



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the R. Bryson Jones
travel films, circa 1930-1941

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	R. Bryson Jones travel films
Date:	circa 1930-1941
Identifier:	HSFA.1995.11
Creator:	Jones, R. Bryson
Extent:	10 Film reels (black-and-white silent; 16mm; 35mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from American Film Institute (National Center for Film and Video Preservation) in 1995.

Provenance

Previously held by The Kansas City Museum.

Preferred Citation

R.Bryson Jones travel 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.

Biographical / Historical

Richard Bryson Jones (1872- 1956) was an executive for the R.B. Jones and Sons insurance company in Kansas City, Missouri. He often presented travelogues to Kfriends and neighbors, showing photos and movies in his 3rd floor workroom which contained two movie projectors and a screen, stacks of film canisters and a map of the world showing his travel destinations.

"R. Bryson Jones is Dead." Nichols Scrapbook. Volume 2, Page 74. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri Kansas City.

Scope and Contents

9 travelogues filmed in the 30s by R.Bryson Jones. Geographical areas include Canada, U. S. South, Australia Fiji, U. S. West, Morocco, Palestine, South America, and Western Europe.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Types of Materials:

- Travelogs
- silent films

Places:

- Europe
- North America
- Oceania
- South America

Container Listing

Lure of the West, circa 1935

3 Film reels (1 hour 9 minutes; black-and-white silent; 5,128 feet; 35mm)

Notes: Edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in western and southwestern United States beginning at a rodeo in Phillipsburg, Kansas (trick riding, lassoing jack rabbits, roping calves, wrestling steers, horse races, bucking broncos and bucking steers as well as scenes of an airplane flyover and of an airplane crashing which possibly was a stunt) and continuing to Black Hills, South Dakota (forest scenery and ca. 1927 construction of Mount Rushmore--blasting off cliff face, scaffolding, men working and completed monument). Shown are roadside scenery, railroad tracks, men cleaning railroad tracks with hose and tank on small train car on the way to an unidentified mountain fishing camp possibly in Colorado (canoeing, fishing in stream, and a smokehouse) and a mountain farm where colts are branded. Cog railway is taken up to Pike's Peak. Travels continue to the Southwest (unidentified southwestern town possibly Santa Fe with adobe buildings and men and children in Mexican dress singing and playing guitar, American Indian dance performance indoors possibly Zuni, parade of American Indians in unidentified city perhaps Gallup and Navajo band. Scenes of the southwest continue with Navajo in Canyon de Chelly (hogans and herding sheep), prehistoric archaeological sites (Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon another unidentified cliff dwelling possibly Montezuma's castle) and Taos Pueblo. Film records American Indian dances at a gathering of Indian tribes possibly at Gallup, intertribal horse races and women's tug-of-war. Hopi are shown dancing at Hopi. Also shown are Indian women (possibly Apache or Navajo) and children together and children in cradleboard and the Navajo reservation (hogans, women spinning and weaving under a ramada, herds of sheep and goats and "dipping sheep"). Natural wonders of Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Rainbow Bridge National Monument are featured. ; Travel continues to Yellowstone National Park, California (scenery, black bears, hot springs and geysers) and onto the California coast possibly Monterey (seals on rocks). Also shown are an unidentified town with oil pumps and derricks and people waterskiing.

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Fiji, circa 1940

1 Film reel (52 minutes; black-and-white silent; 920 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in Fiji and possibly other local islands. Footage contains scenes of parade grounds (military review with Fijian regiment and Fijian marching band); dancing on parade grounds (*meke*, *mekei* (fan dance) and dancing with *drua* (bamboo stamping tubes); outrigger canoe; Fijian village as seen from the water; school children doing exercises; men

cutting sugar cane; gathering water or sap from a palm; plowing fields with oxen; Fijian seminary or orphanage run by nuns; women and children (washing clothes, climbing palm trees, and dancing); and men and women in traditional dress creating roasting pit and covering it with hot rocks and palm leaves. Also shown are Fiji's Indian population (Indian market, Indian wedding couple and young man having his turban wrapped). Other dances include mock battle dance by children, women doing sea sea (sitting dance), Rotuman dancers with knives and a group of girls doing a mix of Samoan and Fijian dance movements.

HSFA 1995.11.2

Western Europe, circa 1930

1 Film reel (31 minutes; black-and-white silent; 800 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in unidentified Western European city which may be in Spain. Footage contains scenes of a bullfight including street celebrations, running bulls through the streets, chasing bulls in the arena and the entrance of the torreadors. Other scenes of city life include women collecting water from fountain in central square, donkeys with laden panniers, ladies with mantillas, gardens, parks, milking goats, and flamenco-type dancing. City skyline is panned showing old architecture, churches, a palace and a castle. A seaport is depicted showing fishing boats, covered market with displays of fish, octopus and eels; women carrying baskets on their heads; men and women crossing bridge carrying baskets; and teams of oxen pull carts.

HSFA 1995.11.3

Palestine, circa 1935

1 Film reel (36 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1,200 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in the Middle East. Scenes include outdoor market (man milking goat, a group of children, crowd of people around a "one man band," other men playing musical instruments, haywagon, men spinning yarn, and threshing grain using horse and oxen teams); variety of traffic on hilly road especially various donkey carts decorated with the picture of a saint(?); religious fete in town; countryside (camel train, active volcano, and seaside) and larger city which may be Jerusalem (street market, men smoking water pipe, making shoes, pottery making, weaving and knotting rugs on looms, traditionally dressed Arab women, Jews at the wailing wall, a trained goat doing tricks, a dancing bear, women at a well, and soldiers on horseback).

HSFA 1995.11.4

Morocco, circa 1935

1 Film reel (21 minutes; black-and-white silent; 600 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in North Africa, particularly Egypt (in the

surviving footage). Scenes include street life in Egyptian city including passersby in various dress, pack animals, water-sellers, a *muezzin* calling to worship, men worshipping at the same mosque, and large open air market. Also shown is a variety of street entertainment including musicians, a juggler, a storyteller, a magician, a mock duel with sticks, a boxing match and animal acts with snakes and a trained monkey. Only brief images of Egyptian pyramids and the Spinx in this surviving footage.

HSFA 1995.11.5

Down Under, circa 1939

1 Film reel (28 minutes; black-and-white silent; 772 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in the Pacific especially New Zealand and Hawaii. Scenes show Maori *marae* (enclosure) near Rotorua, New Zealand (women washing clothes, children bathing, and woman dancing with *Haka poi*(?) (spinning rattles)) and hot springs at Rotorua (steam rising from springs, bubbling mud, small geysers, steam vents, and man demonstrating power of steam vent by throwing packing boxes onto vent and watching steam blow them off). In unidentified tropical harbor, seaplane lands and takes off and on rocky shore a buddhist shrine. Possibly in Hawaii scenes of fishing with large net. In Hawaii scenes include military parade with trucks carrying troops and mortars; the Kodak Hula Show (girls dancing in grass skirts and mumus, Hawaiians playing musical accompaniment, and man pounding poi); Japanese in Hawaii, some in traditional dress; and tourists surfing, swimming and paddling outrigger canoes at Wakiki with Diamond Head in the background).

HSFA 1995.11.6

South America, circa 1941

1 Film reel (38 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1,600 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in South America, particularly the Andean Highlands. Footage includes scenes in an Andean town (street activity; women and children; large outdoor market; women selling baskets, pottery, tiles, and potatoes; man milking cow and selling cups of milk; a mobile calliope; man with macaws or parrots; and a religious festival or parade); tourists climbing with pack animals to Machu Picchu; smaller Andean town, probably in Peru, (market, Quechua Indians, and a religious procession from church with priest); Andean peoples harvesting potatoes; Lake Titicaca (reed boats moored together and man sailing with reed sail); train ride through the altiplano (views of mountain peaks and ravines, and people peddling wares to passengers at station stops); children in school or orphanage; pedestrians and cars crossing hanging bridges; men leveling road through mountains and herds of llamas. Also shown are scenes of an unidentified city (automobiles, trolley wires, and military parade), cruise ship at unidentified port (lowering passengers to tender in "bosun's chair" and later loading people from pier onto

the tender and back onto the ship) and river scenes (various rafts and barges being poled, rowed or sculled and loading bananas onto river steamer). Scenes of New York Harbor and skyline are shown from cruise ship.

HSFA 1995.11.7

Deep South, circa 1940

1 Film reel (42 minutes; black-and-white silent; 1,700 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Incomplete edited film used by an amateur travel-lecturer documents travel in the southeastern United States. Footage includes scenes of freighters in New Orleans harbor and at a pier; military parade down unidentified street in New Orleans; flooded streets with cars moving through high water and stranded pedestrians; beachfront and piers of unidentified city (Miami?); men fishing from beach with fishing rods and small nets; sunbathing under palm trees; large tank with porpoises and other sea creatures; man descending into tank with "old-styled" diving suit complete with helmet and air hoses; underwater shots of porpoises, sharks, rays and sea turtles in tank; woman swimming underwater; a man wrestling with an alligator; long bridge and highway (possibly overseas highway through Florida Keys); mangrove swamps and trees dripping with Spanish moss; zoo(?) featuring parrots or macaws doing tricks, cockatoos, peacocks, flamingos, macaques and other primates; cotton fields with black people picking cotton; black men and children hoeing and black flower seller standing on street corner smoking pipe. Film also records visit to the Citadel military school in South Carolina showing buildings and cadets marching on parade ground and Jamestown colony in Virginia, and Appomatox and Pocahontas State Park.

HSFA 95.11.8