



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5339

Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

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MS 5339: Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

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Collection Summary

Creator:	Scheffler, Harold W.
Title:	Papers of Harold W. Scheffler
Collection no:	MS 5339
Reference code:	MAR02/131
Date range:	1928-1977
Extent:	0.34 linear metres (2 archival boxes)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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 manuscript was written, 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, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress; and in some cases, offend strongly held cultural beliefs.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

People and 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 have not been included here as they have not yet been identified – if you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this please contact us.

Knowledge holders:

Peret Arkwookerum

Daniel Barnabus

Koko Bera

Jack Bruno

Ethel Colin

Patrick Eric

Stephen Foster

Frank George

Raymond George

Matthew Gilbert

Walter Greenwood

Russell Jimmy

Norman Junior

Doris Lawrence

Arthur McLean

Mick McLean

Francis Normanton

Malachie Parrot

Banjo Patterson

Stewart Patterson

Barney Possum

Sandy Possum

Johnny Reis

Jimmy Russell

Leslie Russell

Cecil Rutland

Davis Simon

Philip Tent

Claude Wilkie

May Wilton

Dora Yam

Community & Language

Andedja language K23
Andedja people K23
Arabana language L13
Arabana people L13
Bardi language K15
Bardi people K15
Bemba language K27
Bemba people K27
Gooniyandi language K6
Gooniyandi people K6
Jabirr Jabirr language K8
Jabirr Jabirr people K8
Jugun language K2
Jugun people K2
Karajarri people A64
Karajarri language A64
Koko Bera language Y85
Koko Bera people Y85
Kriol language P1
Kugu Nganhcara language Y59
Kugu Nganhcara people Y59
Manungu language K46
Manungu people K46
Ngarinyin language K18
Ngarinyin people K18
Ngumbarl language K4
Ngumbarl people K4
Nyulnyul language K13
Nyulnyul people K13
Wangkangurru language L27
Wangkangurru people L27
Wenambal language K31
Wenambal people K31
Wik Mungkan language Y57
Wik Mungkan people Y57
Wirngir people K42
Yawuru language K1
Yawuru people K1
Yiiji language K32
Yiiji people K32
Yirrk-Thangalkl language Y214
Yir Yoront language Y72
Yir Yoront people Y72

Country

Anna Creek (North West Central SA SH53-03)
Arnhem Land (NT)
Batchelor (NT Top End SD52-08)
Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)
Edward River (Qld NW Cape York SD54-11)
Forrest River (WA East Kimberley SD52-09, SD52-10, SD52-14)
Halls Creek (WA East Kimberley SE52-10)
Kimberley area (WA SD51, SD52, SE51, SE52)
Kati Thanda / Lake Eyre (NE SA SH53-04)
Lake Eyre (NE SA SH53-04)
Northern Territory (NT)
Pilbara area (WA SF50, SF51, SG50)
Port Augusta (West SA SI53-04)
South Australia (SA)
Sunday Island (WA West Kimberley SE51-03)
Western Australia (WA)

Cultural & Social

History - Genealogy and family history
Language – Kriol
Language - Linguistics - Language classification
Language - Vocabulary
Language - Vocabulary - Word lists
Social organisation – Kinship
Social organisation - Kinship – Systems
Social organisation - Kinship - Systems - Sections and subsections

General Subject Headings

Anthropology
Anthropology – Fieldwork - Australia
Genealogy
Kinship - Australia
Kinship - Terminology

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

The collection contains material relating to Scheffler's research from the 1970's of structures of kin classification systems in Australia, that resulted in his publication. *Australian Kin Classification*, Cambridge [U.K.]: Cambridge University Press, 1978.

The collection comprises Scheffler's fieldwork notes, plus reports, drafts and papers of other anthropologists such as Ralph Piddington, WEH Stanner, AP Elkin, Olive Pink and Phyllis Kaberry, relating to various Aboriginal communities and language groups.

The material in the collection covers the social structure, language, kinship, and family history of Australian Indigenous communities from the northern Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia, Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, the Western Lake Eyre region of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

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Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

B S317.59/A1 Scheffler, Harold W., *Australian Kin Classification*, Cambridge [U.K.]: Cambridge University Press, 1978

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

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

Provenance

The material was given to the AIATSIS library by Harold Scheffler in 2002.

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Open access – reading; Open copying & quotation Series 1; Closed access – reading; Closed copying & quotation Series 2,3 and 4

Access and use conditions - further information

Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#) if they have been digitised. AIATSIS Manuscripts are not

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Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [Insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

Kinship research notes. 1972, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5339, Series 4, Item 1.

Where a First Nations knowledge holder is named, include the following additional information in the citation

(Knowledge Holder last name, Nation/Clan/Community)

For example

Kinship research notes. 1972, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5339, Series 4, Item 1. (Arkwookerum, Kugu Nganhcara)

Where knowledge or information that originates from a First Nations community and no individual First Nations knowledge holder/s are named, include the following additional information in the citation

(Nation/Clan/Community knowledge)

For example

Kinship research notes. 1972, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5339, Series 4, Item 1. (Kugu Nganhcara knowledge)

Where a Non-Indigenous author references or uses First Nations knowledges or information received from a First Nations community or community member, but does not name the community or community member or does not provide enough to determine which community the knowledge originates from, include the following additional information in the citation

(Indigenous knowledge, Australia)

For example

Kinship research notes. 1972, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5339, Series 4, Item 1. (Indigenous knowledge, Australia)

Biographical history note

Harold Walter Scheffler was born on October 24, 1932, in St. Louis, Missouri USA. He received a B.A. degree in anthropology and sociology from the University of Missouri in 1956, an M.A. in anthropology in 1957 and a Ph.D. in anthropology in 1963, both from the University of Chicago. Scheffler joined the Department of Anthropology at Yale University in 1963, where he remained throughout his career, at one stage becoming Chair of Anthropology and retiring to Emeritus status in 2008.

Scheffler's principal ethnographic research was carried out in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Australia, focusing on descent theory, kinship and social organization in small-scale societies. Scheffler also taught and was a research fellow at the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, the University of Brisbane, the University of the Witwatersrand, and a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Visiting Professor at the Free University of Berlin.

References

<https://news.yale.edu/2015/07/27/harold-w-scheffler-anthropologist-illuminated-fundamental-patterns-kinship>

Archivists note

The title and description of the items are transcribed and/or devised from the information on the material provided by the donor. The [] (square brackets) enclose notes added by the archivist.

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Series Description

Series 1 Reports 1937-1965

The series comprises reports and papers relating to kinship organisation and terminology of Indigenous Australian communities by anthropologists Ralph Piddington, WEH Stanner and Olive Pink, plus a Forest River language lesson book, author unknown.

Item

- MS 5339/1/1 Karadjeri Kinship.1937
- Paper by Ralph Piddington, Reid Lecturer in Anthropology, University of Aberdeen. Based on fieldwork in Northwest of Western Australia in 1930-1931. Typescript. Includes handwritten annotations. See copy of original at AIATSIS MS 834.
- MS 5339/1/2 Report on field work in north central and north Australia 1934-35 by W E H Stanner. 1965
- 101 pages. Includes preface by Stanner written in 1965. Typescript photocopy. See copy at AIATSIS MS 846
- MS 5339/1/3 Lessons in the Forest River Language. No date.
- A language spoken from West Coast Kimberleys to Groote Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Referred to as Yeidji [Yiiji] or Gwini [Yiiji]. Includes language lesson notes 1-13, plus summaries of lessons 8-13. Typescript bound. Author unknown. Includes some handwritten annotations.
- MS 5339/1/4 Two Reports by Olive Pink relating to Wailbree [Walpiri] and Aranda [Arrernte]. No date.
- First report titled "Kinship Terms Ego Man a (Tab'bul'jerr'ee)", 14 pages, incomplete - includes Wail'bree' [Walpiri] relationship terms and female and male age names. Handwritten note on front page reads 'Walbiri [Walpiri] O. Pink Report'. Typescript photocopy. See original notes held at AIATSIS Papers of Olive Muriel Pink MS 2368/I/B(a)(3)).
- Second report titled "Wail'Bree [Walpiri] Names of Subsections in moieties and semi moieties but not the term for these divisions- other than the two moieties" 66 pages. Typescript photocopy. Includes handwritten note on front page that reads " Olive Pink Report" and loose handwritten notes relating to report presumed to be from Scheffler. See original notes held at AIATSIS Papers of Olive Muriel Pink MS 2368/I/B(a)(4)).

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Series 2 AP Elkin

Closed access – reading; Closed copying & quotation

The series comprises draft typescript notes and kinship tables written by AP Elkin relating to kinship and social organisation, terminology, customs and beliefs of Indigenous communities from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia.

Item

- MS 5339/2/1 Elkin, notes to Needham. No date.
- Three pages of typed notes with handwritten title that reads "Elkin Notes to Needham". Document refers to Livingstone and Radcliffe-Brown's data and discusses kinship systems. Also includes two pages of handwritten notes (presumed to be from Scheffler) relating to kinship structures. Original Typescript.
- MS 5339/2/2 Various beliefs etc. Newl-Newl [Nyulnyul], Bard [Bardi] and Sunday Island. No date.
- Text includes entries relating to theories of childbirth, totemism, spirit double, medicine men and magic, presentiments, and burial. Typescript photocopy.
- MS 5339/2/3 Eight Sub Section Tribes in vicinity of Halls Creek. Mainly Lunga [Gija / Kija] Tribe also Jaru Tribe. No date.
- Text includes entries relating to kinship terms and systems, sub section systems, kinships tapus and gifts, local and totemic organisation, theory of conception, involuntary movements, medicine-men, burial and mourning, bullroarers, myth, initiation, numbers, directions and times of day, weapons and adornment. Also includes handwritten note between page 11 and 12 (presumed to be from Scheffler). Typescript photocopy.
- MS 5339/2/4 Forrest River Tribes. 1928.
- Includes a hand drawn map and kinship tables. Text includes relationship terms and systems, social organisation, local organisation, totemism, headmen, phallic stone, memorial stones, distribution of various birds, circumcision, fire and cooking. Document is missing pages and contains typed and handwritten corrections. Typescript photocopy.
- MS 5339/2/5 Elkin-Ñul Ñul [Nyulnyul] social organisation. 1928.
- Text includes entries relating to relationship terms and kinship diagrams, map of area, local organisation, social organisation, irregular but allowed marriages. Document is missing pages and contains typed and handwritten corrections. Typescript photocopy.
- MS 5339/2/6 Untitled document. No date.

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Text includes entries relating to historical songs coastal cycle, fish-yard myth, Mirig myths, Panda myths, Mirig cycle-the Bat and the absence of dwellings, the making of the fire making sticks, Mari Mari-a Bugari hero on the coast, red ochre myth, Buragi myth, Maral myth. Page numbers non-consecutive, some pages missing. Typescript photocopy.

MS 5339/2/7 Untitled document. No date.

Text includes information relating to kinship systems of myths of the Karadjeri. Photocopy contains handwritten and typed corrections. Typescript photocopy.

MS 5339/2/8 The Karadjeri Tribe by A.P. Elkin. No date.
Typescript photocopy

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Series 3 Elkin and Kaberry

Closed access – reading; Closed copying & quotation

The series comprises draft typescript notes and reports written by AP Elkin and Phyllis Kaberry, relating to kinship and social organisation, terminology, customs and beliefs of Indigenous communities from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia, Cape York Peninsula in Queensland and the Lake Eyre Region of South Australia.

Item

MS 5339/3/1 Karadjeri Kinship. No date

Notes relating to Karadjeri Kinship including kinship tables. Typed notes relating to methods of obtaining a wife. Handwritten notes and typescript.

MS 5339/3/2 Karadjeri Social Organisation by A P Elkin, 1928; Scheffler's handwritten notes, No date.

Includes information relating to social organisations, marriage, local organisation and totemism, childbirth theories of the Karadjeri, Yauor and Nygina; Handwritten notes (presumed to be from Scheffler) regarding Elkin's Karadjeri kinship; Typescript photocopy of report/chapter relating to Djukan and Normal social organisation with kinship tables. Handwritten notes and Typescript photocopy

MS 5339/3/3 Social organisation. Unjarinyin Tribe. Photocopies of typescript and handwritten notes

MS 5339/3/4 Social organisation and totemism of the Djukan, Normal and Djaberadjaber Tribes. Typescript photocopy

MS 5339: Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

- MS 5339/3/5 Wik Monkan Kinship. No date.
Document includes information relating to kinship and speech tabu, special relationships, joking relationship, gesture language. Typescript with handwritten amendments
- MS 5339/3/6 Social Organisation. Uŋarinyin. Kinship system. No date.
Draft with typed and handwritten amendments. Typescript photocopy.
- MS 5339/3/7 Uŋarinyin Walcott Inlet Social Organisation. 1925
Includes kinship tables and kinship terms. Handwritten notes attached (presumed to be from Scheffler) relating to Elkin Uŋarinyin. Typescript photocopy and original handwritten notes.
- MS 5339/3/8 Arabana Notes. Kinship System. No date.
Document includes two hand drawn kinship tables plus typed notes with handwritten amendments relating to Kinship tapus, totemic clans, Madus and marriage, totemism in the Arabana and Wongkongaru [Wangkangurru] tribes. Original typescript and handwritten notes.
- MS 5339/3/9 Miss Kayberry. 1934
Typed report with amendments relating to kinship and social organisation of the Wirngir, mourning ceremonies, Clan totemism, ceremonies. Original typescript.
- MS 5339/3/10 Local and Totemic Organization. No date.
Document includes information relating to the Lunga [Gija / Kija] tribe including totemism, theory of conception, involuntary movements and presentiments, medicine-men, burial and mourning, bullroarers, mythology, initiation, numbers, directions, times of the day and night, weapons, adornment. Original typescript.
- MS 5339/3/11 The Forrest River Tribes. No date.
Document includes information relating to Totemism of the Yeidji/Yeithi [Yijji], Aruga, Andedja, Wembria [Wenambal], Wirngin, Wulu [Worla], Mande [Manungu] tribes. Original typescript with handwritten amendments.
- MS 5339/3/12 Untitled report. No date.

MS 5339: Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

Document includes information relating to clan totems and kinship, increase rites, yari or dream totems. Unidentified people/country. Original typescript.

MS 5339/3/13

Forrest River. No date.

Document includes information relating to making and powers of medicine-men, various beliefs and customs, birth, naming, camping, drinking, tobacco, adornment, fighting, murders, the seasons, times of the day, directions, the moon, counting, economics, food, material culture and barter. Page 90a contains 3 hand drawn images in pencil of a stone axe. Original typescript with handwritten amendments.

MS 5339/3/14

Forrest River Tribes. No date.

Document includes information relating to headmen, increase ceremonies, phallic stone, memorial stones, distribution of birds, circumcision, fire and cooking, fresh water, tides and water serpent, initiation including initiation of the King River tribe, bullroarers, food tapus, rites connected to marriage, wife lending, burial, mourning, inquest and revenge and mourning ceremonies. Page 49 includes hand drawn image in pencil of a maiänjari. Original typescript with handwritten amendments.

MS 5339/3/15

Notes. Forrest River Tribes by A.P. Elkin. No date.

Document includes information relating to relationship terms, social organisation, tapus and terms, gifts, death, local organisation, spirit, totemism, moiety, and clan. Includes kinship tables. Photocopied typescript with handwritten amendments. Handwritten amendments appear to be from Scheffler.

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Series 4 Scheffler's fieldwork

Closed access – reading; Closed copying & quotation

The series comprises loose handwritten notes and notebooks with fieldwork data recorded by Scheffler in the 1970's, relating to kinship and social organisation of Indigenous communities in the Cape York Peninsula, Central Australia, Port Augusta and Arnhem Land. The Series also includes reports (copies) by anthropologists John C Taylor and Donald Thomson.

Closed access – reading; Closed copying & quotation

Item

MS 5339/4/1

Kinship research notes. 1972

MS 5339: Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

Notes titled "HWS 1972 Muin [Kugu Mu'inh] dialect, Wik Nantjera [KUGU NGANHCARA] Cape York. Peret Arkwookerum Brisbane Jan 24, 1972, with assistance from J R von Sturmer; Handwritten notes titled 'By H Scheffler at Farina S.A. 1972'; Handwritten notes titled "Aranda Mick Mclean". Handwritten original.

MS 5339/4/2

Notes from Elkin to Scheffler. 1974

Typed comments from AP Elkin to Scheffler regarding Elkin's own writings. Typescript original.

MS 5339/4/3

Kokominjan (Yir Yoront); Edward River Marriage system. No date.

Handwritten notes with names of Yir Yoront community members including Jack Bruno, Stephen Foster, Frank George, Raymond George, Philip Tent, Banjo Patterson, Norman Junior, Walter Greenwood, Barney Possum, Sandy Possum, Claude Wilkie, Patrick Eric, Malachie Parrot, Francis Normanton, Ethel Colin, Doris Lawrence, Cecil Rutland, Stewart Patterson, Koko Bera, Daniel Barnabus, Dora Yam, Matthew Gilbert, Davis Simon plus Yir Yoront kinship notes; Handwritten note from John C Taylor accompanying a photocopy of his ANZAAS paper titled "Edward River Marriage System". Handwritten original.

MS 5339/4/4

Correspondence from Rev. D.A. Thompson. 1972

Two typed letters to Scheffler from Rev. DA Thompson relating to kinship classification in Cape York accompanied by hand drawn genealogy tables. Typescript and handwritten originals.

MS 5339/4/5

Kinship. Note: Accompanying linguistic notes are Kopapoino dialect. No date.

Handwritten note on title page of photocopy reads "DF Thomson Arnhem Land Notes". Photocopy typescript.

MS 5339/4/6

Kinship research notes. 1972

Photocopy of original handwritten notes located in MS 5339/Series 4/item 1 - " HWS 1972 Muin [Kugu Mu'inh] dialect, Wik Nantjera [KUGU NGANHCARA] Cape York. Peret Arkwookerum Brisbane Jan 24, 1972, with assistance from J R von Sturmer". Photocopy.

MS 5339/4/7

Kinship research notes Nganjara [Wik Nantjera]. 1972

Photocopy of hand drawn kinship tables. Handwritten note on title page reads "Done by/with John Von Sturmer + HWS with Peret 1972?". Photocopy

MS 5339/4/8 Notebook titled "1) Wonkonjuru 2) Arabana 3) Andjanathana". 1972

MS 5339: Papers of Harold W. Scheffler

Handwritten field notes on Wonjonjuru [Wangkangurru], Arabana and Andjanathana [Adnyamathanha] language and kinship with Mick McLean (Port Augusta), Leslie Russell (Port Augusta), Arthur McLean (Anna Creek Station), Jimmy Russel, May Wilton, Johnny Reis (Maree Reserve).

MS 5339/4/9

Notebook titled Kowanyama, Qld May 1977. Batchelor N.T. 1977

Handwritten field notes on language and kinship. Includes notes relating to Kowanyama, Oykanjand, Koko Bera, Koko Wap [Kok Wap], Yir Thangell [Yirrk-Thangalk], Yir Yoront, Roper Kriol dictionary, Mara, Kriyol Arnhem Land.

Box List

Series	Item	Box
1	1-4	1
2	1-8	1
3	1-4	1
3	5-15	2
4	1-8	2

Finding aid compiled by Lisa Joseph, April 2022.

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