



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Hassoldt and Ruth
S. Davis films, circa 1930-1960

Human Studies Film Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Hassoldt and Ruth S. Davis films
Date:	circa 1930-1960
Identifier:	HSFA.1994.08
Creator:	Davis, Hassoldt, 1907-1959 Davis, Ruth
Extent:	23 Film reels (color silent; 17,000 feet; 16mm) 8 Linear feet 500 Photographs
Language:	Moving image materials are silent; supplementary materials are in English.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Hassoldt Davis Collection ca. 1930s - 1950s, circa 1930-1950

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Aline Hulbert in 1994.

Provenance

Previously titled "Hassoldt Davis Collection ca. 1930s - 1950s."

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Hassoldt and Ruth S. Davis films, 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 motion picture film outtakes, production elements, and incomplete edited films shot in Guyana and French Guiana. Collection also includes numerous photographs from the two filming projects as

well as other travels and a Denis Roosevelt filmed African expedition, newspaper articles, correspondence, books, unpublished manuscripts and travel writings as an explorer.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Boni (French Guianese and Surinamese people)

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

Africa, West
Côte d'Ivoire
French Guiana
Guyana
South America

Container Listing

Footage of French Guiana, circa 1946-1948

9 Film reels (color silent; 6247 feet; 16mm)

Video: [Hassoldt and Ruth S. Davis' Footage of French Guiana, circa 1946-1948, 1994.08.004-005, clip 1](#)

Video: [Hassoldt and Ruth S. Davis' Footage of French Guiana, circa 1946-1948, 1994.08.004-005, clip 2](#)

Image(s): [Hassoldt and Ruth S. Davis' Footage of French Guiana, circa 1946-1948, op.007.ruth.davis-000002](#)

Notes: Film footage associated with edited film "Jungle Terror" documents an expedition into French Guiana. Filmed are Roucouyenne and Boni Indians; wasp mats; Roucouyenne Indian village life; panning for gold; lumber mill; Devil's Island prisoners; travelling on river and river scenes; missionary church; jungle flora and fauna; making red dye; camp scenes; humans bathing chimpanzee; canoes; and drums.

Legacy Keywords: Expeditions ; Villages ; Primates ; Drums ; River boats ; Canoes ; Missionaries ; Wasps ; Insects ; Prisons
HSFA 1994.8.4

Jungle Terror, 1949

1 Film reel (20 minutes; color silent; 720 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by Warner Brothers documents expedition made by Hassoldt and Ruth Davis inland from St. Laurent, French Guiana to the Tumac Humac mountains on the Brazilian border. Expedition was accompanied by Boni guides and paddlers. The film shows trip up river to the territory of the Roucouyenne (Rucuyen) where a wasp torture ceremony is staged for the expedition party. Also filmed were the abandoned penal colony of Devil's Island and former prisoners.

Legacy Keywords: Expeditions ; Wasps ; Insects
HSFA 1994.8.2

Jungle Terror (Outtakes), 1949

3 Film reels (color silent; 1718 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Outtakes from edited film documenting an expedition which traveled inland from St. Laurent, French Guiana to the Tumac Humac Mountains of the Brazilian border. Expedition visited Devil's Island and other penal islands off Cayenne and traveled inland along the Maroni River. Tribal groups encountered were the Boni (descendants of African slaves) and Roucouyenne or Rucuyen (indigenous American Indians).

Legacy Keywords: Expeditions ; Wasps ; Insects ; Prisons
HSFA 1994.8.3

Sorcerer's Village (Outtakes), 1954

Film reels (color silent; 3000 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Outtakes from edited film documenting expedition in search of school of sorcerers and witchcraft in Ivory Coast. Tribal Groups encountered are Lobi, Abron and Baule. Includes scenes of childbirth ceremony. Also shows masked dancers, snake ritual, the coronation of Essey Bonzou as well as activities in the sorcerer's school in the village of Yho.

HSFA 1994.8.1

Unexplored (Version 1)

Film reels (Color print)

Notes: HSFA 1994.8.5

Unexplored (Version 2)

Film reels (Black and white)

Notes: HSFA 1994.8.6