



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the Henry van Lieshout films, 1919-circa 1920

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## Table of Contents

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Henry van Lieshout films
<b>Date:</b>	1919-circa 1920
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1989.18
<b>Creator:</b>	Lieshout, Henry van (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	Film reels (black-and-white silent; 844 feet)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from The American Film Institute, National Center for Film and Video Preservation in 1989.

### Preferred Citation

Henry van Lieshout 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.

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## Scope and Contents

Collection consists of three films.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

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## 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:

Borneo  
China  
East Asia  
Fiji  
Gobi Desert (Mongolia and China)  
Oceania  
Southeast Asia

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## Container Listing

Borneo: Malay Archipelago, 1919

Film reels (black-and-white silent; 277 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced by the Post Weekly Travel Series features shots of native life in Dutch Borneo (Indonesia). Scenes in Bandjermasin, the capital city of Dutch Borneo, include a native wrestling match with knives, "coolies" pulling wagons, auto crossing of a stream on a ferry, animals being caged and exported at the docks, and the residence and widows of the late sultan of Borneo.

HSFA 1989.18.1

Frivolous Fiji, 1920

Film reels (black-and-white silent; 231 feet)

Notes: Edited film, produced for the Educational Films Corporation of America, documents various subsistence and ritual activities of Fijians. Scenes include fishing with spears and nets, gathering poison vines and preparing fish poison, collecting giant sea slugs known as *bech de mer*, women weaving palm fiber fans and plaiting their hair, kava root being extracted and ground in mortar, and a firewalking ritual accompanied by the playing of slit gongs.

HSFA 1989.18.2

The Origin of Man, circa 1920

1 Film reel (5 minutes; black-and-white silent; 336 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by Pathe Review from footage taken in conjunction with the American Museum of Natural History Central Asiatic Expeditions (1921-1930). The film builds on the theme of these expeditions which were intended to establish Mongolia as the birthplace of man. Although the expeditions ultimately failed to do this, they do remain associated with the discovery of dinosaur eggs which established the reptilian, as opposed to the mammalian, nature of dinosaurs. The film features shots of archeological sites, the unearthing of a nest of dinosaur eggs, and excavation of the bones of the "balichitherium," a large land mammal. Accompanying shots include comparison of "primitive" cranial types with the phrenology of contemporary Mongolians. These are intercut with scenes of Mongolian life which include a pony market where stock is corralled, roped, and culled for sale; a pony race; and a camel caravan crossing the Gobi Desert.

Legacy Keywords: Expeditions ; Archeological sites Gobi Desert China ; Dinosaur eggs China

HSFA 1989.18.3