stilt dancers, young costumed girls paraded aloft on metal frames, and the boisterous New Years' shows put on by neighboring villages in a common market town.

Legacy keywords: Language and culture ; Agricultural cycles ; Rites and ceremonies ; Dance ; New Year ceremony ; Domestic and family life

HSFA 1988.5.6