



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Mary Elmendorf
collection, 1970-1971 and 1976

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Mary Elmendorf collection
Date:	1970-1971 and 1976
Identifier:	HSFA.1990.08
Creator:	Elmendorf, Mary L. (Mary Lindsay)
Extent:	Film reels (color silent; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Mary Elmendorf in 1990 and 1994.

Preferred Citation

Mary Elmendorf collection, 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

Footage shot by Mary Elmendorf in Chan Kom, Yucatec, Mexico between 1970 and 1976. Ethnographic footage documents significant features of ritual and daily life in Chan Kom.

Supplementary material: annotations (recorded narratives).

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

HSFA 1990-008

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Yucatec (Yacatec) Maya

Cultures:

Yucatec (Yacatec) Maya

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

Central America
Mexico

Container Listing

Mary Elmendorf's Footage of the Chan Kom Maya, Yucatan, Mexico, 1970-1971 and 1976

Film reels (1 hour 45 minutes; color silent; 3,794 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage documenting significant features of ritual and daily life in the settlement of Chan Kom, the Maya village first studied by anthropologist Robert Redfield. Included are scenes of a "hand washing" ceremony known in Mayan as *tzicil* in which parents welcome and ritually express their gratitude to the godparents of a young child; a *chac-chaac* ceremony which is held at some distance from the village to bring rain; offerings of *balche* to the gods; and *gremios*, akin to trade union fraternities, in which different families are entitled to carry specially decorated candles in ceremonial processions.

HSFA 1990.8.1

Mary Elmendorf Cham Kom Film Collection, 1970-1971 and 1976

Film reels (16mm)

Notes: Film, mostly relating to Elmendorf's Cham Kom filming which was recently found.

HSFA 1990-008

Mary Elmendorf Film Collection, 1958

Notes: WORLD OUR HANDS CAN MAKE (1958), a documentary of a CARE and American friends service committee pilot project in community participation and self-help in Mexico.

HSFA 1994-025