



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Harold Casselton and Ted Larson films, 1916-1929

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Harold Casselton and Ted Larson films
Date:	1916-1929
Identifier:	HSFA.1988.16
Creator:	Casselton, Harold "Rusty", 1954-1970 (Collector) Larson, Ted M., 1940-2000 (Collector)
Extent:	Film reels (black-and-white color silent; 35mm, 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from American Film Institute (National Center for Film and Video Preservation) in 1988.

Preferred Citation

Harold Casselton and Ted Larson 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 15 35mm nitrate and acetate films collected by Harold "Rusty" Casselton and Ted Larson and transferred from AFI. Titles include: *Bayou Songsters*, *Beautiful Bermuda*, *Bird Islands of Peru*, *A Bit of Life in Java*, *Brazil's Gift*, [Crayfish], *Familiar Food from Foreign Folk*, *Kineto Review #57*, *Kineto Review*, *The Masai*, *The Mongols of Central Asia*, *Ruins of Angkor*, *A Trip to the Leeward Islands*, and *Wanderers of the Arabian Deserts*.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

Africa, East
Asia, Central
Brazil
Caribbean Area
Dominica
Georgia
Indonesia
Kenya
Middle East
Mongolia
North America
South America
Southeast Asia
Tanzania

Container Listing

Bayou Songsters, 1916

1 Film reel (black-and-white silent; 136 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, produced by Bray Studios for Paramount, shows midget tree toads in the bayou and Georgia pine tree toads and describes their mating calls and habitat.

Legacy Keywords: Ditmars, R.L. curator, New York Zoological Park ; Amphibians

HSFA 1988.16.1

Familiar Foods from Foreign Folk, circa 1923

Film reels (19 minutes; black-and-white silent; 684 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced for educational distribution shows lime harvesting and tapioca production from cassava in the West Indies, tea harvesting in Japan, and coffee bean harvesting in Brazil.

HSFA 1988.16.2

Ye Old Time Coon Hunt, 1917

Film reels (black-and white silent; 86 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced by "Field and Stream" Magazine for Bray Studios, Paramount. Film depicts a "coon" hunt showing men and dogs leaving a plantation house to tree a racoon. Also depicted is the role of Blacks in a coon hunt followed by communal dancing and celebration by Black men. This documents a dance style known as "shaking the dogs" accompanied by a percussion technique using wooden stakes.

Legacy Keywords: Warner, E.F. producer; Language and culture ; Musical instruments ; Dance ; African Americans

HSFA 1988.16.3

A Bit of Life in Java, 1928

1 Film reel (15 minutes; black-and-white silent; 386 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by Pathé Science Series in cooperation with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology includes dance sequences depicting mythological characters, religious relics, statues of Buddha, scenes of a marketplace, and women washing clothes in a river.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Dance ; Mythology ; Religion ; Art religious Asia ; Marketplaces ; Statues Buddhist

HSFA 1988.16.5

Wanderers of the Arabian Desert, 1928

1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white silent; 341 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced by Pathe Science Series in cooperation with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology depicts life among Bedouin herders. Included are scenes of their

herding and migration practices, yarn spinning, and the weaving of cloth.

HSFA 1988.16.6

The Masai, 1929

1 Film reel (14 minutes; black-and-white silent; 374 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by Pathe Science Series in cooperation with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology. The film depicts variations in the phenotype of the Masai and illustrates facets of their cultural ecology as a cattle herding people. Film includes: subsistence activities such as milking and drawing blood from cattle, women plastering habitations with cattle dung, men in headruffs demonstrating styles of communal dance, and contrasting forms of body ornamentation for men and women.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Cattle animal husbandry Nilotic ; Herding cattle milking ; Architecture, Domestic ; Dancing Africa ; Body marking Africa ; Adornment ; Masai (African people) ; Pathe Science Series

HSFA 1988.16.7

The Mongols of Central Asia, 1929

1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white silent; 340 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by Pathé Science Series in cooperation with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology depicts lives of native peoples in Mongolia's Gobi Desert. Featured are herding techniques, the construction of a Mongol yurt, horsemen, and a sequence which focuses on the phenotypic facial characteristics of Mongolians.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Herding ; Architecture, Domestic ; Horsemanship ; Physical anthropology anthropometry ; Pathe Science Series

HSFA 1988.16.8

Brazil's Gift, circa 1929

Film reels (20 minutes; black-and-white color silent; 400 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced to promote Brazilian coffee. Descriptive intertitles complement footage documenting the coffee industry including the cultivation, harvest, drying, transportation, selection, and packaging of coffee beans, and ultimately, scenes of people enjoying the product and demonstrating coffee recipes.

HSFA 1988.16.10 [sic]

A Trip to the Leeward Islands, circa 1918

1 Film reel (black-and-white silent; 80 feet)

Notes: Edited film distributed by Paramount-Bray depicts scenes in the Leeward Island of Dominica, British West Indies. Footage includes Roseau, the capital city; Roseau market; market women; women washing clothes in the river; and men and women dancing to rhythms of a barrel drum along the roadside.

HSFA 1988.16.10 [sic]