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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MS 1188

Australia Post, material relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks.

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Australia Post, Historical section
Title:	Australia Post, material relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks.
Collection no:	MS 1188
Date range:	1940-1974
Extent:	1 volume
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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

Access and use conditions

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Items 2 and 3 are: Open access reading. Open copying and quotation.

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:

Australia Post, material relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 1188, Series 1, item 1.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

This material originates from Australia Post, Historical section Brisbane and consists of facsimile copies (photocopies also made by archivist) of correspondence, newspaper cuttings, journal articles and other papers relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks.

Provenance

Material was copied from originals in Brisbane.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated.

Related material

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

For access to Audiovisual material contact AIATSIS [Collections](#).

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our [sensitivity message](#).

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS /SUBJECT HEADINGS

Communications – Message sticks

Communications – Non verbal - Smoke signals

Technology – Stone

Brisbane

Queensland Gulf Country

Queensland Far North West

Western Australia

Northern Territory

Archivists note

This finding aid has been retyped to meet current standards (June 2020). The material is housed in a 'springback' folder and consisted of facsimile copies. Photocopies have been made and these are housed beside the original folder.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1. Correspondence, newspaper cuttings, journal articles & other papers

Items

[Access and use for item 1: Open access reading. Closed copying and quotation, Chief Executive Officer's permission]

MS 1188. Australia Post, material relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks

- MS 1188/1/1 Correspondence regarding Aboriginal smoke signals.
- a. Letter from W.J.E. Watson, District Inspector, Charters Towers, to A.G. Lund, Superintendent, Postal Services, 15 Sep. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - b. Letter from A.G. Lund to W.J.E. Watson, 26 Sep. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - c. Letter from V.M. Nagle, Acting District Inspector, Charters Towers to A.G. Lund, 2 Oct. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - d. Letter from E.A. Olds, Postmaster, Burketown to W.J.E. Watson, 13 Nov. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - e. Letter from W.J.E. Watson to A.G. Lund, 16 Nov. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - f. Letter from W.J.E. Watson to A.G. Lund, 1 Dec. 1950, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)
 - g. Letter from W.J.E. Watson to A.G. Lund, 2 Jan. 1951, enclosing letter from Robert Gunther, Monkira Station, dated 18 Dec. 1950, 2 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)

[Access and use for items 2 and 3: Open access reading. Open copying and quotation.]

MS 1188/1/2 [Terry, Michael. Smoke talk]: the primitive Australian smoke signal system is the best in the world. *People*, Oct. 1961: 7-9. Photocopy, incomplete. Also published in *War of the Warramullas*, by Michael Terry, Adelaide, Rigby, 1974

MS 1188/1/3 Smoke signals. 1 clipping

[Access conditions for items 4 to 13: Open access reading. Closed copying and quotation, Chief Executive Officer's permission]

MS 1188/1/4 Letter from W.J.E. Watson to A.G. Lund, 7 Dec. 1950, enclosing letter to E.A. Olds concerning message sticks, 1 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)

MS 1188/1/5 Aboriginal message sticks, Queensland Museum Display, Apr. 1970, 3 L. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/6 Stone age artefacts. APO, Feb./Mar. 1970:32, 2 pls. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/7 He's getting the message. Courier mail, 8 May 1970, illus. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/8 Mailmen who delivered Abo's [Aboriginals] message sticks. Truth, 12 Feb. 1956, illus. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/9 Detailed description of so-called "letter" or "message" sticks. Appendix to North Queensland, *Ethnography Bulletin*, no. 8, by W.E. Roth, 4 L. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/10 Warning by message stick. Courier Mail, 19 Sep. 1974: 3, illus. Photocopy

MS 1188/1/11 Some Aboriginal myths and legends, by Kidjurrigin, n.d., 4 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)

MS 1188. Australia Post, material relating to Aboriginal smoke signals and message sticks

MS 1188/1/12 Letter from W.J.E. Watson to A. G. Lund, 12 Dec. 1950; with enclosure from F.H. Crombie to W.J.E. Watson, 5 Dec. 1950, 2 L. Typescript. (Photocopy)

MS 1188/1/13 Early communications: [extract from early Darling Downs mail system and telegraph. Toowoomba, McDonald & Rosbrook, 1940], 1 L. Typescript and holograph (Photocopy)

File numbers: (1)-(10)-2/6; (11)-2/3(4); (12)-2/5(1); (13)-2/5(2)

BOX LIST

Series	Folder/Item	Volume
1	1-13	1

Finding aid updated by Cathy Zdanowicz, June 2020

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