



Finding aid

BNA_01

**Sound recordings collected by
Alfred C. Haddon, 1898**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by [email](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

Restrictions on use

This collection is open for copying to those who have obtained permission from the Chief Executive Officer of AIATSIS. Permission must be sought from the relevant Indigenous community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1898

Extent: 5 sound reels : analogue, mono.

Production history

These recordings were collected on a Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to the Torres Strait and the South Pacific in 1898 which was led by Professor A.C. Haddon. The recordings were transferred to magnetic tape from wax cylinders by the British Institute of Recorded Sound in 1978. The collection features songs and speech from Mer / Murray Island, Mabuiag / Jarvis Island, Saibai Island, Tudu Island and Iama / Yam Island. Songs and speech from Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Brunei also appear within this collection. Performers and speakers include Gasu, Ulai, Billy Gasu, Wanu, Joe Brown, Mikul, Wap, Gemetu, Animab, Kinaur, Gizu Marrget, Bui(?), Guwul(?), Maino, Pauna, Jack George, Waria, Jack Assaii, Keken Nubora, S. Minami, K. Fujita, Siat and unidentified participants. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS in 1979.

RELATED MATERIAL

Important: before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

Audition sheets, compiled by the musicologist Alice Moyle, for this collection are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 2125](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by A. C. Haddon and audition sheets

prepared by Alice Moyle.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
009200	Field Tape 1	Songs from Torres Strait performed by Gasu, Ulai, Wanu and unidentified males
009201A 009201B 009202	Field Tape 2	Songs from Torres Strait performed by Wanu, Ulai, Joe Brown, Mikul, Wap and unidentified males
009203A 009203B	Field Tape 3	Songs from Torres Strait and Papua New Guinea performed by Gemetu, Kinaur, Gizu, Bui(?), Guwul(?), Maino, Pauna and unidentified males
009204A 009204B	Field Tape 4	Songs and narratives from Torres Strait performed by Jack George, Waria, Jack Assai and unidentified males; songs from Borneo, Brunei and Kiwai
009205A 009205B	Field Tape 5	Songs from Torres Strait performed by Keken Nubora, S. Minami, K. Fujita; songs from Papua New Guinea and Samoa

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Field Tape 1

Performer/speaker(s):	Gasu, Ulai, Billy Gasu, unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Drum
Language/people:	Torres Strait Islanders
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by A.C. Haddon

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_01-009200	00:00:00	A1, A2: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Gasu and an unidentified male.	1898	Torres Strait Islands, Qld
	00:05:45	A3, A4: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Ulai, Wanu and Gasu accompanied by drums.		Mer / Murray Island, Qld
	00:10:55	A5, A7: Songs from Torres Strait performed by unidentified males.		Mer / Murray Island, Qld
	00:15:30	A8, A9: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Billy Gasu and Ulai.		Mer / Murray Island, Qld
	00:20:55	A10, A11, A12: Songs from Torres Strait performed by unidentified males.		Mer / Murray Island, Qld
	00:27:33	End of 1 and end of BNA_01-009200.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field Tape 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Wanu, Ulai, Joe Brown, Mikul, Wap, unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Drum
Language/people:	Torres Strait Islanders
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05), Mabuiag / Jervis Island (Qld TSI SC54-07), Saibai Island (Qld TSI SC54-08)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Alfred Haddon. The recordings on BNA_01-009202 are the same as those that appear in BNA_01-009201B. It is a 'flat' copy that may be clearer in some respects [from audition sheets prepared by Alice Moyle]

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_01-009201A	00:00:00	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Wanu, Ulai, Joe Brown and an unidentified male.	1898	Torres Strait Islands, Qld
	00:14:43	B7: Songs performed by an unidentified male accompanied by drum.		
	16:36:00	B8, B9: Songs performed by unidentified males		
	00:21:16	B10: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Ulai, Joe Brown and unidentified males.		
	00:28:07	End of BNA_01-009201A.		
BNA_01-009201B	00:00:00	C32, C52, C53, C54, C55, C56, C57, C57a, C58: Songs from Mabuiag, including wailing, performed by unidentified males.		Mabuiag Island, Qld
	00:23:20	C59: Wailing performed by Mikul.		
	00:26:40	C60: Song performed by Wap of Saibai.		Saibai Island, Qld
	00:29:35	End of 2 and end of BNA_01-009201B.		
BNA_01	00:00:00	C32, C52, C53, C54, C55, C56, C57,		Mabuiag Island, Qld

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
-009202		C57a, C58: Songs from Mabuiag, including wailing, performed by unidentified males.		
	00:23:20	C59: Wailing performed by Mikul.		
	00:26:40	C60: Song performed by Wap of Saibai.		Saibai Island, QLD
	00:29:35	End of 2 and end of BNA_01-009202.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field Tape 3

Performer/speaker(s):	Gemetu, Animab, Kinaur, Gizu Marrget, Bui(?), Guwul(?), Maino, Pauna and unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Drum
Language/people:	Torres Strait Islanders, Papuan languages
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05), Saibai Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Mabuig / Jervis Island (Qld TSI SC54-07), Iama / Yam Island (Qld TSI SC54-08), Tudu Island / Warrior Islet (Qld TSI SC54-08), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by A.C. Haddon

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_01-009203A	00:00:00	C61, C62, C63, C64: songs from Saibai performed by Gemetu, Kinaur and Aimab.	1898	Saibai Island, Qld
	00:08:40	C65: Songs from Mabuig performed by Gizu Marrget.		Mabuig Island, Qld
	00:11:12	C66: Song from Torres Strait performed by Bui(?)		Torres Strait Islands, Qld
	00:13:45	C67, C68, C69, C70, C71, C72: Kiwai songs performed by Guwul(?) and unidentified males accompanied by drums.		Kiwai Island, PNG
	00:25:51	End of BNA_01-009203A.		
BNA_01-009203B	00:00:00	C73: Kiwai songs performed by an unidentified male.		Kiwai Island, PNG
	00:02:52	C74: Song from Torres Strait performed by an unidentified male.		Torres Strait Islands, Qld
	00:05:25	C75: Funeral song from Tudu performed by an unidentified male.		Tudu Island, Qld
	00:08:09	C76, C77: Songs from Yam Island performed by unidentified male		Iama / Yam Island, Qld
	00:13:02	C78: Song from Mowatta performed by an unidentified male.		Mowatta, PNG
	00:15:27	C103: Songs from Murray Island		Mer / Murray Island,

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		performed by an unidentified male accompanied by drum.		Qld
	00:24:39	End of 3 and end of BNA_01-009203B.		
RETURN TO ITEM LIST				
Prepared January by SL Last updated 10 November 2016				

Field Tape 4

Performer/speaker(s):	Jack George, Waria, Jack Assai, unidentified males
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Percussion – Drum, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Narratives,
Language/people:	Torres Strait Islanders, Papuan languages
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05), Mabuiag / Jarvis Island (Qld TSI SC54-07), Saibai Island (Qld TSI SC54-08)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by A.C. Haddon

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_01-009204A	00:00:00	C106, C107, C108, C109, C111, C113, C117: Songs from Mer performed by Jack George and unidentified males, some accompanied by drum.	1898	Mer / Murray Island, Qld
	00:16:18	C1: Brunei song performed by unidentified male.		Brunei
	00:18:16	C2: Song from Kiwai Island performed unidentified male accompanied by drum.		Kiwai Island (PNG)
	00:20:54	C3, C7, C8: Mabuiag song and narratives with Waria and unidentified males.		Mabuiag, Qld
	00:28:12	C9: Kadayan song performed by Siat.		Brunei
	00:30:30	End of BNA_01-009204A.		
BNA_01-009204B	00:00:00	C10: Conversation in Torres Strait language between two unidentified males.		Mabuiag, Qld
	00:02:36	C12: Jack Assai speaks of Saibai.		Saibai Island, Qld
	00:05:19	End of 4 and end of BNA_01-009204A.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field Tape 5

Performer/speaker(s):	Keken Nubora, S. Minami, K. Fujita, Gasu
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people:	Torres Strait Islanders, Papuan languages
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by A.C. Haddon

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_01-009205A	00:00:00	C13, C14: Songs from Torres Strait performed by Keken Nubora and Gasu	1898	Torres Strait Islands, Qld
	00:04:29	C16, C17, C18, C19, C22: Some speech; songs performed by S. Minami, K. Fujita and unidentified males.		
	00:17:58	C25, C26, C28, C29: Prayers and songs from Papua New Guinea and Samoa.		PNG, Samoa
	00:28:07	C31: Song performed in unidentified language by unidentified male.		
	00:30:42	End of BNA_01-009205A.		
BNA_01-009205B	00:00:00	C32: Band music played by unidentified performers.		
	00:02:36	End of 5 and end of BNA_01-009205B.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)