



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Film of a *famadihana*, 1963

Preservation of this film was supported by the National Film Preservation Foundation. Cataloging supported by Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Film of a <i>famadihana</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1963
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.2001.06
<b>Creator:</b>	Archdeacon, Sarajane
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Film reel (23 minutes; color sound; 400 feet; 16mm)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Video: Digging Up the Dead in Madagascar, 1963</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Sarajane Archdeacon in 2001.

### Provenance

Previously titled "Digging up the Dead in Madagascar."

### Preferred Citation

Film of a *famadihana*, 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.

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## Scope and Contents

Footage of a Famadihana (also known as "digging up the dead" ceremony) is an exhumation ceremony to honor ancestors. This famadihana was performed by the Malgache people of Madagascar. The body of an ancestor is exhumed, re-wrapped in burial cloths and re-buried. The extended family celebrates with a feast. The film has a sound track narration recorded by filmmaker, Sarajane Archdeacon.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

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## Local Numbers

HSFA 2001.6.1

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Festivals
- Rites and ceremonies

Types of Materials:

- Sound films

Places:

- Africa
- Madagascar