



Finding aid

BRYSON_I01

**Sound recordings collected by
Ian Bryson, 1995**

ACCESS

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1995

Extent: 8 audiocassettes (approximately 60 min. each)

Production history

Interviews with people closely involved with the AIAS Film Unit. Interviews conducted in 1995 by Ian Bryson in conjunction with his Masters thesis; interviewees are Jeremy Beckett, Curtis Levy, Peter Hamilton, Robert Edwards, Nicolas Peterson, Kenneth Maddock and Roger Sandall. This research was commissioned by AIATSIS and formed the basis of the publication *Bringing to Light*. This collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 12 November 1996.

RELATED MATERIAL

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Transcriptions and translations of this material are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 3725](#). [Bringing to Light: a history of ethnographic filmmaking at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#), the book by Ian Bryson, partially based on these recordings, is held in the AIATSIS Library. For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®. To conduct a search of available audio finding aids, please [click here](#).

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was created at a time when AIATSIS only has 8 field tapes of the total set of 21 tapes.

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Ian Bryson and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
034171 034172	<u>Field tape 1</u>	Oral history interview with anthropologist Jeremy Beckett discussing his role in the Sydney University film unit.
034173 034174	<u>Field tape 2</u>	Oral history interview with film maker Curtis Levy discussing his work with AIAS.
034175	<u>Field tape 3</u>	Oral history interview with administrator Peter Hamilton discussing ethnographic film making in Australia
034176 034177	<u>Field tape 4</u>	Oral history interview with administrator Peter Hamilton discussing ethnographic film making in Australia
034178 034179	<u>Field tape 5</u>	Oral history interview with administrator Robert Edwards about Rock engraving and ethnographic film making in Australia
034180	<u>Field tape 6</u>	Oral history interview with anthropologist Nicolas Peterson discussing ethnographic film making in Australia
034181 034182	<u>Field tape 7</u>	Oral history interviews with anthropologist Kenneth Maddock and film maker Roger Sandall, discussing ethnographic film making in Australia
034183 034184	<u>Field tape 8</u>	Oral history interview with film maker Roger Sandall discussing his work with AIAS

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Field tape 1

Performer/speaker(s):	Jeremy Beckett
Personal subject(s):	Cecil Holmes, Wolfgang Laade, Margaret Lawrie, George Mye, Senator Alexander Lawrie, Derek Freeman, Grahame Lawson, William (Bill) Geddes, Tom Hutchens, Peter Hamilton, Michael Allen, Roger Sandall, Peter Lawrence, Richard Wright, John Barnes, Alan Burt, D. W. McElwain, Peter Ucko, Frederick McCarthy, Frances Calvert, Barry Scott, Ian Dunlop, David MacDougall, Judith MacDougall, Sandra Holmes, Cathy Gilham< Budd Jackson, Jimmy Stevens, Tom Keifer, Linda Connor, Sharon Bell
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic, Anthropology - Theory and criticism, Politics and Government,
Language/people:	Warlpiri people (C15), Gurindji people (C20),
Places:	Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05), Sydney University, Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55),
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034171	00:00:00	Jeremy Beckett talks about his collaboration with Wolfgang Laade and Cecil Holmes.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:05:02	Jeremy Beckett talks about the Sydney University film unit.		
	00:15:13	Jeremy Beckett discusses the relationship between the Institute and university academics with specialised interests in Aboriginal Studies.		
	00:21:12	Jeremy Beckett talks about the restructuring of AIAS and the demise of the Film Production Advisory Committee.		
	00:27:52	Jeremy Beckett talks of historically significant Torres Strait Islander films.		
	00:31:21	End of BRYSON_I01-034171.		
BRYSON_I01-034172	00:00:00	Jeremy Beckett reflects upon ethnographic film making in Australia.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:18:16	Jeremy Beckett talks about the storage and archiving of film at the Sydney University film Unit.		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
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00:21:19	End of field tape 1 and end of BRYSON_I01-034172.			
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[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 2	
Performer/speaker(s):	Curtis Levy
Personal subject(s):	Nicolas Peterson, Curtis Levy, Pat O'Shane, Ned Lander, Rachael Perkins, Reg Ansett, Lord Snowdon, Brian Gore, Max Gilles, Tony Tuckson, Peter Luck, Dick Roughsey, Percy Trezise, Humphrey Fisher, Bob Edwards, Steven Muecke, John Von Sturmer, Edmund Kennedy, Ian Dunlop, David Bradbury, Albert Namatjira, Keith Namatjira, Peter Ucko, Galarrwuy Yunupingu
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic, Entertainment – Film, Ceremonies
Language/people:	Kayardild / Kaiadilt people (G35)
Places:	Melbourne (Vic SJ55-05), Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55), Bentinck Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-02), Ntaria / Hermannsburg (South Central NT SF53-13)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034173	00:00:00	Curtis Levy talks about his recent film making activities.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:07:34	Curtis Levy talks about how he became involved in film making and how he came to work for AIAS		
	00:18:00	Curtis Levy talks in detail about his work for AIAS and the work of other ethnographic film makers.		
	00:30:50	End of BRYSON_I01-034173.		
BRYSON_I01-034174	00:00:00	Curtis Levy talks about his film <i>Lurrugu</i> in the context of the change in focus in ethnographic film making in Australia in the 1970s.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:13:33	Curtis Levy talks about some of the politics associated with making films in the 1970s and 80s and about Aboriginal people at that time.		
	00:21:15	Curtis Levy talks about his AIAS film <i>Sons of Namatjira</i> and matters related to the making of this film.		
	00:27:43	End of field tape 2 and end of BRYSON_I01-034174.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 3

Performer/speaker(s):	Peter Hamilton
Personal subject(s):	David MacDougall, William Wentworth, William E. H. Stanner, William (Bill) Geddes, Theodor Strehlow, Cecil Holmes, A.P.Elkin, La Mont West, Rhys Jones, Betty Jones, Keith Gow, Ian Dunlop, Vladimir Petrov, Charles Boyer, Alan Stout, John Heyer, Martha Ansara,
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic
Language/people:	English
Places:	Aurukun (Qld NW Cape York SD54-07), Papua New Guinea (PNG)
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034175	00:00:00	Peter Hamilton talks about the early days of the AIAS film unit, priorities, cultural shifts, political factors.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:07:56	Peter Hamilton talks about key figures in the formation of the Institute and the structural evolution that gave rise to a dedicated film unit.		
	00:12:45	Peter Hamilton talks about his connections to the radical left wing film culture in Australia and his work recording and promoting Australian folk and indigenous music.		
	00:26:24	Peter Hamilton talks about Cecil Holmes' communist party affiliations and the Committee of the NSW Film Council.		
	00:30:39	End of field tape 3 and end of BRYSON_I01-034175.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 4	
Performer/speaker(s):	Peter Hamilton
Personal subject(s):	Harold White, Edgar Walters, David Donaldson, John Metcalfe, Ray Sheridan, Trevor Jones, Dougie Young, Alice Moyle, Ian Dunlop, Roger Sandall, Annette Hamilton, John Collier, George P. Murdock, Peter Ucko, William Geddes, George P. Murdock, Frederick McCarthy, LaMont West, Baldwin Spencer, Cecil Holmes, Sandra Holmes, Theodor Strehlow, A. P. Elkin
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic, Entertainment – Film, Musicology – Ethnomusicology, Politics and Government,
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda people (C8), Pitjantjatjara people (C6)
Places:	Papua New Guinea (PNG), Arnhem Land (NT), Aurukun map area (Qld NW Cape York SD54-07)
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034176	00:00:00	Peter Hamilton talks about his education and background in architecture, fine art and film.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:17:19	Peter Hamilton talks about his record label <i>Wattle Records</i> dedicated to Australian folk and indigenous music.		
	00:26:25	Peter Hamilton talks about setting up the ethnographic film unit at Sydney University and the early days of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies under Frederick McCarthy.		
	00:31:06	End of BRYSON_I01-034176.		
BRYSON_I01-034177	00:00:00	Peter Hamilton talks about the formation of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, his dismissal from the Sydney University film unit and his move to the Architecture faculty.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:07:16	Peter Hamilton talks about his research into Aboriginal housing.		
	00:16:47	Peter Hamilton talks about the objectives and priorities in the early days of the film unit.		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
	00:23:06	Discussion about the 'pre-Institute' period of Aboriginal studies in Australia with particular reference to the anthropologist A. P. Elkin.		
	00:25:40	Peter Hamilton talks about the protocols around film deposits in the early days of the institute.		
	00:29:09	End of field tape 4 and end of BRYSON_I01- 034177.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 5	
Performer/speaker(s):	Robert Edwards
Personal subject(s):	C. P. Mountford, Gordon Ragellson, Sir Douglas Mawson, Thomas Campbell, John Mulvaney, Norman Tindale, Jack Golson, J. B. Cleland, Ian Dunlop, Murray Barrett, Roger Sandall, Nicolas Peterson, William Geddes, Cecil Holmes, Richard Wright, Alan Thorne, Peter Hamilton, Nicolas Peterson, Nugget Coombes, Jean Battersby, Jennifer Isaacs, T. G. H. Strehlow, Ronald Berndt, Peter Ucko, Rod Adamson, Sandra Holmes, Bob Raymond, A. P. Elkin.
Subject keywords:	Anthropology, Art - Rock art – Engraving, Film – Ethnographic, Politics and Government,
Language/people:	Pitjantjatjara people (C6),
Places:	Panaramitee (SE SA SI54-02), Ingaladdi (Willeroo, North NT SD52-16), Arnhem Land (NT), Yuendumu (South Central NT SF52-12), Ruguri (South Central NT SF52-12), Ngama (South Central NT SF52-12), Cleland Hills (South Central NT SF52-16), Nullarbor Plain (SE WA, Far West SA SH51, SH52, SI52), Kimberley area (WA SD51, SD52, SE51, SE52), Kakadu National Park (NT SD53-01, SD53-05), Koonalda Cave (Far West SA Nullarbor SH52-15), Kow Swamp (N Vic SI55-13), Preminghana / Mount Cameron West (NW Tas SK55-03)
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034178	00:00:12	Robert Edwards talks about his current work, his lifelong interest in Aboriginal people and culture and his involvement from a young age in archaeological expeditions to document Aboriginal rock art.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:11:18	Robert Edwards discusses the early days of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. He describes how he came to be involved and outlines the institute's priorities and some of the major projects that were undertaken.		
	00:16:00	Robert Edwards talks about his role with the Museum of South Australia and the administrative structure of the Institute (AIAS) and the formation of a dedicated film unit.		
	00:20:30	Robert Edwards talks about the role		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
	00:32:33	of the Film Production Advisory Committee at AIAS and reflects upon its effectiveness. End of BRYSON_I01- 034178.		
BRYSON_I01-034179	00:00:00	Robert Edwards talks about the Film Production Advisory Committee, the creation of material that has since become restricted, the editorial influence of the committee and its dissolution.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:09:29	Robert Edwards talks about a radical shift in thinking around Aboriginal policy and reflects on his role in the formation of the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council.		
	00:16:27	Robert Edwards talks about his own film making with reference to relevant collaborators.		
	00:24:46	Robert Edwards talks about the Australian Archives Act and the ease / difficulty of accessing records from the archives at Sydney University as opposed to those at AIATSIS.		
	00:32:21	End of field tape 5 and end of BRYSON_I01- 034179.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 6

Performer/speaker(s):	Nicolas Peterson
Personal subject(s):	Baldwin Spencer, F. J. Gillen, Roger Sandall, Ned Lander, Ian Dunlop, Chris Gregory, Kim McKenzie, Gough Whitlam, Cecil Holmes
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic, Film - Film making, Ceremonies, Anthropology, Politics and Government
Language/people:	Warlpiri people (C15),
Places:	Ruguri (South Central NT SF52-12), Ngama (South Central NT SF52-12),
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034180	00:00:00	Nicolas Peterson talks about his collaboration with Roger Sandall making a series of films documenting traditional Aboriginal ceremonies.	1995	Canberra, ACT
	00:17:42	Nicolas Peterson talks about his collaboration with Institute colleague Kim McKenzie on a 19 minute public distribution version of the Roger Sandall film <i>Walbiri Fire Ceremony – Ngatjakula</i> (1977).		
	00:23:23	End of field tape 6 and end of BRYSON_I01- 034180.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 7

Performer/speaker(s):	Kenneth Maddock, Roger Sandall
Personal subject(s):	Cecil Holmes, William Geddes, Ian Dunlop, Sandra Holmes, Yirawala, Ruth Benedict, William Wentworth, Robert Menzies, Roger Sandall, David MacDougall, Judith MacDougall, Timothy Asch, John Marshall, Richard Leacock, Peter Hamilton, Gary Kildea, Frederick McCarthy, Nicolas Peterson, A. P. Elkin, Stephen Wild, Lothar Jagst, Jeremy Long, Jayasinhji Jhala
Subject keywords:	Film – Ethnographic, Film - Film making, Ceremonies, Anthropology, Politics and Government
Language/people:	Yolngu people (NT SD53), Warlpiri people Ngalia (C15) (NT SF52-12), Gurindji people (C20) (NT SE52-08),
Places:	Croker Island (West Arnhem Land NT SC53-13), Beswick (NT Top End Upper Roper SD53-09), Arnhem Land (NT),
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034181	00:00:12	Kenneth Maddock discusses the Cecil Holmes film <i>The Lorrkun Ceremony of Croker Island</i> (1964) and talks about his involvement as the consulting anthropologist. Includes discussion of Sandra Holmes' connection to the Croker Island community.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:12:41	Kenneth Maddock talks about how the broader political context was affecting priorities at the Institute in the mid-1960s.		
	00:14:42	Kenneth Maddock talks about how the Lorrkun ceremony could only be performed when the bones of the deceased were available.		
	00:17:00	Broad discussion about the Institute's film making program in the 1960s and 70s with reference to key figures Roger Sandall, David and Judith MacDougall.		
	00:23:22	Kenneth Maddock talks about how songs and other elements are common to different Aboriginal ceremonies across Arnhem Land.		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
	00:25:54	End of BRYSON_I01- 034181.		
BRYSON_I01-034182	00:00:09	Interview with Roger Sandall begins with a discussion about his education in Anthropology and Film Studies. Includes a discussion of Sandall's early documentary film influences.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:05:54	Roger Sandall talks about how he came to work at the Institute and outlines his ideology as an ethnographic film maker.		
	00:11:59	Wide-ranging discussion in which Roger Sandall considers his work in relation to the work of others and touches on the musical component of Aboriginal ceremonies.		
	00:18:05	Roger Sandall talks about the lack of resources at the Institute and how for this reason his films were never properly documented from an anthropological point of view.		
	00:22:45	Roger Sandall talks about a number of anthropologists that he collaborated with in the period he worked at the Institute.		
	00:25:00	Roger Sandall talks about factors that lead to his departure from the Institute and his subsequent career interests.		
	00:30:18	End of field tape 7 and end of BRYSON_I01- 034182.		

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

Field tape 8

Performer/speaker(s):	Roger Sandall
Personal subject(s):	Jayasinhji Jhala, David MacDougall, Akira Kurosawa, Robert Gardner, Gianfranco Rosi, John Marshall, Ian Dunlop, Richard Tucker, Nicolas Peterson, Robert Drew, C. P. Mountford, Wolfgang Laade, Frederick McCarthy, Jeremy Long, Coniston Johnny, Bryan Bowman, Tim Asch
Subject keywords:	Anthropology, Film - Film making, Film – Ethnographic, Ceremonies,
Language/people:	Pintupi people (C10) (NT SF52-11), Warlpiri people (C15),
Places:	Yurrkarrn / Coniston (South Central NT SF53-09), Arnhem Land (NT), Yirrkala (East Arnhem Land SD53-04), Ruguri (South Central NT SF52-12), Saibai Island (Qld TSI SC54-08),
Recording quality:	Fair to good.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BRYSON_I01-034183	00:00:12	Roger Sandall continues the discussion about his post Institute academic career.	1995	Sydney, NSW
	00:02:07	Roger Sandall draws a distinction between the visual and auditory element of ethnographic film with particular reference to David MacDougall's 'African films.'		
	00:07:59	Roger Sandall talks about broad trends in anthropological thinking and research practices.		
	00:12:25	Roger Sandall talks about "observational" film making with mention of key figures and also attempts to articulate the unique, distinctive aspects of his own films.		
	00:21:14	Roger Sandall talks about how technical advances in film equipment affected ethnographic film making and also discusses the use of narration and over titles in his films.		
	00:31:13	End of BRYSON_I01- 034183.		
BRYSON_I01-034184	00:00:00	Continuation of the previous discussion about the use of text and narration in Roger Sandall's films.		
	00:05:32	Roger Sandall talks about the		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		important role of anthropological advisor in ethnographic film making and also reflects upon the success of his films at European film festivals.		
	00:15:51	Roger Sandall talks in detail about a number of films that he made for the Institute.		
	00:31:13	End of field tape 8 and end of BRYSON_I01- 034184.		
RETURN TO ITEM LIST				