



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Audio Finding Aid

HOLMER_N02

Songs, language elicitation and narratives in languages from northern NSW and south-east Queensland

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Collection Summary

Collection no:	HOLMER_N02 (A004387-A004388)
Title:	Songs, language elicitation and narratives in languages from northern NSW and south-east Queensland
Creator:	Holmer, Nils M (Nils Magnus), 1904-1994
Date range:	1970 – 1972
Extent:	4 audiocassettes
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Registration ID:	N/A

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the material was created, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, hearing recordings, seeing images or the names of deceased persons may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural beliefs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

People & Organisations

Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family or organisations that are associated with this collection (individuals or groups who have contributed to, performed in, or are mentioned within this collection). Please note that there may be additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that are not included in this Finding Aid, as they have not yet been identified. If you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this please contact us at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Names of knowledge holders in this collection are listed in the individual item descriptions.

Community & Language

Barunggam language D40

Barunggam people D40

Bidjara / Bidyara language E37

Bidjara / Bidyara people E37

Gooreng Gooreng language E32

Gooreng Gooreng people E32

Gubbi Gubbi language E29

Gubbi Gubbi people E29

Gunggari language D37

Gunggari people D37

Kala Lagaw Ya language Y1

Kullilli language D30

Kullilli people D30

Meriam Mir language Y3

Meriam people Y3

Minyangbal language E18

Minyangbal people E18

Wakka Wakka language E28

Wakka Wakka people E28

Wiri language E57

Wiri people E57

Wulli Wulli language E89

Country

Badu / Mulgrave Island (Qld TSI SC54-11)
Beaudesert (SE Qld SG56-14)
Biloela (SE Qld SG56-01)
Bundaberg (SE Qld SG56-02)
Cherbourg / Barambah (SE Qld SG56-10)
Eidsvold (SE Qld SG56-05)
Ipswich (SE Qld SG56-14)
Kingaroy (SE Qld SG56-10)
Mabuiag / Jervis Island (Qld TSI SC54-07)
Maryborough (SE Qld SG56-06)
Murgon (SE Qld SG56-10)
Tully (NE Qld SE55-06)
Tweed Heads (NSW N Coast SH56-03)
Woodenbong (NSW N Coast SH56-02)
Woorabinda (SW Qld SG55-04)

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

This collection consists of 4 audiocassettes that feature vocabulary and songs in language and personal narratives from knowledge holders from northern NSW and south-east Queensland. The recordings take the form of interviews conducted by Holmer, predominantly recorded in the Cherbourg / Barambah and Bundaberg areas from 1970-1972.

Provenance

Material deposited with AIAS (now AIATSIS) by Nils M Holmer in 1979.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

For a complete list of works by Nils M. Holmes held by AIATSIS, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6246 1111

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au/cultural-sensitivity

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Conditions apply

Obtaining access, copying and quotation permission

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Preferred citation

Holmer, Nils, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, HOLMER_N02 (A004387-A004388)

Biographical history note

Nils Magnus Holmer was born in Gothenburg Sweden in 1904. He studied linguistics in the 1920s and carried out fieldwork on a wide range of languages across several continents. In the 1960s and 1970s he conducted fieldwork on Australian Aboriginal languages, including recording Maric languages in the Warrego and Maranoa Rivers region from several speakers. He published an analysis of Wakka Wakka, Dhanggati or Djangadi languages and a grammar dictionary for the Mununjali language.

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nils_Holmer

https://viaf.org/viaf/110028299/#Holmer,_Nils_Magnus,_1904-1994

Archivists note

The descriptions in this Finding Aid, including the question marks, are transcribed from information contained in documentation provided by Nils M. Holmer and documentation and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. All information in square brackets “[]” added by Archivist. Audio quality of tapes varies and contains some distortions.

Item Descriptions

A004387A

Knowledge holders/Performer/speaker(s): Ada Mack
Alice Steffan(?) at Ipswich and her sister
Arthur Bunday(?)
Dick Cobbo
Douglas Kina
Mrs. Jane Parsons of Tweed Heads
Liza Malone(?)
Oscar Collins

Language/people: Bidjara language L43
Bundjalung language E12
Butchulla language E30 or Gubbi Gubbi language E29
Gooreng Gooreng language E32
Mununjali language E76
Tweed Language
Western Barduwalu(?) language(?)
Western Torres Strait Island language
Wiri language E57

Notes: Mrs. Jane Parsons, interviewed by Holmer circa 1970 singing songs in language [possibly Bundjalung or Mununjali] and offering language words for parts of the body. Mrs. Parsons talks about her experiences as a young girl. Alice Steffan(?) offers words in the Gooreng Gooreng language for animals and reptiles and sings songs learnt from the Torres Strait Islands. Alice tells a story about a giant. Popular song sung by her sister from Cherbourg / Barambah area. Douglas Kina, recorded circa 1971, tells a story about the Bunya Mountains, including songs. Arthur Bunday(?) and Liza Malone(?) of Kingaroy singing. Oscar Collins sings songs in Bidjara and Wakka Wakka language at Cherbourg/ Barambah. Dick Cobbo sings in Gubbi Gubbi or Butchulla language at Mervin. Ada Mack provides a narrative and conversation in Wiri about a trip to Townsville.

A004387B

Knowledge holders/Performer/speaker(s):	Arthur Bunday(?) Elsie Broome Harry Munroe Liza Malone(?) (Mrs. Arthur Bunday(?)) Mrs. Mabel Logan Nita Munroe Norris Blair?(Norris Black(?)) (Norris Blake(?)) Reggie Dodd Mrs. Ruth Saltner Steve Hart
Language/people:	Barunggam language D40 Butchulla language E30 Galarli(?) Gooreng Gooreng language E32 Gubbi Gubbi language E29 language related to Gunggari D37 Mununjali language E76 Wakka Wakka, language E28
Notes:	Music in Gubbi Gubbi, Badjala and Wakka Wakka languages. Language elicitation in Galarli (?), including climbing a tree and hunting possums, word for kangaroo. Steven Hart provides a narrative about how old people went wallaby hunting and the seven sisters mountains with young emu turned to rock. Narrative and song about waterhole and laughing rock at Cherbourg/ Barambah. Narrative in Wakka Wakka a Clever man and life in the bush. Mrs. Ruth Saltner sings a corroboree song about a frog noise that deafens in a language related to Gunggari. Liza Malone(?) (Mrs. Arthur Bunday(?)) sings in Gunggari or related language. Arthur Bunday(?) sings in Wakka Wakka or Barunggam. Reggie Dodd of Bundaberg sings <i>Lift You Up the Nulla Nulla</i> in Badjala. Music in Wakka Wakka and related language. Conversation with Reggie Dogg in Gooreng Gooreng. Elsie Broome sings Badjala corroboree songs. Popular Badjala music from Bundaberg and Maryborough by Harry Munroe at Gin Gin. Mununjali music by Nita Munroe from Gin Gin. Music accompanied with ukelele and leaf by Norris Blair(?) from the Torres Strait. Narrative about natural features and rock recorded at Beaudesert. Narrative provided by Mrs. Mabel Logan at Woodenbong.

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Knowledge holders/Performer/speaker(s):	Arthur Buddah(?) Bill Jackson Mrs. Eppie Armstrong Mrs. Janet Collins Jimmy Daylight Mrs. Queenie Dodd (Mrs. Meldrum) Tommy Solomon (Tommy Warren(?)) Mrs. Topsy (Poppy(?) Carbine) Victor Reid Winnie Cobbo
Language/people:	Butchulla language E30 Gunggari language D37 Wakka Wakka language E28 Wuli Wuli language E89
Notes:	Conversation between Winnie Cobbo, Mrs. Janet Collins in Wakka Wakka language. Song about climbing a big gum tree in Wakka Wakka sung at Gayndah. Song by Winnie Cobbo in Butchulla [Badjala]. Eppie Armstrong sings in Gunggari. Conversation between Mrs. Topsy (Poppy(?) Carbine and Eppie Armstrong at Woorabinda. Mrs. Carbine provides narratives in Gunggari about an emu and turkey quarrelling, a 'porcupine', an excursion to Woorabinda and two magic emus. Lullaby to her son who is afraid of the bush. Victor Reid sings at Woorabinda in Wakka Wakka, 'Black Pool', husband and wife, drinking at lover's lane, cowboy on horseback, his one-time sweetheart and provides a narrative about walking in Brisbane. Bill Jackson sings a song from South Australia. A plastic didgeridoo played. Mrs. Queenie Dodd and Arthur Buddah(?) sing about drinking at lover's lane in language. Message in Wuli Wuli(?) by Mrs. Queenie Dodd to friends and song. Jimmy Daylight singing in Wakka Wakka at Biloela. Tommy Solomon from Tully talks in language that is not identified.

A004388B

Knowledge holders/Performer/speaker(s):	Dick Cobbo Tommy Solomon (Tommy Warren?) Steve Hart
Language/people:	Butchulla language E30 Gubbi Gubbi language E29 Wakka Wakka language E28
Notes:	A continuation of the previous tape [A004388A], Tommy Solomon (Tommy Warren?) discussion and stories in a language not specified. Dick Cobbo at Murgon singing <i>I will show you</i> in Gubbi Gubbi or Butchulla and Wakka Wakka followed by Steve Hart. Medium-high voice singing in English.

Finding aid compiled by K Sinadinovska, April 2024.

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