



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Ronald Engard videos
of dances and rituals of the Kingdom
of Bafut and Babanki, Cameroon

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Ronald Engard videos of dances and rituals of the Kingdom of Bafut and Babanki, Cameroon
Date:	1981-1983
Identifier:	HSFA.1988.08
Creator:	Engard, Ronald K.
Extent:	8 Videocassettes (VHS) (50 hours; color sound)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was deposited by Dr. Ronald Engard in 1988.

Provenance

Previously titled "Dances and Rituals of the Kingdom of Bafut and Babanki, Cameroon 1981-1983."

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Ronald Engard videos of dances and rituals of the Kingdom of Bafut and Babanki, Cameroon, 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

Full video record documents performances of a variety of dance societies from the Kingdom of Bafut and the neighboring kingdom of Babanki (Kedjum Keku) in the northwest province of Cameroon. A prominent feature of Bafut political life, ownership of specific dances by sub-chiefs and important nobles is a constituting element of their political authority. The dances documented in this collection include various parts of the Bafut annual ritual cycle, command performances, and mortuary celebrations. Also included is documentation over a three-year period (1981-1983) of the Abin Lela Dance of the Flutes, the climactic moment of the annual

ritual cycle. This annual dance in Bafut marks the death and rebirth of the year and serves as an essential act of Bafut constitutional politics. Dance footage is accompanied by selective recording of oral testimony.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Local Numbers

HSFA 1988.8.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Dance
- Death and mortuary customs
- Music
- Rites and ceremonies

Types of Materials:

- Video recordings

Places:

- Africa, West
- Cameroon