

ISSN 0341-5910

# PUBLIKATIONEN ZU WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FILMEN

SEKTION  
**ETHNOLOGIE**

SERIE 7 · NUMMER 43 · 1977

FILM E 2199



INSTITUT FÜR DEN WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FILM · GÖTTINGEN

*Film Data:*

Silent film, 16 mm, black and white, 55 m, 5 min (24 f/s). Produced 1968/69, published 1976.

The film is a research document and has been issued for use in research and higher education. The film was shot by Dr. J.G. REINHARD, New Lenox, Ill., Institut für Völkerkunde, Wien. Supported, edited, and published by the Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film, Göttingen, Dr. A.M. DAUER; cutting: M. SCHORSCH.

*Form of Citation:*

REINHARD, J.G.: Raute (Nepal) – Camp Scenes and Bartering. Film E 2199 of the IWF, Göttingen 1976. Publication by J.G. REINHARD, Publ. Wiss. Film., Sekt. Ethnol., Ser. 7, No. 43/E 2199 (1977), 6 pp.

*Address of the Author of the Publication:*

Dr. J.G. REINHARD, 155 Fir Street, New Lenox, Ill. 60451, USA.

---

PUBLIKATIONEN ZU WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FILMEN

Sektion BIOLOGIE

Sektion TECHNISCHE WISSENSCHAFTEN

Sektion MEDIZIN

NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN

Sektion ETHNOLOGIE

Sektion GESCHICHTE · PUBLIZISTIK

Herausgeber: H.-K. GALLE · Schriftleitung: E. BETZ, I. SIMON

PUBLIKATIONEN ZU WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FILMEN sind die schriftlichen Ergänzungen zu den Filmen des Instituts für den Wissenschaftlichen Film und der Encyclopaedia Cinematographica. Sie enthalten jeweils eine Einführung in das im Film behandelte Thema und die Begleitumstände des Films sowie eine genaue Beschreibung des Filminhalts. Film und Publikation zusammen stellen die wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung dar.

PUBLIKATIONEN ZU WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FILMEN werden in deutscher, englischer oder französischer Sprache herausgegeben. Sie erscheinen als Einzelhefte, die in den fachlichen Sektionen zu Serien von etwa 500 Seiten zusammengefaßt und im Abonnement bezogen werden können. Jede Serie besteht aus 4 Lieferungen mit einer entsprechenden Zahl von Einzelheften; jährlich erscheinen 1–4 Lieferungen in jeder Sektion.

Bestellungen und Anfragen an: Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film  
Nonnenstieg 72 · D-3400 Göttingen  
Tel. (05 51) 2 10 34

JOHAN G. REINHARD, New Lenox, Ill.:

Film E 2199

## **Raute (Nepal) – Camp Scenes and Bartering**

Author of the Publication: JOHAN G. REINHARD

With 2 Figures

### *Summary of the Film:*

**Raute (Nepal) – Camp Scenes and Bartering.** General scenes taken in a Raute camp show basic activities such as hulling rice, bringing water, and working on wood objects. A few scenes show Raute on their way to hunt and trading wooden bowls for grain.

### *Inhalt des Films:*

**Raute (Nepal) – Lagerleben und Tauschhandel.** Der Film, aufgenommen in einem Raute-Lager, zeigt tägliche Arbeiten wie Reisschälen, Wasserholen und Arbeit an Holzgegenständen. Danach folgen Aufnahmen von Raute auf dem Weg zur Jagd und beim Tauschhandel von Holzschalen gegen Getreide.

### *Résumé du Film:*

**Raji (Népal) – Vie dans le camp et troc.** Le film montre les activités fondamentales dans un campement Raute telles que le décorticage du riz, le transport de l'eau et la confection d'objets en bois. Suivent des scènes qui montrent des Raute aller à la chasse et échanger des bols en bois pour du grain.

### **General Preliminary Remarks<sup>1</sup>**

The Raute are one of the last nomadic hunting and gathering tribes left in Asia. Numbering only about 125, they still speak their own Tibeto-Burman language and maintain a way of life now unique in the Himalayas. They travel through the middle hill region of West Nepal hunting monkeys with nets, gathering forest produce, and trading wooden bowls with villagers.

<sup>1</sup> The research upon which this article is based was supported by grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Film material was contributed by the Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film, Göttingen.

The Raute claim to hunt exclusively the rhesus and langur monkeys. They try to avoid living near villagers and do not allow villagers to follow them nor observe them during a hunt or while eating monkey meat. Otherwise they believe their hunting deity will ruin their hunting. Monkeys are not killed by villagers, although



Fig. 1. Camp after rain. Huts have been reinforced with grass, and blankets put out to dry

they will occasionally request Raute to kill them because they eat their crops. Thus monkeys are quite numerous in many parts of Western Nepal. They are killed by being surrounded on three sides and driven into nets where they are beaten with axes and clubs. Although monkeys can be found throughout West Nepal, they are more prevalent in some areas than others. However, the major factors influencing the movements of the Raute appear to be trading possibilities and climate. The Raute keep to the lower altitudes during the winter and return to higher altitudes during the hot season and monsoon. If trading and hunting possibilities are limited, the Raute will divide into two bands which will rejoin later.

In contrast to the hunting of monkeys, forest produce is said to have been considerably depleted through the years due to increased settlement of areas and the concomitant utilization of forest produce by villagers, grazing, and the burning of forest undergrowth. The construction and trading of wooden objects, especially bowls, with villagers for grain foods has come to be of great importance in the economy of the Raute. Normally the Raute exchange bowls and boxes for the



amount of grain (rice, maize, etc.) which it takes to fill them, although occasionally they will exchange wood objects for cloth and utensils. The Raute also make two types of bowls for their own use which are not traded with villagers. Long and short handled axes, large and small adzes and chisels are the primary tools used in the construction of wood objects. The iron parts of these tools are obtained in



Fig. 2. Woman with children hulling rice

trade from village blacksmiths. A medium sized bowl takes a few hours to make, but large boxes may take several days to complete. Freshly made wood objects are kept out of the sun and wind, and will often be placed in water to keep them from drying and cracking before trading. The objects are rubbed with wet red earth, if available, which is thought to add strength and good fortune. Women may do this, while only men may construct the objects. When the objects are traded, the Raute often give them a blessing. After trading in an area, the Raute will not return for some time, perhaps not for years. With increased reliance on trade with the villagers, the Raute have become caught in an unpleasant circle. In order to survive they must cut down trees to obtain wood. This in turn angers some villagers and runs counter to laws against the felling of certain types of trees.

The Raute rarely stay longer than a few weeks in any one place. In the winter they often build their camps on rice fields which are lying fallow. Women are primarily responsible for the construction of huts which are made of branches and saplings. These are occasionally strengthened by adding grass and mats, and in some cases tents are rigged inside them. In the interior of the hut one may see a hole dug for a fire, straw, leaves or pine needles to sleep on, old blankets, firewood, cooking

utensils, wooden water containers and bowls, and metal pots. Often iron cooking stands, axes, adzes, and winnowing trays are available. The huts number about 35–36 if the tribe has not divided. In appearance there is little to distinguish Raute from villagers of West Nepal, except their clothing tends to be old and patched. They have the unusual custom of refusing to drink flowing water, drinking instead only spring water. The types of meals eaten are similar to those of the villagers, and one of the staples, rice, is hulled using a long wooden pestle (common to the villagers) and a wooden mortar set in an open area and shared by other members of the community. The women also use hoes or sharpened sticks to gather yams, of which the *Dioscorea sativa* appears to be the most common. Interestingly the Raute even use wooden containers made by other castes. They do have one specially made wooden box in which are kept objects used in worshipping one of their deities. This box is said to be the responsibility of one man who cares for the objects and their use in worship<sup>1</sup>.

### Notes on Making of the Film

The film was made during the first week of February, 1969, near the village of Kalimati in Surkhet District, West Nepal. Due to the hostility of the Raute to outsiders, especially regarding the hunting and eating of monkeys, only a few general scenes of camp life and trading could be obtained.

Technical data: camera: Bell and Howell Model 70-D; lenses: Switar 16 mm, Bausch and Lomb 25 mm, Yvar 75 mm; camera speed: 24 f/s; film material: Kodak Plus X, black and white negative film type 7231.

### Description of Film

A Raute camp built on a fallow lying rice field is shown, following which are a few scenes of Raute inside and outside huts at their camp. The box containing objects of worship is visible in one scene. Women kick rice into a mortar and hull it using a long pestle. A woman and child collect water from a spring. A scene of men working on a wood box is followed by that of two boys cutting the sides of a such a box. A woman applies mud to a wooden bowl. A few scenes show Raute men and boys on their way to hunt and women walking through the forest on their way to collect tubers. In the closing scenes two Raute are seen filling bowls with rice which they then pour on to their blankets, bundle up, and carry away.

### Bibliography

- [1] REINHARD, J.: The Raute: Notes on a Nomadic Hunting and Gathering Tribe of Nepal. Kailash, A J. of Himalayan Stud. 2, 4 (Katmandu 1974), 233–271.

### Sources of the Figures

Fig. 1 and 2: photography J. G. REINHARD.

<sup>1</sup> For further information on the Raute see REINHARD [1].