



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the John W. S. and Arthur
D. Foster world travel films collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	John W. S. and Arthur D. Foster world travel films collection
Identifier:	HSFA.1996.08
Date:	circa 1927
Creator:	Foster, John W. S. Foster, Arthur D.
Extent:	6 Film reels (63 minutes; black-and-white silent; 2,386 feet; 35mm; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Digital Content:	Video: John W.S. and Arthur D. Foster's World Travel Films, circa 1927, 1996.08.001, clip 1 Video: John W.S. and Arthur D. Foster's World Travel Films, circa 1927, 1996.08.001-006, clip 1

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from John W. S. Foster, III in 1996 and 2000.

Preferred Citation

John W. S. and Arthur D. Foster world travel films collection, 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

Incomplete amateur edited film documenting an around-the world trip. The Fosters travel through southern Sudan and the Belgian Congo (Republic of Congo), Africa; Iraq; Thailand; Cambodia; and Calcutta, India. In Africa film records steamship voyage up unidentified tributary of the White Nile through marshy vegetation to British border post of Rejaf and an overland hunting trip from village of Irumu through the Ituri forest. Included are scenes of daily life on barges being pushed upriver by the steamer (men playing cards, head shaving and man playing stringed instrument); aspects of the steamer (wheelhouse, first class bunkhouse on upper deck, and white hunter shooting crocodile from deck); boys swimming in river; Irumu post house; loading expedition equipment on truck; truck crossing river on ferry made from dugout canoes; hunters being carried

in primitive "sedan chairs" and workers clearing forest for road through the Ituri forest. Footage of Iraq is consists mostly of film aerial views shot out the window during airplane trip from Basra to Baghdad. Thailand footage includes the birthday celebration of King Rama III with scenes in the royal compound (including guards, nobelmen, children of noble families, King's children, and King and Queen), kite fighting tournament attended by the Royal family and extracting snake venom to make anti-toxins. Cambodian footage includes Angkor Wat.

Legacy keywords: Aerial photography ; Kites ; Royal houses ; Ruins ; Boats ; Crocodiles Africa ; Aerial views ; Tourism ; Palace Thailand ; Hunting Belgian Congo ; Travel ; Language and culture

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 1996.8.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Travelogues (Motion pictures)
- silent films

Places:

- Africa, Central
- Angkor Wat (Cambodia)
- Congo
- India
- Southeast Asia