

PETERSON

MS 2039

Papers of Douglas Albert Peterson

FINDING AID

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Updated April 2005

CONTENTS

	Page
ACCESS	3
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	3
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	3
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS	4
Series 1 Diaries, 1952-55	4
Series 2 Official correspondence, 1951-55	4
Series 3 Personal correspondence, 1952-55	5
BOX LIST	6

ACCESS

Series 1: Open access- reading. Partial copying & use. Not for Inter-library loan

Series 2 & 3: Open access – reading. Closed copying and quotation. Not for Inter-library loan.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date range: 1951-1955

Extent: 0.27 metres (2 boxes)

This collection of photocopies of diaries and correspondence relating to the Methodist Overseas Missions of Milingimbi and Croker Island (island missions 500km east and 220km northeast of Darwin respectively) was deposited in the AIATSIS Library by Douglas and Hazel Peterson in November 1984.

Included in the collection is an official diary (1953) and a personal notebook describing aspects of daily life in the Methodist Overseas Mission at Milingimbi. There is also official correspondence covering mission problems, supplies and staff relations, loading lists and accounts.

Related pictorial material has been lodged with the Audiovisual Archives and can be located at the following numbering. To access this and any other audiovisual material contact the [Audiovisual Archives](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ava/index.htm) at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ava/index.htm>

NT/N (SD.54)	36/2A Milingimbi, 36/3A Methodist Overseas Missions, 24/6B, 24/6P, 16C/1C, 52/7, 46/4S, 18C/5B, 46/4B
NT/N (SC.54)	36/2A Croker Island, 24/6B, 16C/1C, 14AC/7
N.122.1 - L	

For a complete listing of material by or about the Methodist Overseas Missions in Australia, held by the Institute, consult the Institute's [Mura® online catalogue](http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au) at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Douglas Albert Peterson was a lay worker for the Methodist Overseas Missions, at Milingimbi (1952-1954) and Croker Island (1954-1955). His duties at the missions included management of the store and farm.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 Diaries, 1952-55

This series comprises photocopies of two diaries.

Open access – reading. Partial copying and use.

Folder

- 1 Diary notes in 'Wood's Australian Diary for 1953' written in Milingimbi from 1 January to 15 October 1953. Covers:-
 - Daily routine of mission: construction and maintenance of buildings, farm management, store rationing
 - Work relations with mission Aborigines and names of confrontations and disciplinary measures
 - Medical details - births, deaths, accidents and wounds inflicted, incidents of Hansen's disease (Leprosy)
 - Translation of Sunday morning service, church duties
 - Miscellaneous [loose leaf] notes including typescript poem
- 2 Personal diary notebook giving a record of impressions and experiences in Darwin, September-October 1952, and Croker Island (including disputes), November 1954-July 1955

Series 2 Official correspondence, 1951-55

This series includes photocopies of original handwritten official correspondence from 1951 to 1955. See Series 3 for personal correspondence.

Open access – reading. Closed copying and quotation.

Folder

- 1 Official correspondence in 'Copy-Write Pen Carbon Book' covering mission problems, supplies and staff relations, with some copies of loading lists and accounts.

Includes letters from Douglas Peterson to:

- Edgar Wells - 23/10/52, 18/8/54, 17/4/55, 6/6/55

- Keith Dentith, Business Manager MOM - 24/10/52, 1/11/52, 5/11/52, 13/11/52, 3/12/52, 9/12/52, 29/12/52, 7/4/53, 10/6/53, 11/8/53
- Rev. Arthur Ellemor, Chairman MOM - 24/10/52, 31/10/52, 5/11/52, 13/11/52, 29/3/53, 5/5/53, 12/5/53, 20/6/53, 21/7/53, 11/9/53, 1/12/53
- Sheperdon (Sheppy) - 5/11/52
- Frank Johncock - 25/11/52
- Alf Ellemor 25/11/52, 29/12/52
- Manager, Burns Philp - 7/4/53
- Gribble - 24/10/52, 21/7/53, 22/8/54
- Sweeney - 13/11/52

Includes letters to Douglas Peterson from:

- Gribble - 10/8/53
- Rev. Ellemor - 18/7/53
- Alf Ellemor - 26/11/53
- Edgar Wells - 18/4/55
- Harry Bendict - 7/4/55, including several letters in Gupapuyngu language of mission Aborigines
- Table of salaries and allowance of missionaries

Series 3 Personal correspondence, 1952-55

This series includes photocopies of personal handwritten letters and typescript copies of letters from Douglas Peterson and his wife Hazel while they were living at the mission stations of Milingimbi and/or Croker Island with their three young children. The bulk of the letters are sent to Douglas Peterson's mother with a small number sent to other Peterson family members. The series also includes a few letters received by Douglas Peterson.

The correspondence includes descriptions of the domestic and official life on mission; rough sketches of buildings and island layout; details of agricultural pursuits, diet, family development and activities; Aboriginal tribal ways, diet, rations, offences and disciplinary measures; reference to pressure from mainland Aborigines on mission Aborigines; marriages of Aborigines conducted in church; arrivals and departures of

mission staff; and letter from Beulah Lowe describing the preparation of an Aboriginal dance group from the mission for the Queen's visit to Toowoomba, 1954 and events on the day.

Open access – reading. Closed copying and quotation.

Folder

- 1 1952 letters sent
- 2-4 1953 letters sent
- 5-7 1954 letters sent
- 8-9 1955 letters sent

BOX LIST

Box	Series	Folder
1	1	1-2
	2	1
	3	1-6
2	3	7-9

Guide updated by J. Phillips February 2000. Updated April 2005