



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Yoruba Crafts, 1950-1951

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	<i>Yoruba Crafts</i>
Date:	1950-1951
Identifier:	HSFA.1989.19
Creator:	Bascom, William Russell, 1912-1981
Extent:	1 Film reel (11 minutes; color silent; 400 feet)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Berta Bascom in 1989.

Preferred Citation

Yoruba Crafts, 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

Edited film shot in Oyo, Nigeria during field research. This visual record reflects Bascom's approach to the study of African aesthetics, one which integrated an analysis of the social role, status, and function of the artist with his/her individual style, ideas, and technique. Footage records traditional Yoruba craft techniques including pottery making, spinning cotton, dyeing thread and cloth, weaving of *ikat* cloth on a men's loom, and woodcarving. Also filmed is master Yoruba woodcarver, Duga of Meko, carving and painting a ritual effigy of Shango.

Legacy Keywords: Pottery manufacture of Nigeria ; Spinning of cotton thread Nigeria ; Textiles dyeing of Nigeria ; Weaving laying of warp Nigeria ; Carving woodcarvers Nigeria ; Effigies carving of Shango Nigeria

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

HSFA 1989.19.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Carving (Decorative arts)
- Ceramics
- Weaving
- Yoruba (African people)

Cultures:

- Yoruba (African people)

Types of Materials:

- silent films

Places:

- Africa, West
- Nigeria