



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Hamilton Wright Jr. photographs,
circa 1923-1925, 1950-1970

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Hamilton Wright Jr. photographs
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.76-35
Date:	circa 1923-1925, 1950-1970
Extent:	4,700 color slides (circa) 250 lantern slides (circa) 500 color transparencies (circa) 7 color prints (theatrical motion picture one-sheets) 9 Prints (silver gelatin)
Creator:	Wright, Hamilton M., Jr.
Language:	Undetermined

Administrative Information

Provenance

Hamilton Wright began donating parts of the collection in 1975. Final donation was made by Wright's widow, Frances Purdy Wright, and son, Hamilton Wright Jr. in 1987.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Films by the Hamilton Wright Organization can be found in the Human Studies Film Archive in HSFA 94.19.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Film and Television Archive at the University of California at Los Angeles holds the motion picture film and related material of the Hamilton Wright Organization.

Other Finding Aids

Partial inventory available in repository

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 76-35, Hamilton Wright Jr. photographs, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

In 1908, Hamilton Wright Sr. founded the Hamilton Wright Organization, a public relations firm that specialized in making travelog and newsreel film and distributing it to motion picture houses around the world, often on behalf of domestic and foreign governments. Wright's son, Hamilton Wright Jr., managed the company after his father and expanded it's work. In 1963, a Senate committee criticized the Hamilton Wright Organization for hosting press junkets and distributing its photographs, newsreels, and stories in American news media without reporting its sources. The Hamilton Wright Organization was closed by Hamilton Wright Jr.'s son in the late 1960s.

Scope and Contents

Photographs made by Hamilton Wright Jr. in Egypt, South Africa, India, Lebanon, Taiwan, the Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Holland, Italy, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Haiti, the Virgin Islands, Canada, Alaska, Colorado, and New Hampshire. They include images of modern and ancient structures and monuments, artifacts, industries, cities, markets, caves, festivals, beaches, scenery, and sporting events. Most appear to have been made for the Hamilton Wright Organization, an international agency that made films and photographs to support public relations campaigns of foreign governments. Also included are some early lantern slides depicting historical sites in Egypt, directed by Hamilton Wright, Sr., and one-sheets for motion picture films produced by the Hamilton Wright Organization. Additional material includes slide narration for a lecture and short news stories relating to the images in the collection.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 76-35

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Beaches
- Festivals
- Hindus
- Industries
- Markets
- Nubians (African people)
- Pyramids -- Egypt
- Tarahumara Indians
- Tourism
- Zulu (African people)

Cultures:

Hindus
Nubians (African people)
Tarahumara Indians
Zulu (African people)

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides
Photographs
Posters

Names:

Hamilton Wright Organization

Geographic Names:

Alaska -- description and travel
Bolivia -- Description and Travel
Canada -- Description and Travel
Chile -- description and travel
Colorado -- description and travel
Ecuador -- Description and Travel
Egypt -- description and travel
Haiti -- description and travel
Holland -- Description and Travel
Hong Kong -- Description and Travel
India -- description and travel
Italy -- description and travel
Korea -- Description and Travel
Lebanon -- Description and Travel
Mexico -- description and travel
New Hampshire -- Description and Travel
Peru -- Description and Travel
Philippines -- Description and Travel
South Africa -- Description and Travel
Taiwan -- description and travel
Venezuela -- Description and Travel
Virgin Islands -- Description and Travel