



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the Robert Charlton films of Papua New Guinea music

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Charlton films of Papua New Guinea music
<b>Date:</b>	1982
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1990.20
<b>Creator:</b>	Charlton, Robert
<b>Extent:</b>	Film reels (color sound)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Bechtel Group, Inc. in 1990.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Charlton films of Papua New Guinea music, 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 the films SONGS OF A DISTANT JUNGLE and SONGS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA, as well as outtakes. The films document the work of a musician from the Juilliard School, Christopher Roberts, recording, documenting, and preserving traditional music throughout Papua New Guinea. Collection includes sound recordings.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Subjects:

Music

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Names:

Roberts, Christopher, 1956-

Places:

Oceania

Papua New Guinea

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## Container Listing

### Songs of a Distant Jungle, 1982

Film reels (20 minutes; color sound)

Notes: Edited film produced by Bechtel Group of Companies documents the work of a musician from the Juilliard School, Christopher Roberts, recording, documenting, and preserving traditional music throughout Papua New Guinea. Roberts, with a grant from the Bechtel Group, spent a year recording, translating and notating 300 songs and recording 200 more. This film shows him playing his bass for villagers, recording and translating songs, and participating in their celebrations. Also shown are scenes of a gold and copper mine construction site near Bultem Village and the carving of a bass by a Trobriand Island carver. Locales include Bultem, Western Province; Tifalmin, West Sepik Province; Kopiri, Southern Highlands Province; Obweria, Milne Bay Province; and Oluweta, Milne Bay Province.

HSFA 1990.20.3

### Songs of a Distant Jungle (Outtakes), 1982

Film reels (color sound; 2400 feet)

Notes: Outtakes from the edited film, SONGS OF A DISTANT JUNGLE, produced by the Bechtel Group of Companies documenting the work of a musician from the Juilliard School, Christopher Roberts. Roberts, with a grant from Bechtel Group, recorded, translated, and notated 300 and recorded 200 more traditional songs in Papua New Guinea.

HSFA 1990.20.1

### Songs From Papua New Guinea, 1982

Film reels (20 minutes; color sound; 720 feet)

Notes: Edited film produced by Bechtel Group of Companies was made in association with SONGS OF A DISTANT JUNGLE. As part of the filming, a number of traditional songs from Papua New Guinea were recorded in their entirety and assembled before editing of SONGS OF A DISTANT JUNGLE to create SONGS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Christopher Roberts, a musician from the Juilliard School who received a grant from the Bechtel Group to record traditional music of Papua New Guinea, is shown recording the songs. Locales and Songs include: Personal Lament, Men's Cult Initiation Song, Men's Joke Song, Women's Sorcery/Love Song, and Yong Women's Fantasy Song from Bultem Village, Ok Tedi Region, Western Province; Men's Cult House Song and Young People's Song from Tifalmin Village, West Sepik Province; and Women's Crying Song, Men's Crying Song, Kolapi Mingi played on a bamboo flute, Orope Mingi played on pan pipes, and Children's song from Kopiri Village, Ialibu, Southern Highlands Province.

HSFA 1990.20.2