



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Bamboo Harvesting films, circa 1950s-1970s

Annie Schweikert and Katherine Christensen

2017 January and 2020 October

Human Studies Film Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland 20746
hsfa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Bamboo Harvesting films
Date:	circa 1950s-1970s
Identifier:	HSFA.2017.02
Extent:	4 Film reels (1675 feet; 16mm)
Language:	Films and intertitles are in Chinese and English.
Summary:	Bamboo Harvesting films contain film footage of the propagation and harvesting of bamboo and manufacture of bamboo products.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The film footage was given to HSFA by the Botany department at the National Museum of Natural History in two accretions. The first accretion contained the five reels which became the first three reels of this collection. The second accretion, transferred several months later, comprised the fourth reel in the collection.

Related Materials

The Thomas R. Soderstrom Papers, circa 1965-1987 (SIA.FA96-168) and the Floyd Alonzo McClure Papers, 1913-1970 (SIA.FAT90028).

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Processed by Annie Schweikert, January 2017

Encoded by Katherine Christensen, October 2020

Preferred Citation

The Bamboo Harvesting 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

The film footage covers the cultivation, harvesting, and use of bamboo.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

- Agriculture
- Bamboo
- Harvesting
- Manufacturing

Places:

- China
- Guatemala

Container Listing

- Item 2017.2.1 Bamboo harvesting in China, circa 1951
1 Film reel (black-and-white silent print; 125 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Man and woman working with bamboo inside and in courtyard. Includes close-ups of techniques and products in process, including a basket.

 In English (on can): "[Unedited] Gunga Din goes to Mazaenago[?] to propagate bamboo via clump division by dynamite & by single branch cuttings."
- Item 2017.2.2 Bamboo harvesting in China, circa 1965
1 Film reel (color sound print; 650 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Chinese titles. Bulk of reel is men being bussed into bamboo forest and harvesting with machinery. At end: interior shots of a home, kitchen, family meal; exteriors of buildings; some factory (papermaking?) footage. Bamboo forest and men harvesting; factory scenes (exteriors and interiors) with women and men, including production of mats, birdcages, baskets, etc. (paper?). Working with both strips and sticks of bamboo.

 In Chinese (on can): "south __ bamboo mountain _ village _ _ _." In English (on can): "47? Processing park." Tape on can: "Robert Mac 19." In English: "Bamboo use, manufacturing items, [moso?] bamboo cultivation."
- Item 2017.2.3 Bamboo harvesting in Mazatenango, circa 1972
1 Film reel (color sound print; 700 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Man directing unloading of boxes (boxes read: "Instituto Agropecuario nac. Mazatenago"). Men in pith helmets ride into bamboo forest on horses, then appear to consult with each other. Some harvesting. Aerials and ground-level landscapes; following man on riverboat to a bamboo logging camp with larger group of men, with shots of bamboo in situ and harvested as well as harvesting process, including what appears to be stripping the wood.

 In English (on can): "Bug in BA[...?], Basket making, some tools, brooms." In English: "[Unedited] Gunga Din goes to Mazaenago[?] to propagate bamboo via clump division by dynamite & by single branch cuttings." On reel: "Rio dynamite expert [table?]."
- Item 2017.2.4 Bamboo, undated
1 Film reel (silent print; 200 feet; 16mm)
Notes: Film is intertitled as follows: Felled and stripped; To the yards for stacking and seasoning; Young saplings will be used as walking sticks and swagger-canes; For fishing rods; The finished article is a masterpiece of flexibility and durability; The bamboo is also transformed into a flute called "shakuhachi"; Baskets are among the commonest articles made from bamboo; Some of the most artistic are used for the esthetic art of flower-

arrangement; what a romantic setting we have here with these charming paper lanterns whose skeletons are entirely bamboo; Japanese fans are consistently made from bamboo; Now for the Japanese paper umbrellas and dainty parasols.