

1990

## The Smithsonian Human Studies Film Archives

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## RESEARCH NOTES

### **The Smithsonian Human Studies Film Archives**

#### Visual Resources in Himalayan Studies

The Smithsonian Institution's Human Studies Film Archives invites scholars to take advantage of its ethnographic moving image materials. Of particular interest to students and scholars in the area of Asian Studies are twenty-four film and video collections comprised variously of edited films, research footage, outtakes, and/or full film/video records dealing broadly with the visual ethnography of Himalayan peoples and the Himalayan region. The majority of these research film materials are of relatively recent date (shot between 1978 and 1982 by anthropologists, documentary filmmakers, and scholars of comparative religion). A major portion of these materials are listed under the heading of "Film Studies of Traditional Tibetan Life and Culture" and were produced as research film projects by the Smithsonian Institution's former National Anthropological Film Center (also known as the National Human Studies Film Center). A few of these projects are of note for having been filmed by a native Nepalese filmmaker, Ragpa Dorjee.

Established in 1981, the Human Studies Film Archives is part of the Institution's Department of Anthropology. Although specifically mandated to collect and preserve anthropological film materials, the Archives also seeks to serve a broad range of disciplinary interests including ethnography and ethnology, history, archaeology, film and media studies, and cultural communication. Film Archives collections are accessible for screening and study by the scholarly community and the research value of various collections is enhanced by accompanying synchronous sound annotations and/or other documentary materials. The Film Archives staff wishes to make these materials available to scholars not only as resources which may potentially enhance their own research but for critical appraisal of the collections by specialists in the field. This would include the evaluation of contents and methodology employed in the construction of film texts, their potential research value, or their effectiveness in communicating ethnographic ideas. The staff of the Film Archives also wishes to make scholars aware of their interest in preserving anthropological film materials and welcomes information from and/or about filmmakers or scholars who have produced film records of potential scholarly interest.

The Human Studies Film Archives is located in Room E-307 of the National Museum of Natural History, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20560. Its staff can generally accommodate researcher visits with thirty-six hours advanced notice. Scholars interested in researching and publishing on Film Archives' collections may apply for either short-term or one-year fellowships (both pre- and post-doctoral) under the guidelines of the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Grants. For further information about the Human Studies Film Archives please contact either Wendy Shay (Director) or John Homiak (Film Archivist) at: (202) 357-3349.

The following film collections and related documentation dealing with the Himalayan region are presently available for screening at the Film Archives. Numbers which appear to the left of the title identify these films in the Human Studies Film Archives' catalogue.

#### **86.13.14 Btsunchun 1981, 400 ft, sound color, reference film**

Edited film produced by the National Anthropological Film Center, SI. The film documents young monks from Gaden Monastery studying, practicing dialectics, playing and resting during a visit to

Drepung Monastery while celebrating the Molam Festival. Monks are also shown practicing movement training at Gaden.

**86.11.6 Drikung Monastery, Ladak, 1979, 1,200 ft, silent, color, reference video**

Footage shot by Franz Michael documenting the celebration of the 800th anniversary of Drikung Monastery at the Ga-ngon Monastery in Ladakh, India. Footage forms part of the Eugene Irving Knez Papers in the National Anthropological Archives.

**86.13.10 Film Studies of Traditional Tibetan Life and Culture: Bylakuppe, South India, 1980 35,470 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Ragpa Dorjee and M. Michael Maloney for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage includes the Heruka, Drupa, and Mandup ceremonies, *chaam* dancing, and a Tibetan opera performed by the Tibetan Drama and Dance Troupe. Ceremonies were filmed at Nyingmapa, Tashi Lumpo, and Gyumed Monasteries.

**86.13.8., 11 & 12 Film Studies of Traditional Tibetan Life and Culture: Hunsun, South India, 1981 & 1982 86,460 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Ragpa Dorjee and M. Michael Maloney for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage includes the Gohe Samajha, Drupa, and Mahakala ceremonies and *chaam* dancing as performed as Zonkar Choede and Gyumed Monasteries. Includes tantric training and scenes of monastic life at Gyumed Monastery.

**86.13.3-6 Film Studies of Traditional Life and Culture: Ladakh, India, 1978-1981 191,360 ft, sound color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Steven Schecter and Ragpa Dorjee for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage documents daily life and subsistence activities of Mathoo villagers and the monastic life and ceremonies of the Buddhist monastery in Mathoo. Includes the annual Oracle performed after the New Year.

**88.13.7 Film Studies of Traditional Tibetan Life and Culture: Orissa, South India, 1980 3,720 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Ragpa Dorjee for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage documents the traditional Tibetan Ghesar Epic as danced in the Tibetan refugee community of Orissa, India.

**86.13.16 Jyapu: Industrious productivity as lifestyle 1981 540 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Edited film produced by the National Human Studies Film Center examining the various forms of social interaction in work and play of Jyapu children and adults in the courtyards of Thecho Village, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

**81.2.2 Ladakh Village Morning 1981 400ft, sound, color, reference film**

Edited film produced by the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Documents the early morning activities of a Tibetan family during harvest time in Mathoo Village, Ladakh, India.

**86.1.1 Kalachakra: Initiation and Related Activities, 1981 18 hours, sound, color, reference video**

Full video record and outtakes from the film THE INITIATION INTO THE KALACHAKRA TANTRA BY HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA OF TIBET produced by Edward Bastian.

**87.7.1 Melemchi Village, Nepal, 1986 10,000 ft, sound, color, reference video**

Full film record shot by John Bishop of the Lama people of Melemchigaon village in the Helambu Valley, Nepal. Footage includes a number of spirit medium seances and attendant rituals with offerings of food, drumming, and dancing. Includes various subsistence and craft activities and preparations for a major festival celebrated by the lay population of the village.

**88.16.8 The Mongols of Central Asia 1929 340 ft, silent, black & white**

Edited film produced by Harvard University for the Pathe Science Series. Depicts the lives of the native peoples of Mongolia.

**86.13.1 Newari Film Project, 1978 84,000 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Barbara Johnson, Ragpa Dorjee, and Steven Schecter for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage focuses primarily on the daily life activities of the agricultural Jyapu village of Thecho, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

**86.13.2 Newari Film Project, 1980 120,500 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Barbara Johnson for the National Human Studies Film Center, SI. Footage focuses primarily on the daily life activities of the agricultural Jyapu villages of Techo and Thimi, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

**86.4.2 Religious Examination of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet, c. 1970 727 ft, silent color**

Edited film from footage of unknown origin. Depicts the religious examinations of the Dalai Lama for the Geshe Lharampa degree in Lhasa, Tibet in 1959.

**81.4.1/86/4/1 The Religious Investiture of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet C. 1970 1,550 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Edited film and outtakes from footage of unknown origin. Depicts the investiture of the Dalai Lama in Lhasa, Tibet in 1958 and 1959.

**87.11.1 Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim, 1982 40,000 ft, sound, color**

Full film record directed by Mark Elliott documenting ritual activity in Rumtek Monastery, scenes in the surrounding lay community, and the cremation ceremonies of the XVI Gyalwang Karmapa. The film LION'S ROAR was produced from this project.

**80.4.1 Samyak and Panchare Festivals in Nepal, 1980 9,500 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Todd Lewis and Ragpa Dorjee documenting the Samyak and Panchare as well as other Newari festivals in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**86.1.2 Tibetan Buddhism: Cycles of interdependence 1982 2,000 ft, sound, color**

Edited film and outtakes produced and directed by Edward Bastian showing the annual cycle of interdependence between monks, laity, deity-protectors, and nature in Lukil Valley, Ladak, India.

**86.1.2 Tibetan buddhism: Preserving the Monastic Tradition 1981 1,044 ft, sound, color**

Edited film and outtakes produced and directed by Edward Bastian showing the traditional monastic life being preserved by Buddhist monks in the Sera Monastery in Mysore, India.

**81.5.2 Sons of Haji Omar 1978 2,100 ft, sound, color reference film**

Edited film produced by the National Film Board of Canada from a joint filming expedition with the Smithsonian Institution. Records the life of the Pashtoon nomads of northern Afghanistan with a focus on annual migration patterns and the conflict caused by government pressure to sedentarize the Pashtoon.

**75.6.1 Pashtoon Nomad Research Film Project, 1975-1976 95,000 ft, sound, color, reference film**

Full film record shot by Asen Balikci, Timothy and Patsy Asch, and a film crew from the National Film Board of Canada. Footage documents daily life among the Pashtoon Nomads of northern Afghanistan.

**89.5.1 Asan Tol Project, 1987 15 hrs. 30 min, sound, color, reference video**

A video project by Todd Lewis which documents ritual and daily activities in Asan Tol, Kathmandu - a marketplace of central importance to the religious geography of the Kathmandu Valley. Documentation includes a "day-in-the-life" of the bazaar showing urban social and market interactions, activities around the Temple of Annapurna, the procession of festival celebrants in the marketplace; the observance of Buddhist and Hindu ritual devotions in the Newar courtyards adjoining Asan Tol; celebration of Pancadana; scenes of the Desain Festival, pilgrims visiting the Buddhist shrine of

Svayambu; documentation of the Mahakali dance, and scenes of rice planting and cultivation in the Valley.

**86.12.21 Ethnographic Film Survey of Tamang and Sherpa Villages, Nepal; 1978 2,000 ft, silent, color, reference film**

Footage shot in 1978 by anthropologist Johan Reinhard under the auspices of the National Anthropological Film Center. The footage was produced as a visual survey of Tamang and Sherpa villages east and west of Helambu, Nepal. Shot selections were taken according to a number of criteria which included the filming possibilities, degree of isolation and adherence to traditional lifeways, village size, caste composition, and miscellaneous factors that might influence the success of a long-term filming project. The footage primarily documents physical settings and, to a lesser extent, the daily activities of Tamang and Sherpa life in the region around Helambu. Written descriptions supplement footage.

**86.13.22 Ethnographic Film Survey of Tharu Village, Nepal; 1979 900 ft, silent, color, reference film**

Footage shot in 1979 by anthropologist Johan Reinhard under the auspices of the National Anthropological Film Center. The footage was produced as a visual survey of Tharu villages in southwest Nepal. Shot selections were taken according to a number of criteria which included the filming possibilities, degree of isolation and adherence to traditional lifeways, village size, caste composition, and miscellaneous factors that might influence the success of a long-term filming project. The footage primarily documents physical settings and, to a lesser extent, the daily activities of Tharu life in the region of southwest Nepal. Written descriptions and logs supplement footage.