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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MS 5134

**Ken Hale and Wakaya speakers; Central Australian Languages
'shoebox dictionaries'**

Approximately 1959 - 1970

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

- Creators:** Ken Hale, Willie Avon, Fred Rockland
- Title:** Ken Hale and Wakaya speakers; Central Australian Languages 'shoebox dictionaries'
- Collection no:** MS 5134
- Date range:** Approximately 1959 - 1970
- Extent:** 1 box (0.4 metres)
- Repository:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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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 [], Series [], Subseries [], Item or Folder [].

For example:

Wailbry [Warlpiri] to English vocabulary slips, in Ken Hale, Central Australian Languages shoebox dictionaries, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5134, Series 1, Item 3.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

This collection consists of roughly 3200 language cards and slips created by Ken Hale with Wakaya speakers Willie Avon and Fred Rockland, or Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) students under his supervision. Each language slip may contain a word, a phrase or a sentence, and a translation to English. Language slips / language cards are transcribed onto various paper types and sizes. The languages included within the collection are Wakaya/Wabaya [Wakaya], Aranda [Arrernte], Warlpiri, Alyawara [Alyawarr], Lower Aranda [Lower Arrernte], and Western Arrernte.

The cards are separated into either language or word type (noun, verb, transitive verb, etc). This separation is maintained in the arrangement of items, outlined in the Series Description below.

Most language cards in this collection are carbon copies of originals created by Ken Hale. A number of the original cards or slips of paper are extremely fragile and are not available to use. A reference copy has been digitised for research use. The cards have been subject to extensive conservation efforts.

Provenance

The cards were created by Hale with knowledge and input from Willie Avon and Fred Rockland. They were produced from 1959-1961 at the earliest, and during his time at MIT through to the 1970s.

Items 5 and 6 were created by students at MIT under the supervision of Ken Hale.

This collection, although created in Massachusetts, US, was transferred to Alice Springs several years before its deposit with AIATSIS. This deposit was made by Jenny Green and David Nash in 2012.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

Language slips in item 7(a) are numbered *on the front of the slip* by Ken Hale. The numbers are contained in a circle. These numbers correspond to words listed in **Arandic word list** by Ken Hale, PMS 732 / 738 (though they are not numbered in the wordlist, numbers can be found by counting from the first word in the list onwards).

For a complete list of works by Ken Hale, held in the AIATSIS Collection, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

Archivist's note

The language names and spellings used by Ken Hale have been reproduced; the AIATSIS Austlang thesaurus has a different preferred spelling. These have been included in [], eg, Aranda [Arrernte]. Some boxes contain language slips which are upside down and they have been left as is. Some items in this collection are identified as belonging to an unknown hand; they are not the work of Ken Hale, but most likely his students at MIT (knowledge offered by Michael Walsh and David Nash).

Although there are many languages in this collection, it is assumed that collaborators Willie Avon and Fred Rockland assisted with translations in only the Wakaya language, as they are listed on the front of only this group of cards. Collaborators in other languages are not known, if there were any.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ken Hale was born in 1934 in Evanston, Illinois, in the United States. The Hale family moved to Arizona, where Ken completed studies at the University of Arizona. After completing his PhD from the University of Indiana, he moved his immediate family to Australia, initially staying from 1959-61. Alice Springs is where Ken started working on Western Arrernte and Luritja. He became fluent in Warlpiri. He increased his linguistic knowledge of the Arandic languages and eventually his knowledge of many Australian languages.

Research on typologies and theories from the Australian languages perspective by Ken contributed to the subjects of morphology, syntax, semantics, language and culture, and historical linguistics. Languages that Hale worked on according to his field notes and recordings are Warlpiri, Arrernte, Luritja, Pintupi, Pitjantjatjara, Warlmanpa, Arabana, Dieri [Diyari], Alyawara [Alyawarr], Gurindji, Kaititj [Kaytetye], Wambaya, Ngarluma, Wakaya, Lardil, Linngithigh, Wik Ngathr [Wik Ngatharr], and more. (Simpson, Nash, Laughren, Austin and Alpher eds, 2001).

Willie Avon (also known as Willie Clegg) worked with Ken Hale on several Wakaya language resources and is recorded as being from Alexandria Downs, NT. No information is known about Fred Rockland.

References:

Jane Simpson, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin and Barry Alpher eds. 2001. *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*: Pacific Linguistics 512. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Shoebox dictionaries

MS 5134/1 The languages included in the item list below are Wakaya/Wabaya [Wakaya], Aranda [Arrente], Warlpiri, Alyawara [Alyawarr], Lower Aranda [Lower Arrente], and Western Arrente. Each language slip may contain a word or words, a phrase or a sentence, and a translation to English.

Language information is transcribed onto slips and cards of various paper types and sizes.

Item

MS 5134/1/1 Wakaya/Wabaya [Wakaya] vocabulary slips

Language slips containing nouns, verbs or adjectives, and are translated into English words and phrases. Contained within is a section on lexical categories. Named collaborators are Willie Avon and Fred Rockland.

Approximately 340, 5 x 3" white cards.

MS 5134/1/2 Aranda [Arrente] language slips

Language slips handwritten containing noun (N), verb (V), intransitive verb (iV), transitive verb (tV), or preposition (P) and are translated into English words and phrases.

Approximately 760, 5 x 3" fragile flimsy slips, half are originals and half are carbon duplicates of originals held elsewhere. Some slips filed upside down.

MS 5134/1/3 Wailbry [Warlpiri] to English vocabulary slips

Language slips handwritten containing noun (N), verb (V), intransitive verb (iV), transitive verb (tV), or preverb (P).

Approximately 1050, 5 x 3" fragile flimsy slips, a few are originals and most are carbon duplicates of originals held elsewhere. Some sections are filed upside down.

MS 5134/1/4 Warlpiri vocabulary slips

Language slips handwritten containing noun (N), verb (V), adjective (A), transitive (tV) or intransitive verb (iV).

Approximately 220, 5 x 3" original fragile slips.

MS 5134/1/5 Lower Aranda [Lower Arrente] language cards

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Alphabetical index cards inscribed with Lower Aranda words, sample phrases or sentences which are tagged with 'UR' (*ur-*) then 'UT' (*ut-*), respectively. Card list continues unmarked alphabetically with words starting at *walye* 'wattle leaf, or from other bush', and ending with *yu tye* 'tail'.

Approximately 150 index cards, 5 x 8".

MS 5134/1/6 Alyawara [Alyawarr] language cards

Alphabetical index cards inscribed with words and sample phrases / sentences tagged, starting with 'P' *pantyey* 'wife's brother' also includes tagged section beginning at 'W', and ends with the word *yurre* 'to stop'.

Approximately 230 index cards, 5 x 8".

MS 5134/1/7 Arandic language slips (2 sets)

(a) Language slips, approx. 300, 9 x 6.5". Each contains an English word, eg. 'eye' and is translated into several local varieties of Arandic with examples such as, *ula* (K), *alNa* (AK), *alNi*, *Anṅaṅi*, and represented by capital letter(s) K (Kaiditj) [Kaytetye], Al (Alyawara or Iliaura) [Alyawarr], EA, AU, WA, SA, NA, PRA, GH or NH.

This item is divided into nine parts, one containing fragile and unnumbered slips, and eight others containing numbered slips in groups of 50.

(b) Language slips, approx. 50, 5 x 3" fragile flimsy slips containing noun (N), verb (V), intransitive verb (iV), transitive verb (tV), or preposition (P) which are translated into English words and phrases.

BOX LIST

Series	Folder/Item	Box
1	1 - 7	1

Finding aid compiled by R Smith, M Walsh and A Schilling, completed February 2020.

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