



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

The Jerry Leach Trobriand films, 1974

Digitization and preparation of sound recordings for online access has been funded through generous support from the Arcadia Fund.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Jerry Leach Trobriand films
Date:	1974
Identifier:	HSFA.1988.11
Creator:	Leach, Jerry W. (Jerry Wayne)
Extent:	Film reels (black-and-white color silent sound; 3208 feet; 16mm) 12 Sound tape reels (5 inch) Linear feet
Language:	Sound recordings of commentary on edited film in multiple languages: Motu, Pidgin, and English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Jerry Leach in 1988.

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Jerry 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

Collection consists of TROBRIAND CRICKET, a film about the game of cricket as interpreted by the Trobriand Islanders, and associated footage and commentary. Collection also includes transcripts, production papers, and reviews.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

- Dance
- Sports
- Trobriand Islanders

Cultures:

- Trobriand Islanders

Types of Materials:

- Sound films
- Sound recordings
- silent films

Places:

- Oceania
- Papua New Guinea

Container Listing

Trobriand Cricket: an Ingenious Response to Colonialism, 1974
2 Film reels (color sound; 1908 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film depicting the ways in which Trobriand Islanders have adapted the British game of cricket. This Trobriand parody of a European sport is shown to be not only a substitute for traditional warfare but a complex commentary on colonial contact and missionization, native sexuality, and intervillage political relations. Played only during the harvest period, sponsorship of a "cricket season" by an ambitious individual at the head of a village is one means by which a man may build a political reputation. In this regard, competitions are embedded in traditional obligatory competitive exchanges known as *kayasa*. Footage includes: teams in ceremonial regalia taking the field in stylized dance formations, cricket bats being treated with magic, discussion of the innovative cultural symbolism behind different dance formations, and the post-game exchange of prestige foods by competing villages.

HSFA 1988.11.1

Trobriand Island Dances, 1974

Film reels (42 minutes ; black-and-white silent; 1300 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage shot in the Trobriand Islands in association with the filming of TROBRIAND CRICKET.

HSFA 1988.11.2

Trobriand Cricket commentary, 1974

12 Sound tape reels (5 inch)

Notes: Sound recordings of commentary on edited film in multiple languages: Motu, Pidgin, and English.

HSFA 2011.2.1