



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Kenneth Orr films, circa 1949-1951

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Kenneth Orr films
Date:	circa 1949-1951
Identifier:	HSFA.2001.08
Creator:	Orr, Kenneth G. (Kenneth Gordon), 1916-2001
Extent:	Film reels (black-and-white silent; 16mm)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Phoebe Morrison Pugh in 2001.

Preferred Citation

Kenneth Orr 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.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. Kenneth Orr was a British archaeologist who worked extensively in Burma and taught at the University of Chicago.

Scope and Contents

Film footage taken by archaeologist Dr. Kenneth Orr in Burma (local life, archeology and pottery) 1949-51 and at Starved Rock State Park, Illinois (excavations and camp life).

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Excavations (Archaeology)

Types of Materials:

silent films

Places:

Asia
Burma
La Salle County (Ill.)
North America

Container Listing

Footage of Burma, 1950-1951

Film reels (black-and-white silent; 16mm)

Notes: Footage taken by Dr. Kenneth Orr in Burma 1950-51. Contains archeology and pottery.

HSFA 2001-008

Footage of Archeological Field Work, Starved Rock, Illinois, circa 1949

1 Film reel (17 minutes; black-and-white silent; 632 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage shot by anthropologist Kenneth G. Orr of archeological excavations at the Zimmerman site at Starved Rock along the Illinois River in La Salle County, Illinois. Excavations were begun in 1947 by a joint Illinois State Museum and University of Chicago crew and continued through 1950. Excavations uncovered artifacts from prehistoric Native American occupations dating from the late Paleo-Indian period to more recent cultural periods that includes what is believed to be Fort St. Louis from the late 17th century. Footage documents tools used in excavations including shovels and trowels, workers cataloging and labelling various artifacts laid out on long tables, workers sifting and digging. Also included is camp life including living quarters, taking showers and eating meals. Students are filmed on the back of a truck.

HSFA 2001.8.2

Footage of Archeological Field Work, Starved Rock, Illinois, circa 1949

1 Film reel (13 minutes; black-and-white silent; 451 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Footage shot by archaeologist Kenneth Orr of an archaeology excavation conducted in Starved Rock State Park, Illinois as a joint Illinois State Museum and the University of Chicago. Location had been occupied by American Indians for hundreds of years and was the site of the 17th French Fort St. Louis. Film opens with brief shots of picnickers (including African Americans) in the park over looking the Illinois River and the Illinois River and dam. Footage of the archeological excavation opens with the sign: "Illinois State Museum and University of Chicago Archaeological Excavations" and shows various shots of shoveling and then focuses on the work and life of the students participating in the dig. Shown are students in a University of Chicago pick-up truck, line of multiple shovels, other tools used in excavating, scenes inside shed where students are categorizing and labelling artifacts and preparing paper documentation, scenes of camp, young woman entering a dressing room constructed of canvas who emerges dressed in swimming gear, men grooming including showering in makeshift shower, eating a meal in the dining tent and a young man and woman exiting and kissing for camera. Footage ends with more digging in the excavation.

HSFA 2001.8.2