



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Todd Lewis collection of photographs of Nepal, undated

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National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Todd Lewis collection of photographs of Nepal
<b>Date:</b>	undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.86-34
<b>Creator:</b>	Lewis, Todd (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Negatives (glass (some copy glass negatives)) 67 Copy negatives 50 Negatives (nitrate)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Todd Lewis and David Sassoon, circa 1986.

### Location of Originals

Originals not in this collection possibly in possession of David Sassoon.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional Karmacharya photographs held by the Lost Light Preservation Project in New York.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Footage by Todd Lewis's of Asan Tol can be found in the Human Studies Film Archives in HSFA 89.5.1 and HSFA 80.4.1.

### Other Finding Aids

Notes by David Sassoon identifying some of the photographs are available in repository.

### Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 86-34, Todd Lewis collection of photographs of Nepal, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Copy negatives available for reference purposes only. Contact the repository for terms of use and access.

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## Biographical Note

Todd Lewis is a scholar of anthropology, history of religions, and Indology with special research focus on Buddhism in the Kathmandu Valley, particularly among the Newars. He earned a PhD in Religion from Columbia University in 1984 and, as part of his dissertation research, he lived in the Asan Tol neighborhood of Kathmandu in 1978-1982 and 1987. From mid-1981 to 1982, Lewis documented life in Asan Tol with the assistance of Harvard photographer David Sassoon. During this time, Todd Lewis also collected photographs from an elderly Newar man in the Kel Tol neighborhood of central Kathmandu, possibly Gyan Bahadur Karmacharya, a photographer and photograph collector.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs collected by Todd Lewis, probably while conducting research in Kathmandu with photographer David Sassoon in 1981-1982, many of which were copied from originals held by Nepalese individuals. They document religious sites, artwork, cities, people, and ceremonies in Kathmandu and other parts of Nepal. The glass negatives were probably made by Gyan Bahadur Karmacharya, who may have also made the nitrate negatives.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 86-34, NAA Photo Lot 86-2, NAA Photo Lot 86-26

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## Reproduction Note

Copy negatives made by Sanu Bajracarya, David Sassoon, and Todd Lewis, circa 1982.

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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:

- Nepalese
- Newar
- Painting
- Rites and ceremonies
- Sculpture
- Temples

Cultures:

- Nepalese
- Newar

Names:

- Karmacharya, Gyan Bahadur (photographer and/or collector)
- Sassoon, David

Places:

Kathmandu (Nepal)  
Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)  
Nepal -- Religion