



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

United States Department of Agriculture
photographs relating to sugar expedition
to Papua New Guinea, 1928-1929

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	United States Department of Agriculture photographs relating to sugar expedition to Papua New Guinea
Date:	1928-1929
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.91-8
Creator:	United States. Department of Agriculture
Extent:	2 Acetate negatives 3 Nitrate negatives 100 Prints (ca. 100 prints: silver gelatin) 120 Prints (ca. 120 glass negatives)
Language:	Undetermined .
Digital Content:	Image(s): United States Department of Agriculture photographs relating to a sugar expedition to New Guinea

Administrative Information

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Human Studies Film Archives holds Frank Hurley's "Pearls and Savages" (HSFA 89.1.1) and the Department of Agriculture's "Sugar Plant Hunting by Airplane in New Guinea" (HSFA 82.7.1).

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photographs of New Guinea artifacts collected by Brandes also held in National Anthropological Archives Photo Lot 97.

Location of Other Archival Materials

New Guinea artifacts collected by Brandes held in the Department of Anthropology in USNM ACC 106509.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs by Edwin L. Wisherd held in the National Anthropological Archives in the Neil Merton Judd Papers.

Available Formats

Digital surrogates available for some photographs.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 91-8, United States Department of Agriculture photographs relating to sugar expedition to Papua New Guinea, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

National Geographic photographs cannot be copied without permission of the National Geographic Society.

Biographical Note

Most of the photographs were made during the 1928 Sugar Expedition to the Territories of Papua and New Guinea organized by the United States Department of Agriculture. The expedition traveled to places in the eastern half of New Guinea. Its primary purpose was to collect living samples of various sugarcane plants to be used for developing disease-resistant strains for the American grower. The expedition was led by E. W. Brandes and included R. K. Peck, Jacob Jeswiet, and, at times, a priest named Kirschbam. The expedition visited native settlements in the vicinity of Port Moresby, along the upper Fly River and Lake Marray, on the Sepik River, and in northeastern New Guinea. During the expedition, photographs were made for the National Geographic Society and specimens were collected for the Smithsonian Institution.

Scope and Contents

Images of settlements, people (including Negritos), artifacts, agriculture (especially sugarcane), headdresses, tattooing and body marking, members of the expedition, and the expedition's plane. This collection contains photographs by every member of the expedition. Other images are from Frank Hurley's documentary, "Pearls and Savages", or were made by the Department of Agriculture at installations where sugarcane was grown. Finally, many photographs of specimens and people working with specimens were taken by National Geographic after the expedition had returned to the United States.

Bibliography

Photographs in E. W. Brandes, "Into Primeval Papua by Seaplane," National Geographic Magazine, volume 56 (September, 1929), pages 253-332; and E.W. Brandes and G.B. Sartoris, "Sugar Cane: Its Origin and Improvement," in United States, Department of Agriculture, Yearbook, 1936, pages 561-623.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 91-8

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Agriculture
- Body marking
- Cities and towns
- Negritos
- Sugarcane
- headgear

Cultures:

Negritos

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Brandes, E. W. (Elmer Walker)), b. 1891

Hurley, Frank, 1885-1962

Jeswiet, Jacob

Kirschbaum, Father

National Geographic Society (U.S.)

Peck, R. K.

Wisherd, Edwin L., 1900 -1970

Places:

Papua New Guinea