



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the *The Tahitian*, 1956

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	<i>The Tahitian</i>
Date:	1956
Identifier:	HSFA.1994.05
Creator:	Long, Lotus Knott, James
Extent:	8 Film reels (2 hours 57 minutes; color sound; 6,375 feet; 35mm)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Ryon Rickard in 1994.

Preferred Citation

The Tahitian, 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 is a theatrical production filmed in Tahiti using Tahitians in the cast. Film was produced and created by Hollywood cameraman James Knott and his wife, actress Lotus Long. Story involves scientists trying to stop a filaria epidemic spreading through a local population. The doctors try to use western medicine to combat the disease but meet resistance from the local medicine man and chief. The chief's son falls ill from the parasitic worm which causes the disease and negative attitudes quickly change. The young man is cured. Film also includes Tahitian dance and music.

Collection contains supplementary materials, namely associated texts (written narration).

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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 1994.5.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Fiction films
- Sound films

Places:

- French Polynesia
- Tahiti (French Polynesia : Island)