



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the Kazuo Okada videos

Human Studies Film Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland 20746  
hsfa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

# Table of Contents

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

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Kazuo Okada videos
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1993
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1993.06
<b>Creator:</b>	Okada, Kazuo
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Videocassettes (1 hour 32 minutes; black-and-white color silent sound; 1/2 inch)
<b>Language:</b>	Videos contain Japanese and English intertitles.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Kazuo Okada in 1993.

### Preferred Citation

Kazuo Okada videos, 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

Collection consists of VHS copies of films created and collected by Kazuo Okada.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Subjects:

Ainu

Cultures:

Ainu

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Places:

East Asia  
Japan

---

## Container Listing

### Ainu Life in Shiraoi Village, 1992

1 Videocassette (35 minutes; black-and-white color silent; 1/2 inch)

Notes: Edited film created from contemporary and historical footage by EC Japan Archives, the Shimonaka Memorial Foundation, and Tokyo Cinema, Inc. Film contains footage from a 1925 film, AINU LIFE IN SHIRAOI-KOTAIR, shot by Saburo Hatta. Film depicts aspects of daily and ceremonial life in the Ainu village of Shiraoi, Hokkaido, northern Japan. Scenes of men and women's work include fishing in canoes on the Chitose River, using tumplines to haul loads, drawing water, and making thread and cloth from elm bast. Other depictions include a marriage ceremony, the treatment of sickness, a funeral, and a Bear Festival. Ainu mortuary practices observed include the binding of the corpse, processing the corpse to the grave, and setting up of the grave pole. Documentation of the Bear Festival shows the making of shaved wooden fetishes, ceremonial libations of sake, sacrifice of the bear, and the feasting and dancing that follows. Film contains Japanese and English intertitles.

Ethnographer: Mari Kodama

Legacy Keywords: Marriage Ainu Hokkaido, Japan ; Drinking ceremonial Ainu Japan ; Curing Ainu Japan ; Mortuary practices Ainu Japan ; Corpses binding of Ainu Japan ; Sacrifice bear festival Ainu Japan ; Libations sake Ainu Japan ; Feasts Bear Festival Ainu Japan ; Fishing leisters Ainu Japan ; Dancing Bear Festival Ainu Japan ; Processions funerals Ainu Japan

HSFA 1993.6.1

### House Warming Rites "Chisei-Nomi" in Nibutani, 1993

1 Videocassette (19 minutes; black-and-white color sound; 1/2 inch)

Notes: Edited film created from contemporary and historical footage by EC Japan Archives, the Shimonaka Memorial Foundation, and Tokyo Cinema, Inc. Film contains footage shot in 1934 by anthropologist N.G. Munro in the village of Nibutani, Hokkaido, Japan. Contemporary footage shows memorial to Dr. Munro, Saru River, countryside with mountains and fields, and thatched homes in Nibutani. 1934 footage depicts house warming rites including *ikema* (blowing out evil spirits), saluting and shaving of *inau* (wooden fetishes), praying in front of a *nusa* (altar), and dancing. The participants wear long robes with headbands, long wigs, and exaggerated "lip painting." Also included are: *chise-chuccha* (shooting magwort arrows into rooftops to drive out evil spirits), *horippa* (circular dance with swords), *anna-hore* (a linear dance), *hararaki* (swift dance performed by mostly women), *chappy-yaku* (women's dance around scaffold type altar), *tapkara* (men's and women's dance), and the preparation of *tonto* (sake). Film contains Japanese and English intertitles.

HSFA 1993.6.2

Exorcism Rites "Uepotara" in Nibutani, 1992

1 Videocassette (25 minutes; black-and-white color sound; 1/2 inch)

Notes: Edited film created from contemporary and historical footage by EC Japan Archives, the Shimonaka Memorial Foundation, and Tokyo Cinema, Inc. Film contains footage shot in 1933-1934 by anthropologist N.G. Munro in the village of Nibutani, Hokkaido, Japan. Historical footage depicts an exorcism including: a *tusu* (female medium) entering a trance state and diagnosing a patient, an *ekashi* (elder) making a prayer to the *kamui fuchi* (spirit of hearth), hand gestures made with *inau* (wooden fetishes) which are burned, *ekashi* invoking *mintushi kamui* (water spirit) using the *inau* by the river and calling on good *kamui* of the home to fight the evil *kanui*, a symbolic "house of evil" made of branches set on fire, and patient passing through a purification process where she is lightly beaten with branches and swords, removes outer garments, and washes face in the river before returning home. Purification continues around a *Uepotara chikuni* (tree) where the *ekashi* invokes *ru-koro kamui* (spirit of the privy), invites *kinashut kamui* (snake spirit), and finally thumps an enormous wooden mortar so the spirit will relieve the woman patient of difficult labor. Film has Japanese and English intertitles.

HSFA 1993.6.3

Bear Sending Fest at Chikaphumi, 1935

1 Videocassette (13 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1/2 inch)

Notes: Edited film by Tetsuo Inukai depicts a Bear Festival in Chikaphumi near Asahikawa on Hokkaido, Japan. Footage includes: men chanting and walking a bear with ropes attached to its neck, dancing, feeding the bear, elders painting *inau* (wooden fetishes) which the crowd waves at the bear, crowd chasing the bear with *inaus* and shooting it with bows and arrows until it dies, skinning the bear, marching at night with torches, making salutations by dabbing white liquid on bear, and dancing and singing.

HSFA 1993.6.4