



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the Bess Lomax Hawes films, 1964-1973

Human Studies Film Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland 20746  
Business Number: Phone: 301-238-1330  
Fax Number: Fax: 301-238-2883  
hsfa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Bess Lomax Hawes films
<b>Date:</b>	1964-1973
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1995.10
<b>Creator:</b>	Hawes, Bess Lomax, 1921-2009
<b>Extent:</b>	6 Film reels (58 minutes; black-and-white sound; 2683 feet; 35mm, 16mm)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Bess Lomax Hawes in 1995.

### Preferred Citation

Bess Lomax Hawes 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.

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## Scope and Contents

Four films made by Bess Lomax Hawes while she was a folklorist in the Anthropology Department, California State University at Northridge, Los Angeles, California (formerly San Fernando Valley State College). There is a study guide for each film.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Dance  
Fiddle tunes  
Games  
Music  
Musical instruments  
Playgrounds  
Sacred music  
Songs

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

California  
Georgia  
North America

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## Container Listing

### [Georgia Sea Island Singers, 1964](#)

2 Film reels (12 minutes; black-and-white sound; 1070 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film shot with multiple cameras on a soundstage when John Davis, Mabel Hillery, Bessie Jones, Henry Morrison and Emma Lee Ramsey came to California as representatives of the larger group of Sea Island Singers who lived on St. Simon's Island, Georgia. This film presents a small part of their repertoire of sacred music, including the songs "Moses," "Yonder Comes Day," "Buzzard Lope" ("Throw Me Anywhere Lord"), "Adam in the Garden" ("Picking up Leaves"), and "Down in the Mire" ("Bright Star Shinning in Glory"). The films were made in the Anthropology Department of San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University at Northridge) by Beth Lomax Hawes.

HSFA 1995.10.1

### [Buck Dancer, 1965](#)

1 Film reel (6 minutes; black-and-white sound; 216 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film records Ed Young, a fife player and expert dancer who performs part of the "buck dance", a southern dance of solo male virtuosity engaged in by both black and white frontiersmen. Thus both the music and the dance displayed in this film can be most accurately referred to as "Afro-American" -- a new and creative development, by black artists resident in the United States, out of a combination of old world elements.

HSFA 1995.10.6

### [Pizza Pizza Daddy-O, 1967](#)

1 Film reel (19 minutes; black-and-white sound; 666 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film looks at continuity and change in girl's playground games at a Los Angeles school.

HSFA 1995.10.10

### [Say Old Man Can You Play the Fiddle, 1973](#)

2 Film reels (21 minutes; black-and-white sound; 731 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film contains the following fiddle tunes played by Earl Collins: Say Old Man Can You Play the Fiddle, Dry and Dusty (played in D tuning on a fiddle carved by his father out of cedar and inlaid with hearts), Sally Goodin, Bull at the Wagon, Black Mountain Rag and Billy in the Low Ground. The voiceovers are from interviews with Earl Collins conducted by Babara LaPan Rahm.

HSFA 1995.10.10