



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the John and Mariella Rowe films

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	John and Mariella Rowe films
Date:	1950-1970
Identifier:	HSFA.1997.10
Creator:	Rowe, John W. Rowe, Mariella
Extent:	24 Film reels (color silent; 20000 feet; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by John W. Rowe and Mariella Rowe through the Wisconsin State Historical Society in 1997.

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

John and Mariella Rowe 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

24 reels of film shot by Mr. Rowe who describes himself as semi-professional of various travels in the U. S. and abroad from 1950 to 1970. Includes are Colorado, Switzerland and the Alps, car trip from Switzerland to India, Holland, Italy, France and Cozumel, Mexico.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Automobile travel

Places:

Bangkok (Thailand)

Colorado

Europe

Mexico

Middle East

North America

South Asia

Southeast Asia

Container Listing

John W. Rowe's Travel Footage: Colorado, 1948-1952

1 Film reel (color silent; 800 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film is an amateur travel film of a trip to Aspen, Colorado and the area. Scenes include travelling by car on snow covered roads, plowing of snow covered roads, mountain scenery, downhill skiing, visit with Stuart Mace and his huskies, travelling in mountains by dogsled, wildlife including bighorn sheep and antelope.

HSFA 1997.10.4

Bangkok, 1955

1 Film reel (color silent; 352 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film is an amateur travel film of Thailand which shows travelling up river/canal, passing other boats, activities along the bank, city views, shrines, monks, and street performer with cobra.

HSFA 1997.10.7

Mexico, 1969

1 Film reel (color silent; 1685 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film is an amateur travel film of Mexico. John Rowe and his wife, Mariella, visit San Luis Potosi (cathedral, food market with tourists and local people, aerial view); Guanajuato (various views of city, panorama of city from high vantage point, architecture, cathedral); Valenciana (cathedral); Queretaro (town views, cathedral, statuary, architecture, women hand washing clothes, flora) to San Miguel Allende (town views, cathedral, architecture, flora); Patzcuaro (Indian market with food, woven goods, pottery and other hand made goods for sale, fishing by boat in lake with butterfly nets, threshing with horses); Zona de Balnearios S. Jose Purua Agua Blanca (fountain, water fall, flora, black swan, swimming pool); Teotihuacan (sun and moon temples as well as other structures); aerial views of volcanos; Palenque; air strip with Rowe's plane; swimming hole; Uxmal; Kabah; aerial view of Chichen Itza; and Chichen Itza (ball court, observatory, stellae).

HSFA 1997.10.17

John W. Rowe's Geneva to Bombay Car Rally, 1956

2 Film reels (color silent; 4232 feet; 16mm)

Video: [Arg-é Bam \(Bam Citadel\), Iran, 1956](#)

Video: [Kazmain Shrines, Baghdad, Iraq, 1956](#)

Notes: Edited film is an amateur travel film documenting a journey by car from Geneva, Switzerland to Bombay, India via Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan. Principal stops on the tour include: Trieste, Italy; Thessaloniki, Greece; Istanbul, Turkey; the archaeological sites of Palmyra and Baalbeck, Syria; Jerusalem, Israel; Isfahan and Baluchistan, Iran; Delhi, Benares and Agra, India

and the Hindu caves of Ajanta and Ellor, India. Scenes of Yugoslavian countryside show men fishing with wicker baskets and nets, woman spinning wool using spindle, men and women making adobe bricks and laying them out to dry and historical architecture. Scenes in Thessaloniki, Greece include street activities, ox carts, a wheel maker and women and children in local dress. Scenes in Turkey include mosques, minarets, port of Istanbul, city streets, the Hagia Sophia, crossing the Bosphorus to Asia Minor, flocks of sheep, camels, women gathering water at a well, village market, strolling water seller and the Christian caves/churches of Goreme at Urgup. Scenes in Syria include Aleppo, basilica of St. Simeon and the ruins of Palmyra and Baalbeck. Scenes in Jordan include the Roman ruins. Scenes in Israel include Jerusalem street activities and swimming in the Dead Sea. Scenes in Iraq include the Shiite Golden Mosque (Al-Askariya Mosque) in Samarra, desert with shepherds, camel trains and Iraqi playing a violin-like instrument. Scenes in Iran include the tiled mosque of Isfahan (Great Royal Mosque), fortified citadel of Bam constructed with mud and nomadic peoples. Scenes in Pakistan include landscapes of the desert and terraced farming near Indus River, crossing the Indus and street life in an unidentified city featuring snake charmers and mongoose-baiting. Scenes in India include women carrying peat or dung on their heads, laden ox carts on the way to market, threshing grain, collecting cotton, musicians, bats, cobra swimming in an irrigation ditch and the Taj Mahal in Agra. Also included are shots of the cars and rally participants.
HSFA 1997.10.24