



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Finding aid**

**ROBERTS\_J01**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Peter Hamilton, 1965**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

### Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

### Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from the appropriate Indigenous individual, family or community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1965

**Extent:** 1 sound tape reel (1 hr., 20 min.) : analogue, mono.

### Production history

This recording was collected for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS) by Peter Hamilton, who was instrumental in the establishment of the AIAS Film Unit in the early to mid-1960s. The interviewee, Jacob Roberts, was born at Roper River Mission and was related to three men who had been recently filmed by the AIAS Film Unit participating in a Yabudurawa ceremony: his brothers, Phillip and Silas Roberts, and his uncle Daniels. Jacob Roberts was staying at Moore College, Sydney University, when the recording was made. Peter Hamilton, assisted by Christopher Court and Edgar Waters, interviewed Roberts with a view to better understanding the distribution of languages in the Roper River area, and wider Arnhem Land. The interview includes some discussion of ceremonies from the Roper River area.

## RELATED MATERIAL

**Important:** before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

The film *The Yabudunra Ceremony of the lower Roper River*, featuring Mr Roberts' relatives Phillip Roberts, Silas Roberts and Daniels, is held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive, see [LV 3461 – LV 3462.01](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. The material was previously stored with the collection MOYLE\_A18, but is unrelated.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
008429	<a href="#">Field tape 1</a>	Jacob Roberts discusses languages in the Roper River area, in English
008430		

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 008429 + 008430/Field tape 1

Performer/speaker(s): Jacob Roberts, Peter Hamilton, Christopher Court, Edgar Waters  
 Subject keywords: Language census & distribution, Ceremonies  
 Language/people: English  
 Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05)  
 Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
ROBERTS_J01-008429	00:00:00	Peter Hamilton introduces Jacob Roberts. Discussion in English about languages in the Roper River area follows. Places mentioned include Roper River Mission, Bulman Gorge, Mainoru, Wilton River. Languages mentioned include Rembarrnga, Dalabon, Ngalkbun, Mayali and Ngandi.	8 August 1965	Sydney, NSW
	00:13:00	Jacob Roberts talks about the area he considers his country, which encompasses Borroloola, Roper River Mission, Rose River, Newcastle Waters, Manbulloo Station, Daly Waters, and Beetaloo Station. Includes a discussion about identifying people by their hair, skin groups, and appropriate marriages.		
	00:19:44	Further discussion about languages, including Mara, Alawa, Ngalakan, Yangman, Ritharrngu, Nunggubuyu, Jawoyn, Gunwinggu, Iwaidja, Marung, Burarra, Jingulu (Roberts' father's language), and Gurdanji (the other main language spoken by Roberts). Roberts is introduced to Edgar Waters and Chris Court. A discussion about ceremonies follows.		
	1:02:21	End of ROBERTS_J01-008429.		
ROBERTS_J01-008430	00:00:00	Further discussion about languages and movement of people. Jacob Roberts offers to record people from his area and send the recordings back to Sydney. He also describes moving image footage		

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
	00:16:48	and slides he has already created. End of ROBERTS_J01-008430 and end of collection ROBERTS_J01.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)