



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Edward Higbee films, 1919-1929

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Human Studies Film Archives |
| Title: | Edward Higbee films |
| Identifier: | HSFA.1989.16 |
| Date: | 1919-1929 |
| Creator: | Higbee, Edward Converse |
| Extent: | Film reels (black-and-white silent reversal; 5,200 feet; 16mm) |
| Language: | No linguistic content; Not applicable . |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Trew Higbee Bennett in three donations made in 1989 and 1990.

Preferred Citation

Edward Higbee 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

Films created and collected by Edward Higbee. Films were donated in three groups:

Edited film "Capetown to Cairo" and outtakes shot and edited by Edward Higbee in 1929.

Films shot by E. C. Higbee c. 1925 and 1926 in Bermuda and the British West Indies; Kodak Cinegraph titled HAITI, JAMAICA, NASSAU, AND CURACAO; and print of GRASS.

Edited film and outtakes shot by E. C. Higbee on a 1929 trip through the Mediterranean; Kodak Cinegraphs documenting sites throughout the world; and WHALING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC from the Filmo Library Adventure Series.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

- Travelogs
- silent films

Places:

- Africa
- Europe
- North America

Container Listing

E.C. Higbee African Travel Footage, 1929

Film reels (2 hrs 3 minutes; black-and-white silent; 2,703 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage shot on the Raymond-Whitcomb Round Africa Cruise beginning in French West Africa (Benin, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) and ending in Egypt. Locations visited include Dakar, Senegal; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Durban, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Khartoum, Sudan; and Cairo, Egypt. Film includes a wide range of subjects shot while traveling by automobile, train, and riverboat. Documentation features acrobatic dancers, snake handlers, and *kassonké* masked dance performances in Dakar; Zulu "war dance" performed outside Durban; rickshaw boys performing for tourists and Indian markets and stalls in Durban; Nilotic people (probably Shilluk) along the White Nile; Masai; Kikuyu ceremony near Nairobi; market with Arabs and East Indians; Bedouins with camels; monumental architecture and sculpture in Egypt; Cairo bazaars; and the Valley of the Kings.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1989.16.1

E.C. Higbee Africa Cuts, 1929

Film reels (1 hr 49 minutes; black-and-white silent; 2,348 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Outtakes from footage shot on the Raymond-Whitcomb Round Africa Cruise beginning in French West Africa (Benin, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) and ending in Egypt. See also [E.C. Higbee African Travel Footage, 1929].

Local Numbers: HSFA 1989.16.2

E.C. Higbee Travel Footage of the British West Indies, 1925

Film reels (55 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1,527 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage records travels to various Caribbean locations including Cuba, Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Trinidad, Venezuela, and Panama. Shots include landscapes and street scenes in Havana, Kingston, Port-of-Spain, Caracas, and the Panama Canal. Urban and rural shots of interest include market scenes with higglers, shanty life, cockfights, a fife-and-drum band with stiltwaker in a Jonkonnu celebration, Moro Castle (Havana), rafting on the Rio Cobre River (Jamaica), and East Indian marketwomen (Trinidad).

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.3.1

E.C. Higbee's Bermuda, 1926

Film reels (30 minutes; black-and-white silent; 235 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage taken during travel to Bermuda includes departure from a New York City pier and arrival in Bermuda, harbor and coastal scenes, horse racing at a race track, golf course, scenes of countryside and village, church ruins, sailing, and departure from Bermuda.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.3.2

Haiti, Jamaica, Nassau, and Curacao, circa 1920-1930

1 Film reel (14 minutes; black-and-white silent; 495 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film shot for the Cunard Steam Ship Company and distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films. Captured are brief vignettes of Haiti, Jamaica, Nassau, the Panama Canal Zone, Havana, Algiers (Algeria), and Madiera (Portugal). Included are market scenes in Port-au-Prince; the Myrtle Bank Hotel (Jamaica); operation of the locks on the Panama Canal; Moro Castle in Havana; and the French and Arab Quarters with market scenes in Algiers. Cooper, Merian C. filmmaker (1893-).
Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.3.3

Grass, 1925

Film reels (20 minutes; black-and-white silent; 388 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Abridged edited version of the theatrical release for home sale. Film documents the yearly migration of the Bakhtiari tribe of southern Iran through the mountains to summer pastures for their herds. Kellerman, Maurice filmmaker.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.3.4

E.C. Higbee Footage of the Mediterranean, 1929

Film reels (66 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1,500 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of the Mediterranean shot while travelling captures various sites including scenes of coastal shipping, city and rural peasant life, street vendors and peasants, rail travel, monasteries, and a variety of architecture. Also included are scenes of volcanic lava activity, apparently in Italy.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.1

Touching Port Here and There, part 1, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 98 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films. Footage shows ship leaving New York harbor and docking at Mediterranean ports including the Riviera, France, and Naples, Sicily, and Fiume, Italy, and sailing past the Greek Isles. Footage is mostly harbor scenes with some street scenes in Beirut, Lebanon.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.2

Touching Port Here and There, part 2, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 95 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Lebanon and Turkey. Film begins with ship leaving Beirut and sailing through the Straits of Dardanelles and the Sea Marmara to Constantinople. Footage includes street scenes and rug weaving in Constantinople and street scenes in Stamboul, the old part of the city.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.3

The Alhambra, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, shows views inside and outside the Alhambra, a Moorish castle in Granada, Spain.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.4

Tombs and Temples of the Pharaohs, 1929

1 Film reel (8 minutes; black-and-white silent; 196 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, includes the following major Egyptian archeological sites: the Temple of Rameses II and of the Queen at Abu-Simbel, Philae Temple, Luxor Temple, Tomb of Tut-ankh-amen and Temple of Queen Hatsepus, Rameses Temple at Medinet-Habu, and Pillar Hall.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.5

Ancient Rome, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 96 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Rome, Italy. Film shows views of the following Roman sites: Trajan Forum, Navone square, the Pincio, Vestals Temple, the Pantheon, Giovanni in Laterno, Arch of Constantine, Port Maggiore, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, Temple of Castor and Pollux, House of Vestals, Temple of Antoninus and Faustina, and Basilica of Maxentius.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.6

Jerusalem, 1929

1 Film reel (8 minutes; black-and-white silent; 195 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Jerusalem, Palestine (Israel). Film shows views of the walls around Jerusalem, Mosque of Omar, Wailing Wall, Well of David, and sepulchres of David, Absalom, and Rachel. Footage also includes street scenes of modern Jerusalem.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.7

Bethlehem and Gethsemane, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Bethlehem, Jordan, and Gethsemane, Palestine (Israel). Film shows views of Church of St. Mary, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, "Via Dolorosa," Golgotha, Holy Sepulchre, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and Valley of Kidron.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.8

The Pyramids and Sphinx, 1929

1 Film reel (8 minutes; black-and-white silent; 197 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films (courtesy of American Export Lines), was shot in Egypt. Film shows tourists travelling by camel to the pyramids and climbing the Great Pyramid.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.9

Cairo, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, shows views of the Citadel and Alabaster mosques, Muski bazaar, and the National Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.10

Jordan, Jericho, Dead Sea, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 96 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films (courtesy of American Export Lines), was shot in Jordan. Film shows travelling through the desert, tourist floating in the Dead Sea, traditional site of the Baptism, and the old walls of Jericho.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.11

Haifa, Nazareth, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 99 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Israel. Film shows views of travelling by train from Haifa to Nazareth and from there through the desert to Tiberias and fisherman at the Sea of Galilee.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.12

Gibraltar, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, courtesy of American Export Lines, was shot in Gibraltar. Film shows views of the Rock of Gibraltar, street scenes in Gibraltar, and vistas from the fort.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.13

Marrakesh, Morocco, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films (courtesy of American Export Lines), was shot in and around Marrakesh, Morocco. Film shows street scenes; bazaar activities such as leather working, making dyes for silk, and a scribe writing; and harvesting of olives.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.14

Tunis and Carthage, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 97 feet; 16mm)

Beirut and Baalbek, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 98 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films (courtesy of American Export Lines), was shot in Beirut and Baalbek, Lebanon. Film shows views of the American University of Beirut, Roman Bridge at Dog River, and ruins of Baalbek.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.16

Damascus, 1929

1 Film reel (4 minutes; black-and-white silent; 98 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films (courtesy of American Export Lines), was shot in Damascus, Syria. Film shows views of Street Called Straight, weaver and blacksmith at work in a bazaar, and Ommayyade Mosque.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.17

Granada, 1929

1 Film reel (3 minutes; black-and-white silent; 86 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film, distributed by Kodak Cinegraph Films, was shot in Granada, Spain. Film shows cathedral in which Ferdinand and Isabella are buried, the Alhambra, "Gypsy" man and woman dancing, climbing in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and scenes of the countryside.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.18

Whaling in the South Pacific, 1919

1 Film reel (5 minutes; black-and-white silent; 100 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film is a Filmo Library Production which depicts a Norwegian steamer whaling in the South Pacific. Included are shots from the bow of the ship as a whale is harpooned by a deck gun, stripping blubber from the whale, and dismemberment of the animal.

Local Numbers: HSFA 1990.10.19