



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the William Byrne films, circa 1940-1945

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	William Byrne films
Date:	circa 1940-1945
Identifier:	HSFA.1996.04
Extent:	3 Film reels (black-and-white sound; 16mm)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from William Byrne in 1996.

Preferred Citation

William Byrne 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

MAMPRUSI VILLAGE, POTTERY IN THE GOLD COAST seemingly produced by British Ministry of Information. Also, NAMAQUALAND AND ZULULAND.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Cities and towns

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

Africa
Ghana
South Africa

Container Listing

A Mamprusi Village, 1944

1 Film reel (20 minutes; black-and-white sound; 702 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by the British Ministry of Information depicts daily life in a village of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast (Ghana) with an emphasis on Mamprusi autonomy under colonial rule. Film shows collection and distribution of tax money under the native administration, council meeting presided over by a Colonial District Commissioner, collection of cola nuts for export to Ivory Coast and locally recruited mounted police acting as customs agents. Also depicted is the judicial system of the native administration and a high court presided over by the Paramount Chief. Also shown are scenes of a family compound of a village chief including women cleaning compound, bathing, smoking and children playing games and scenes of a local market and women carrying goods to the market. Music of African choirs of the Gold Coast forms part of the sound track.

HSFA 1996.4.1

Pottery in the Gold Coast, circa 1940

1 Film reel (10 minutes; black-and-white sound; 319 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film produced by the British Ministry of Information documents work at a government training center for pottery making in the Gold Coast Colony (Ghana). Included are scenes of trainees digging clay, transporting it to "weathering pits," mixing clay with water, kneading and wedging clay, weighing it and "throwing" clay on potters wheel. Also shown is partially dried pottery being shaped and smoothed before glazing and firing. A large kiln is opened after firing and cups, plates, bowls and jugs are removed.

HSFA 1996.4.2

Namaqualand and Zululand, circa 1945

1 Film reel (11 minutes; black-and-white sound; 372 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film from series "The South African Scene," produced by the South African Information Service depicts scenery and other tourist attractions of the coastal regions of Namaqualand and Zululand in South Africa. Film contains scenes of Namaqualand landscapes, waterfalls and spring wildflowers. A journey by car is taken from Namaqualand to Zululand which crosses Valley of 1,000 Hills. In Zululand scenes include "natives" on Zulu reservation: men swimming, women washing clothes and family selling crafts to tourist. Also shown is the Hluhluwe Game Reserve where a Zulu guide tracks black rhinos and the rare white rhino.

HSFA 1996.4.3