



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the John L. Brom films, circa 1956-1970

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	John L. Brom films
Date:	circa 1956-1970
Identifier:	HSFA.1998.18
Creator:	Brom, John L.
Extent:	Film reels (color sound; color silent; 16mm) Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Olga Brom Spencer in 1998.

Preferred Citation

John L. Brom 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

Various film materials shot in Africa during, primarily, the fifties by John Brom, a Czech filmmaker.

Supplemental materials: photographs, audio tapes, publicity materials, books.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

- Sound films
- Travelogs
- silent films

Places:

- Africa
- Asia
- Japan
- Leopoldville (Congo)
- Zanzibar

Container Listing

Dr. Livingstone, Je Presume (French language version), circa 1971
1 Film reel (color sound; 927 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film was made by John Brom to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Henry Stanley finding Dr. David Livingstone. Film retraces Stanley's search and compares the Africa of then and now.

Legacy Keywords: Explorers ; Slave trade History Africa ; Missionaries ; Harems ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Palms

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.1-1A

Dr. Livingstone, Je Presume (Rough Cut), circa 1971
1 Film reel (color sound; 927 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film was made by John Brom to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Henry Stanley finding Dr. David Livingstone. Film retraces Stanley's search and compares the Africa of then and now.

Legacy Keywords: Explorers ; Slave trade History Africa ; Missionaries ; Harems ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Palms

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.1-1B

Dr. Livingstone, I Presume (English language version), circa 1971
1 Film reel (25 minutes; color sound; 927 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film was made by John Brom to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Henry Stanley finding Dr. David Livingstone. Film retraces Stanley's search and compares the Africa of then and now.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Explorers ; Slave trade History Africa ; Missionaries ; Harems ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Palms

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.2

L'Afrique Chante et Danse (French language version), 1966
1 Film reel (color sound; 1,081 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film explores the dance and ceremonies practiced by twelve major tribal groups of equatorial Africa including Topoke, Mangbetu, Watusi, Nthori, Bahutu, Nahutu, Lahou, Pygmie, Bakuba and Kikuj. Filmed are marriage, birth, fertility, harvest, death and hunting ceremonies. Landscapes include savannah and volcano. Ceremonial body alterations include cheek piercing, tongue cutting and tattooing.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Rites and ceremonies ; Ceremonies funeral ; Ceremonies wedding ; Musical instruments ; Music ; Dance ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Body arts ; Mangbetu (African people) ; Tutsi (African people) ; Pygmies ; Hutu (African people) ; Safwa (African people)

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.3-1A

L'Afrique Chante et Danse (Rough Cut), 1966

1 Film reel (color sound; 1,081 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film explores the dance and ceremonies practiced by twelve major tribal groups of equatorial Africa including Topoke, Mangbetu, Watusi, Nthori, Bahutu, Nahutu, Lahou, Pygmie, Bakuba and Kikuj. Filmed are marriage, birth, fertility, harvest, death and hunting ceremonies. Landscapes include savannah and volcano. Ceremonial body alterations include cheek piercing, tongue cutting and tatooning.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Rites and ceremonies ; Ceremonies funeral ; Ceremonies wedding ; Musical instruments ; Music ; Dance ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Body arts ; Mangbetu (African people) ; Tutsi (African people) ; Pygmies ; Hutu (African people) ; Safwa (African people)

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.3-1B

Africa Sings and Dances (English language version), 1966

1 Film reel (30 minutes; color sound; 1,081 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film explores the dance and ceremonies practiced by twelve major tribal groups of equatorial Africa including Topoke, Mangbetu, Watusi, Nthori, Bahutu, Nahutu, Lahou, Pygmie, Bakuba and Kikuj. Filmed are marriage, birth, fertility, harvest, death and hunting ceremonies. Landscapes include savannah and volcano. Ceremonial body alterations include cheek piercing, tongue cutting and tatooning.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Rites and ceremonies ; Ceremonies funeral ; Ceremonies wedding ; Musical instruments ; Music ; Dance ; Funeral rites and ceremonies ; Body arts ; Mangbetu (African people) ; Tutsi (African people) ; Pygmies ; Hutu (African people) ; Safwa (African people)

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.4

Sur Les Traces des Escalavagistes (French language version), circa 1970-1980

1 Film reel (29 minutes; color sound; 1,062 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film explores a former route of slave traders in central Africa and recreates a slave caravan.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Slave trade History Africa

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.5

30,000 Kilometer Durch Tiefste Africa, circa 1971

1 Film reel (color silent; 965 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film seems to be a travelogue sponsored by a German auto club that chronicles John Brom's travels through Africa from the Congo on southward. Brom encounters a number of tribal groups including the Mangbetu and Pygmies. Filmed

are African wildlife, various ceremonial celebrations and tribal peoples consulting shaman.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Rites and ceremonies ; Animals Africa

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.6

Kirdis, circa 1956

1 Film reel (color silent; 601 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film focuses on the Kirdi's skills as potters and metal-smiths: preparing a kiln, clay preparation, pot building, and metal forging. Women are shown wearing metal work. Film is associated with John Brom collection but it is not certain that he was involved in making this film.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Pottery craft ; Metal-work

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.7

Statue Antiche E...Casa Moderne, circa 1959

1 Film reel (color silent; 436 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film depicts classical Western statuary, a modern home in Africa with a swimming pool, people relaxing in the pool, an air-show of WWII planes, a safari group, and the Hotel des Chutes in Kiuro. Film is associated with John Brom collection but it is not certain that he was involved in making this film.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Architecture, Domestic ; Safaris ; Swimming pools ; Aeronautics Exhibitions ; Airplanes, Military ; Tourism

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.8

John L. Brom Travel Films: Japan, circa 1960

1 Film reel (color silent; 268 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travel in Japan shows temples and water gardens, market scenes and a ceremony with a procession of people in historical or ceremonial dress carrying sheathed swords, flags and banners, walking and riding horses.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Temples Japan ; Markets Japan ; Rites and ceremonies ; Gardens Japan

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.9

John L. Brom Travel Films: Mediterranean, circa 1959

1 Film reel (color silent; 853 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage of travel in a location that is not certain. Footage features two women who may be related to the creator. They are shown in front of a bridge in a Mediterranean looking seaport with signs written in French. Film also shows a shipyard marked "North Hampton." Footage also includes boat scenes with deck chairs and umbrellas, woman swimming in pool, views of islands and scenery, a hotel in a city ringed by mountains, local men playing guitars, a bullfight, female bathers walking along a wall and general scenes of tourists. Also

shown is a medieval-looking church; open-air markets; cars and horse drawn carriages; a man herding flamingos as a tourist attraction; tourists feeding turtles, fish and sharks in a pool and snorkeling. Two hotels with signs are Curacao and Embajador.

Legacy Keywords: Tourism ; Marketplaces ; Cruise ships ; Instruments musical instruments ; Architecture Religious

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.10

Pitiless Africa, circa 1963

5 Film reels (color silent; 3,231 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage appears to be travel through central Africa and captures the many encounters with different tribal peoples. Shown are Wagenia wrestlers and fishermen; urban scenes; wildlife; Mangbetu; safari; villages (women making clay pots); Pygmies; landscapes; Mwami Rudhawiga; ceremony for the departure of the Belgians from the Congo including dances of the Bahutu and Watusi; Lahou dancers dancing with hoes; cattle; Masai greeting Brom; Masai "blood feast"; harbor scenes; living on a large boat; Bakuba ceremonial funeral dance and Kikuj celebration of the birth of twins. Much of this footage is related to "On the Footsteps of Slave Traders" and "Africa Sings and Dances."

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Animals Africa ; Rivers Africa ; Landscapes ; Villages Africa ; Dance

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.11

The Black Moslem, circa 1967

1 Film reel (color silent; 1,984 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Edited film contains some of the same or similar footage as seen in "Africa Sings and Dances." Film includes urban scenes, manuscript illuminations, "witch doctor" scenes, tribal group with bodies painted with red, a north African marketplace (snake charmers and musicians), ruins of a city, Dogon men dancing, ivory caravan, and scenes in a desert location, probably in North Africa, of women dancing, drummers, men in robes and formal dress, rider robed in purple on a black horse, men in bright elaborate robes under tents and awnings participating in a ceremony. Film is missing the sound track.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Rites and ceremonies ; Marketplaces ; Dance ; Drummers (Musicians)

Local Numbers: HSFA 1998.18.12