



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Lewis M. Purnell photograph collection  
relating to Burmese market and  
marionette troupe, circa 1950-1960

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Reproduction Note.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Lewis M. Purnell photograph collection relating to Burmese market and marionette troupe
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1950-1960
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.97-38
<b>Creator:</b>	Purnell, Lewis M. (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	18 Copy prints
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Copy negatives donated by Lewis M. Purnell to the Department of Anthropology in 1982 (accession 350955). One set of eighteen prints were found in Smithsonian curator William Trousdale's office following his retirement.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Photo Lot 82-63 has been relocated and merged with Photo Lot 97-38. These photographs are of the same subjects, were also collected by Lewis Purnell, and form part of this collection.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Purnell donated six Burmese marionettes along with this collection to the Department of Anthropology in accession 350955.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence from Purnell can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Henri Geiger Omwake's papers.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional artifacts donated by Purnell can be found in the Department of Anthropology in accession 336965, 324266, and 359770.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 97-38, Lewis M. Purnell photograph collection relating to Burmese market and marionette troupe, 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

Lewis M. Purnell graduated from Johns Hopkins University and was a Foreign Service officer for thirty years, most of which were spent in Asia. He served as assistant attache for the United States Embassy in Burma in the early 1950s and became Officer in Charge of Burma Affairs for the Department of State in April 1955. In 1952, Bo Set Kya, former Burmese Secretary of Defense, gave Purnell six Burmese marionettes, which he later donated to the National Museum.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs, possibly made by Lewis M. Purnell, depicting a performance by a marionette troupe and Shan people at a market in Burma. They include close ups of marionettes and singers.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 97-38, NAA Photo Lot 82-63, USNM ACC 350955

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## Reproduction Note

Copy prints made by the Smithsonian Institution from copy negatives, 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:

- Burmese
- Marionettes -- Burma
- Markets -- Burma
- Shan (Asian people)

### Cultures:

- Burmese
- Shan (Asian people)

### Types of Materials:

- Photographs