

**MORPHY**

**MS 3176**

**MORPHY, Frances**

**FINDING AID**

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

Field Notebooks; Yirrkala NT. 1974-76; Blue Mud Bay,  
Caledon Bay, Elcho Is., Groote Is., Milingimbi;  
English : Yolngu; [diagrams, illustrations and maps].

2 boxes (8cm)

Frances Morphy received an AIAS grantee for 1975 and undertook research into the "socio-cultural and economic implications of recent developments in women's art and craft". Most of her fieldwork has been carried out in the NT, particularly among the Djapu of Arnhem Land. She was a research assistant in the Linguistics Department, Australian National University between 1978 - 1985, prior to leaving for Oxford where she was appointed Linguistic Editor, Oxford University Press.

Guide prepared in AIATSIS library

**Contents**

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|------|---|---|
| I.   | Notebook 8; 19/2/1974 : 'dun'gi - somewhere in the Mitchell Ranges'.                      |   |
|      | A. Stories in English with reference to Yolngu people, places and fauna.                  |   |
|      | B. Trip to Yirrkala; personal notes.  | 1 |
| II.  | Rough Notebook no. 1; 2/7/74 - 26/8/74  |   |
|      | A. Genealogical information and tables; kinship and address terminology.                  |   |
|      | B. Notes on burial : ritual and ceremony described; carving and painting of didgeridoos.  |   |
|      | C. Vocabulary lists : moieties labelled.  | 2 |
| III. | Field Notebook (Paintings); 16/7/74 - 28/9/74   |   |
|      | A. Description of various paintings : production techniques / styles and related stories. |   |
|      | B. Genealogical information and tables.   | 3 |
| IV   | Rough Notebook no.2; 27/8/74 - 24/9/74  |   |

- A. Vocabulary; phonological information and pronouns [Gupapuyngu and Djapu]
  - B. Stories [by Mandy Mandulpa / Josephine Barratja]
  - C. Notes from tapes 6, 7 and 8. 4
- V. Notebook no.3; 25/9/74 - 5/11/74
- A. Details of various carvings: style, technique and production.
  - B. Personal details.
  - C. Genealogical information; kinship terminology and clans.
  - D. Yolngu vocabulary; includes bush foods and medicines; small amount of pidgin / kriol text.
  - E. Notes on : 'promise system' [lists names of people 'promised' to one another] ; 'Clan Dreamings' ceremonies. 5
- VI. Notebook 6; 22/10/74 - 6/2/75
- A. Personal notes; camping trip to Gatji Creek : fishing and gathering bush foods.
  - B. Genealogical information and tables [particularly Wulaki and Djinang people].
  - C. Notes on various individuals extent of knowledge and rights of production of [sacred] paintings; information on how individuals learn to paint or carve.
  - D. Details of various painters and carvers employment histories. 6
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- VII. Notebook (7); 7/11/74 - 2/1/75
- A. Lists names of various people working in Yirrkala in offices, shops, school and hospital [includes moieties]

- B. Genealogical information.
  - C. Details on : viewing ceremony; making of paper bark coffin, ceremonial making of bu'yun when someone dies; 'making a pipe'; and childrens games and toys.
  - D. History of Blue Mud Bay [Djarawak people].
  - E. Yolngu vocabulary ; includes : body parts and Yolngu terms for 'winds'. 7
- VIII. Notebook 5; 6/1/75 - 28/1/75 : 'Yan'gardji'
- A. Vocabulary and text with grammatical information. [includes lists of fauna / flora, particularly marine related, in Yolngu]
  - B. Genealogical and biographical information.
  - C. Place names; details of dreaming stories; details of a ceremony : painting designs and dances. 8
- IX. Notebook 7; 6/2/75 - 14/2/75
- A. Biographical information; mainly employment details of painters and carvers.
  - B. Details of paintings and carvings : production, motifs used and their meanings, quality, costs involved and selling prices; details about motifs represented in 'Story about the Emu'; face and body painting.
  - C. Vocabulary; includes list of bird names in Yolngu.
  - D. Yirrkala population count 10/7/74; includes people at Gartalala, Gangan, Baniyala, Gurrumuru, Gurka' wuy, and Djarrakpi. 9
- X. Notebook 8; 16/2/75 - 19/3/75
- A. Lists positions held by various people at schools and outstations; includes details of staff and training undertaken.
  - B. Biographical details of various local painters and carvers.

- C. Vocabulary [some moieties included].
  - D. Outline of 'Book of photographs of bark paintings' [to be produced].
  - E. Personal notes. 10
- XI. Notebook 1a & 2; 2/7/76
- A. Vocabulary list [includes place names]
  - B. Grammatical information
    - i. List of Yolngu suffixes
    - ii. sets of verb classes; irregular sets; tense marking.
  - C. Personal notes.
  - D. Kundalili(ny) Notes [from Howard Morphy] : includes drawings of traditional tools and equipment. 11
- XII. Notebook 1; 4/7/76 - 22/7/76
- A. Grammatical information:
    - i. 'verbs' : eight sets with tense and aspect marking;
    - ii. pronouns and nouns.
  - B. Personal notes.
  - C. Yolngu vocabulary and text [some translation]. 12
- XIII. Notebook [no dates]
- A. Mortuary ceremony : clans involved; details of dances and ceremonies performed.
  - B. Yolngu vocabulary.
  - C. Personal notes and correspondence [letter written by H. Morphy with details about Djunguan burial ceremony]. 13

Related to AIATSIS tape numbers : LA 5623 - LA 5632

NT/N (SD53) - 48/1D, 48/1B, 18T/1C, 20A/2, 12T/2C,  
12T/2D, 48/1E, 20F/3B, 48/1C.

N94.1, N95, N111, N115, N122.1, N123, N137,  
N139, N140, N141, N142, N145 - L