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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Library

Language notes of Father Anthony Rex Peile

MS 4226

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Anthony Rex Peile
Title:	Language notes of Father Anthony Rex Peile
Collection no:	MS 4226
Date range:	Unknown, c.1973-1986
Extent:	0.63 metres (6 boxes) + 3 folio boxes
Repository	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection described in it, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This includes:

Language

Users are warned that this finding aid may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally sensitive and which might not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Terms and descriptions which reflect the author's attitude, or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, and which may be considered inappropriate today in some circumstances, may also be used.

Deceased persons

Users of 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 against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

Materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to access conditions imposed by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Users are advised that access to some materials may be subject to these terms and conditions which the Institute is required to maintain.

Access and use conditions

See introduction to each series in the Series Descriptions of this finding aid for the access conditions for that series.

Copying and quotation

Copying of, and quoting from, unpublished material is subject to the conditions determined by the depositor of the manuscripts. In accordance with the Copyright Act 1968, Section 51, materials are only provided for private research and study.

Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions

Permission from the Literary Executor, Peter Bindon, is required before publication of, or

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extensive quotation, from Fr. Peile's papers. In cases where these permissions are required they must be obtained in writing and must be signed.

Although Manuscripts are not available on Interlibrary loan, they may be available via document supply (photocopying), subject to access conditions, if they are already digitized.

For further information Email Collections Staff or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Language notes of Father Anthony Rex Peile, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 4226, Series [no.], Folder or Item [no.]

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and content note

This series contains manuscripts relating mainly to the Kukatja and other Western desert, languages and people. There are notes on Australian Indigenous languages spoken in the Kimberley, drafts of 'Body and soul: an Aboriginal view', some under its original title 'Good spirit, living cold and dry: a desert Aboriginal physiology and folk medicine', papers relating to a Kukatja dictionary and a photocopy of a draft of 'Australian languages' by Hermann Nekes and Ernest A. Worms.

Provenance

This collection was found at the Wirrimanu (Balgo) rubbish tip by Brother Leo Scollen. It was transferred to the AIATSIS Library by the Father McKelson in 2002. Father McKelson was Executor of the language material, but passed away in November 2011. Peter Bindon is the Literary Executor. Some of the items are water and/or insect damaged.

Arrangement of collection

The arrangement and description of the papers is based on a partial list of contents received with the papers. The listing was compiled by Robin Koning, Wirrimanu (Balgo) on 29 May 1999 and is held in Series 1 of this collection.

Related material

'Catalogue of Father Anthony R. Peile's material', by Hilaire Valiquette, compiled in 1992, in held by the Library at PMS 5022.

A photocopy of Fr Rex Peile's Warayngari field notes is held in the AIATSIS Library at MS 322. For a complete listing of works by and about Fr. Peile held by the Library, and for other related material, consult Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in East Malvern, Victoria, Father Anthony Peile undertook his secondary studies at Xavier College at Kew in Victoria. In May 1949, after a short period employed on the railways, Peile joined the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. He undertook his theological course at Limburg in West Germany, where he was ordained a priest in 1956, after completing his philosophical studies in Melbourne. After a number of short term appointments in the South West of Western

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Australia and in the Kimberley he was appointed to Balgo Hills (Wirrimanu), on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, in 1973 and spent sixteen years there.

Fr. Peile studied the language and environment of the Kukatja people, with his study deepening over the years as he investigated the Kukatja's language concepts in the areas of flora, fauna, botany, herpetology, medicine and other areas. His studies lead to the publication of a number of small monographs and contributions to journals and eventually to *Body and soul: an Aboriginal view* which was not published until 1997, well after Fr. Peile's death in 1989.

Fr. Peile also undertook extensive work on a Kukatja dictionary and sought assistance from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS), now the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in this work.

References:

'Father Anthony Peile SAC', an obituary published in *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, 1989, no. 1, pp. 71-72.

Ray Hevern, 'Fr. Anthony Peile: 25 years a priest', in *Pallotine Family News* 1981, 4, 3-4.

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 Description of papers by Robin Koning

This series consists of 'Papers of Fr Peile found by Br Leo Scollen at the rubbish tip, Wirrimanu (Balgo), 1991: language notes', by Robin Koning, which is a detailed description, compiled in 1999, of part of this collection.

Open access reading, copying and quotation.

1 folder

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Series 2 Notebooks

The notebooks in this series were received in a black binder in which they were housed in foolscap plastic sleeves. The papers have been rehoused in archival folders for better preservation of the material.

Open access reading. Closed copying and quotation – Principal's permission.

Prefer use of photocopies in Peile's, 'Field notes Warayngari', held at MS 322. References to these are included below.

Item

- 1 'Djai (Sunday Island)'. Language words and text with English translations (5 leaves). On page two there is a heading 'Dampier' followed by a small amount of language text. Writing pad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.61-67]
- 2 'Worai-nari' [Waringari] words and phrases with English equivalents (21 leaves). Writing pad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.155-176]
- 3a-3b 'Walmadjari' [Walmajarri / Walmatjarri] language words and phrases with English equivalents. Two volumes. No title written on volume 1. Writing pads. First page of volume 1 is illegible, probably from water damage. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.124-154]
- 4 'Place names Broome'. Words with English equivalents (5 leaves). Language unknown. Writing pad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.177-182]
- 5 'Narinjin' [Ngarinyin / Ungarinyin] words and phrases with English equivalents (4 leaves). Writing pad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.120-123]
- 6 'Gidja [Kija] stories – Ba:d place names'. 'Gidja stories (5 leaves) and Ba:d place names (14 leaves). Writing pad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.1-21]
- 7 'Gwini' [Kwini] words and phrases with English equivalents (9 leaves). Page [8] contains 'Our Father'. Notepad. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.68-76]

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Series 3 Manilla folders

Open access reading. Closed copying and quotation – Principal's permission.

Prefer use of photocopies in Peile's 'Field notes Warayngari' held at MS 322. References to these are included below.

Folder

- 1 Djaru [Jarú] language words and phrases, with English equivalents and some language texts. (11 leaves). Writing pad pages in manilla folder. Not received with collection. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.51-60 is possibly a copy of this item.]
- 2 Djaber-Djaber [Jabirrabirr / Djabera Djabera] words and phrases with English equivalents (30 leaves). Final page has the 'Hail Mary' and what appears to be a Creed. Writing pad pages stapled to manilla folder. Not received with collection. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.22-50 is possibly a copy of this item.]
- 3 'Malnin'. Language words and phrases with English equivalents and some texts (24 pages). Includes reference to 'Tape 2/68'. [Photocopied text held at MS 322 in Peile's Field notes Warayngari, pp.77-119.]

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Series 4 Body and soul

This series contains drafts of Peile's book *Body and soul: an Aboriginal view* (Victoria Park, W.A., Hesperian Press, 1997) which is held by the Library at B P377.51/B1. The early drafts of this work are entitled "Good spirit, living cold and dry: a desert Aboriginal physiology and folk medicine".

Using Kukatja texts, interlinearly glossed, this work gives the Kukatja peoples' views on the body, its functions, health and disease, as a means to aid communication between health workers and Kukatja patients. It describes the life cycle, human body and its functions, health, sickness and its treatment in Kukatja terms and has notes on phonology and grammar.

The Library also holds a manuscript collection of this work under its earlier title, 'Good spirit, living cold and dry: a desert Aboriginal physiology and folk medicine', at MS 3200.

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Folder

- 1-2 'Vol. 1, Old # 1-29' 'Good spirit, cold and dry: the ethno-physiology and folk medicine of the Western Desert tribe. 'First draft only to be revised'. The heavily edited text has been bound using cardboard covers and black tape and includes pages of notes, comments on the draft, correspondence and copies of articles. The detailed comments bound at the beginning of the vol.1, made by 'Richard', may have been made by Richard Moyle who is referred to in the acknowledgements in a later draft. The spelling of the Gudadjja [Kukatja] words in this draft varies from that used in later versions.
- 3-4 'Good spirit, cold and dry: a desert Aboriginal physiology and folk medicine'. Two volumes labelled 'Intro. Sect. A and B, chapters 1 to 32' and 'Sections D E C & F. Chapters 33 – 54'. Edited, with inserts pasted into the volumes. Includes letter taped to inside of front of second volume from The Executive Officer, Publications, AIAS, returning the manuscript and looking forward to receiving a revision. Bound using wide tape and cardboard covers.
- 5 'Body and soul – an Australian Aboriginal view'. Edited. First page has handwritten address of Hesperian Press, a received date stamp of 17 August 1987, note to 'Bill' from Ken Hansen regarding comments made on the language examples and their glosses and a handwritten address for the 'South Aust College of Advanced Education Aboriginal Studies and Teaching Education Centre'. Includes loose letter from 'Pat', Bendigo, 9 September 1999. Bound with tape and cardboard covers.
- 6 Edited manuscript. No title. Commences with 31.3.1. Appears to contain a miscellaneous collection of chapters and comments. Bound, with handwritten inserts, using manilla envelopes and tape.

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Series 5 Dictionary

This series appears to consist mainly of short draft manuscripts of various parts of a Kukatja / English, English / Kukatja dictionary. The papers contain Kukatja words with English translations and, in some manuscripts, include Kukatja sentences showing the use of words, together with English translations. The dictionary is based on work undertaken by Peile for 'Body and soul: an Aboriginal view' (see Series 4).

After Peile contacted David Nash and Jane Simpson from AIAS about this dictionary Adrian Clyne was employed to put the work into dictionary format.

In 1991, after receiving a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training, the Luurnpa Catholic School in Balgo employed Hilaire Valiquette to compile a Kukatja dictionary. Valiquette used the work of both Clyne and Peile, as well as other sources, some of which were other works by Peile, in the compilation of a dictionary which was published in 1993 after a grant from AIATSIS was received. Entitled, A basic Kukatja to English dictionary [Kukatja/English], the dictionary is held by the Library at B V173.78/B1.

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These papers were received in plastic sleeves bound into six volumes numbered no.2 to no.7 on inserted handwritten slips of paper. The papers have been rehoused in archival folders for better preservation of the material. The front and back documents from each sleeve have retained the number of the inserted label of the bound volume with the addition of a, b, c, etc.

This series was not described by Robin Koning (see Series 1).

Reference

Hilaire Valiquette, 'The Kukatja dictionary on disk', in Australian Aboriginal studies, 1994, no.1, pp.27-35

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Folder

- 1 No volume labelled '1' was received
- 2a-2q Includes Kukatja words with English translations, a page on meteorology and some examples of the use of Kukatja words. Some pages edited.
- 3a-3w Includes Kukatja words with English translations, a page on meteorology, some examples of the use of Kukatja words, and words and translations headed, 'Fieldnotes', p.4020'. Some pages edited.
- 4a-4s Includes Kukatja words with English translations, some examples of the use of Kukatja words; 'Towards "The Kukatja and bats"', containing Kukatja words for different types of bat with English descriptions of these bats and Kukatja synonyms; 'Birds – 2doc add on to birds file' and 'Dictionary fieldnotes, p.4020'.
- 5a-5w 'Dictionary - English / Kukatja' (1p.); Kukatja fungi words with brief English description of the fungi; Kukatja words with English translations; 'Body and soul – an Australian Aboriginal view' contents page and list of first pages (Title, dedication etc.); list of Kukatja insect words with English translations; sample entries from dictionary (two entries only); Kukatja words with English translations and examples of use, with English translations, of some words; 'Kukatja terms for numerals, clothing and introduced foods', which is probably an early draft of a section of 'Body and soul'; 'miscellaneous dictionary entries; list of publications, 1972-85', by Peile; and suffix file.
- 6a-6m Kukatja words with English meanings; some sentences in Kukatja showing use of words, with English translations; 'Where has all the jargon'; 'Botany' listing Kukatja word, scientific name, common name, synonyms, use as food, and medical and other uses (items 6f – 6k, 120 leaves); and 'Birds' which lists Kukatja word, scientific name if known and common name if known.

Folder

7a-7k Correspondence; 'Fungi', Kukatja words, scientific and common names with descriptions; 'Insects', Kukatja words with English translation or a descriptions of the insect; Kukatja terms for mammals with scientific and common term synonyms if appropriate, and in some cases descriptions; Kukatja words and English translations; list of Peile's publications, 1972-86; 'Kukatja terms for numerals, clothing and introduced food', which may be an early draft for Body and soul; snakes, and 'Childhood'; and 'Section F Implications for health care delivery' which may be an early draft for Body and soul.

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Series 6 H. Nekes - 'Australian languages'

This series consists of photocopies of a mainly handwritten draft, with some pages typed, in seven volumes, of 'Australian languages' by Hermann Nekes and Ernest A. Worms. It was published In 1951 by the Fribourg:Anthropos-Institut as volume 10 in the 'Micro-Bibliotheca Anthropos' series.

The manuscript includes a photocopy of a December 1935 newspaper article reporting on an interview with Nekes about his plans to further study native languages of the Kimberley, in particular Niol Niol [Nyulnyul / Nyul Nyul] having learnt as much as he could from published material, and about his intention to prepare a dictionary of the languages.

The Library holds papers, preparatory material, and the final draft at MS 27, the original microfilm version at MF 4 and a reproduction from the microfilm at RB N418.46/A1. A handwritten copy is also held at MS 3796.

This series was not described by Robin Koning (see Series 1)

Other works by Nekes can be found by consulting Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

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7 folders in 3 folio boxes

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Finding aid compiled by J. Churches, January 2008; amended by E. Maidment, January 2016.

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