



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
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Finding aid

DUTTON_T02

**Sound recordings collected by
Thomas Edward Dutton, 1978**

ACCESS

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Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1978

Extent: 11 sound cassettes (ca. 9 hr. 50 min.) : analogue, mono.

Production history

These recordings were collected by Thomas Edward Dutton between 23 August 1978 and 6 September 1978 in Nambour, Ayr, Ingham, Deeral, and Pialba, Queensland in the course of conducting research for the Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU. The collection contains oral histories about blackbirding/kidnapping/forced labour; language evolution, genealogies, race relations and church movements amongst South Sea Island Australians in Queensland. Interviewees include Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar, Rhoda Lammon, Olly Darr, Charlie Tallin, Esther Henaway, Jack Ambrom, Brian Lynn, Peter Santo (Malaita) Jnr, George Siy Mow and Mary Byquar. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 16 October 1978.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

This collection was a part of a broader study for which wordlists, texts and conclusions arrived at are held in AIATSIS library [RS 40/6](#), which is Dutton, T.E. *Pacific Linguistics*, ANU, Series D, No. 29, 1964. 'Queensland Canefields English of the late Nineteenth Century: A record of interview with two of the last surviving Kanakas in North Queensland, Tom Lammon and Peter Santo, 1964. For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®.

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

The aim of the study was to collect remnant language of South Sea Pidgin English, also known as Kanaka Pidgin English, Melanesian Pidgin English or Kanaka creole. The term 'Kanak(a)' was not used here as throughout the recordings the interviewees referred to themselves as 'South Sea'. 'Kanak(a)' was originally a derogatory term used specifically to refer to the indigenous population of New Caledonia. Jack's surname is spelt 'Ambrom', however, the island in Vanuatu he is named after is called Ambrym and there are more 'Ambryms' than 'Ambroms' in the AIATSIS ABI.

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Tom Edward Dutton 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
005870	Field Tape K1/78	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar speak in English about family history, Pidgin English and blackbirding
005870	Field Tape K2/78	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar speak in English about cooking traditions and their initial suspiciousness of Dutton
005870	Field Tape K3/78	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar speak in English and South Sea Pidgin
005873	Field Tape K4/78	Rhoda Lammon, Olly Darr and Charlie Tallin discuss family histories and South Sea Pidgin in English and South Sea Pidgin
005874	Field Tape K5/78	Rhoda Lammon, Olly Darr, Esther Henaway and Jack Ambrom discuss family histories in English and Language elicitation in South Sea Pidgin
005875	Field Tape K6/78	Brian Lynn describes in English personal histories, race relations and land use history of Ingham area
005876	Field Tape K7/78	Peter (Malaita) Santo Jnr talks in English about personal histories and South Sea Pidgin elicitation
005877	Field Tape K8/78	Esther Henaway relates several histories and opinions about local history, people, church, Christian ethics and race relations in South Sea Pidgin
005878	Field Tape K9/78	George Siy Mow talks in English about his parents origins and family history
005879	Field Tape K10/78	Ernie Byquar talks in English about his occupations. Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar speak English and South Sea Pidgin about the language and family history including church movements
005870	Field Tape K11/78	Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar speak English and South Sea Pidgin about the language and family history

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

005870/Field Tape K1/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar
Personal subject(s):	Tom Lammon(Norah's father), Anita (Norah's mother), Wagonet family, Lammon family, Barr family, Bukabuka family, Sipi family, Emily, May, Francis, Henry, Louie, Marjory, Joan, Olivia, Rhoda, Leslie Charles, Noel Henry, Valerie Joy Glover, Sonny (Desmond Thomson), Victor Ernest, Merl Adeliene(sp?) and Noela Bell and Peter Mühlhäusler
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, History - Genealogy and family history, Employment - Conditions - Slavery and indentured labour, Employment - Conditions - Industrial relations
Language/people:	English
Places:	Maryborough, Buderim, Eumundi, Nambour (SE Qld SG56-10), Ayr, Cordelia, Halifax, Ingham map area (NE Qld SE55-10), Cairns map area (N Qld SE55-02); Epi, Vanuatu; Malaita, Solomon Islands
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005870	00:00:23	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar speak in English about family history and blackbirding.	23 August 1978	Nambour, Qld
	01:02:06	End of field tape K1/78 and DUTTON_T02-005870.		

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005870/Field Tape K2/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar
Personal subject(s):	Family members and Peter Mühlhäusler
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, History - Genealogy and family history, Education - Schools - Community relations, Food - Preparation – Cooking, Food – Plants, Employment – Conditions, Employment – Discrimination, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Research – Ethics.
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Childers, Nambour (SE Qld SG56-10)
Recording quality:	Good to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005870	00:00:27	Ernie Byquar talks in English about school days in English.	23 August 1978	Nambour, Qld
	00:03:20	Ernie Byquar tells in English of various work experiences, both positive and negative.		
	00:07:40	Ernie and Norah Byquar talk of the South Sea Island cooking traditions in English and South Sea Pidgin.		
	00:17:35	South Sea Pidgin language elicitation with Ernie Byquar.		
	01:02:06	End of field tape K2/78 and DUTTON_T02-005871.		

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005870/Field Tape K3/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Ernie Byquar and Norah Byquar
Personal subject(s):	Peter Mühlhäusler, Miriam and Maureen
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Language - Linguistics - Language evolution, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Housing - House construction, Language - Linguistics - Discourse analysis – Narratives, Demography - Family and household characteristics.
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Nambour (SE Qld SG56-10)
Recording quality:	Good to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005870	00:00:19	In English, all talk about and in South Sea Pidgin language.	23 August 1978	Nambour, Qld
	00:03:18	Ernie Byquar narrates in South Sea Pidgin about fishing and general language elicitation.		
	00:15:20	Ernie and Norah Byquar describe the construction of grass and bark houses including long houses and who slept where.		
	00:24:40	End of field tape K3/78 and DUTTON_T02-005872.		

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005873/Field Tape K4/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Rhoda Lammon, Olly Darr, Charlie Tallin, unidentified speakers
Personal subject(s):	Ishmail Backo, Carmel, Esther, Francis Lammon, Nora, Olly, George Backo, Johnny Backo, Peter Backo, Mrs Pritt, Brian Lynn, Jo Backo
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Language - Linguistics - Language evolution, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation – Sentences, Blackbirding – kidnapping, History - Genealogy and family history
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Gairloch and Ayr (NE Qld SE55-15)
Recording quality:	Good to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005873	00:00:35	In English Rhoda discusses family.	26 August 1978	Ayr, Qld
	00:09:45	In English Rhoda suggests Tom Lammond was persuaded to help black-bird other Islanders and that's how he was able to return with an Islander wife to Australia.		
	00:13:00	Unidentified speakers discuss others in a photo; elicitation of limited South Sea Pidgin and discuss its flexibility.		
	01:02:34	End of field tape K4/78 and DUTTON_T02-005873.		

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005874/Field Tape K5/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Rhoda Lammon, Olly Darr, Esther Henaway and Jack Ambrom
Personal subject(s):	Tom Lammon, Dave Ambrom, Minnie, Jack Bonanang[sp?],
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, History – Biographies, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation – Sentences, History - Biographies – Indigenous, Food – Preparation, Social identity - Mixed descent, Occupations - Agricultural and horticultural workers.
Language/people:	English, South Sea Pidgin and Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul language (Y123) (Qld SE55-05)
Places:	Cardwell, Ayr (NE Qld SE55-15), Ravenshoe (NE Qld SE55-05), and Kennedy Ingham map area (NE Qld SE55-10)
Recording quality:	Good to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005874	00:00:20	Elicitation of South Sea Pidgin with Rhoda Lammon.	26 August 1978	Ayr, Qld
	00:12:00	Elicitation of South Sea Pidgin with Rhoda Lammon and Olly Darr about fruit farming.		
	00:15:52	Ester Henaway in English about an unidentified man.		
	00:16:45	Jack Ambrom talks in English about his family including his father's marriage to an Aboriginal woman and his knowledge of Dyirbal language as a result.		
	00:47:34	End of field tape K5/78 and DUTTON_T02-005874.		

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005875/Field Tape K6/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Brian Lynn
Personal subject(s):	Tom Lammon, his wife Netta/Anita (Bukabuka) Wagonet, Backo family, Harry, Rhoda, Norah, Reggie Voigt(?), Johnnie Tutu
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Food - Preparation - Cooking – Seafood, Housing – Rental, History – Biographies, History - Genealogy and family history, Environment - Land management, Race relations, Religions - Christianity - Church and mission buildings, Race relations - Power relations
Language/people:	English
Places:	Herbert River, Gairloch, Halifax, Cordelia, Ayr, Ingham (NE Qld SE55-10)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005875	00:00:25	Brian Lynn discusses his own, Tom Lammon's and the area's land use histories.	29 August 1978	Ingham, Qld
	00:23:40	Brian Lynn explains how the spray for the sugar destroyed fruit and other crops, thus destroying a vital South Sea custom.		
	00:38:16	End of field tape K6/78 and DUTTON_T02-005875.		

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005876/Field Tape K7/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Peter (Malaita) Santo Jnr
Personal subject(s):	Amy Brown, Jack Malaita, Tom Lammon, Rosie Malaita, Richard, Peter Santo (Snr), Mertyl Backo, Redge Ruddy, Pastor Shaw, wife: Lillian Puller, Treena.
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language – Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Race relations – Violent, Occupations – Agricultural and horticultural workers, Occupations – Tradespeople, Race relations, Housing – House construction, Housing – Shelters – Grass, Race relations – Attitudes
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Ingham, Cordelia, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Ingham, Ayr (NE Qld SE55-15)/ Plantation Creek.
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005876	00:00:13	Peter Santo Jnr explains in English family and other personal histories including threats in Ingham that forced them to move to Ayr/Plantation Creek.	30 August 1978	Ayr, Qld
	00:33:44	Peter Santo Jnr South Sea Pidgin elicitation.		
	00:50:50	Peter Santo Jnr discusses in English his family and racial relations and the lack of use of South Sea Pidgin.		
	01:00:17	End of field tape K7/78 and DUTTON_T02-005876.		

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005877/Field Tape K8/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Esther Henaway (nee Backo)
Personal subject(s):	Tom Lammon, Tom Captain, Mrs Pritt
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Occupations - Agricultural and horticultural workers, Witchcraft, Race relations - Racial discrimination, Religions - Christianity - Pentecostalism - Assemblies of God.
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Gairloch, Cordelia, Ayr (NE Qld SE55-15)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005877	00:00:13	Esther Henaway speaks in South Sea Pidgin about Tom Lammon.	30 August 1978	Ayr, Qld
	00:02:28	Esther discusses witchcraft in South Sea Pidgin.		
	00:04:19	Esther discusses the establishment of a racially inclusive church and her thoughts on Christian ethics in South Sea Pidgin.		
	00:29:10	Esther narrates several histories and opinions in South Sea Pidgin.		
		End of field tape K8/78 and DUTTON_T02-005877.		

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005878/Field Tape K9/78

Performer/speaker(s):	George Siy Mow
Personal subject(s):	Charlie Siy Mow (father, deceased), King Pannikin, Queen Nellie Malgoree[sp?]/Nellie Mogubunna[sp?], Jim Hicky, Mary Edith Dennis (wife); sons: Henry, Johnnie, David, Eric, Daniel and Peter Siy Mow; Jack (grandson).
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, History - Genealogy and family history, Employment - Conditions - Slavery and indentured labour, Occupations - Agricultural and horticultural workers, Religions - Christianity - Church and mission buildings, Social welfare - Government - Social security payments, Social identity - Mixed descent.
Language/people:	English
Places:	Faléa Island, Vanuatu; Deeral (NE Qld SE55-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to poor (wind interference)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005878	00:00:45	George Siy Mow talks in English about his father's origins and blackbirding.	31 August 1978	Deeral, Qld
	00:09:45	George Siy Mow talks in English about his mother's Aboriginal/Murri origins and his fathers' work and influences in his father's form of Pidgin.		
	00:32:30	George Siy Mow talks in English about family history and church.		
	00:56:46	End of field tape K9/78 and DUTTON_T02-005878.		

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005879/Field Tape K10/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar
Personal subject(s):	Tom Tanner, Brian Lynn, Tom Lammon, Louisa Charles, Mrs McKenzie
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, History - Genealogy and family history, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Occupations - Pastoral industry workers - Drovers / Stockmen, Race relations – Attitudes, Occupations, Defence - World War II, Social identity - Mixed descent
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Malaita, Solomon Islands; Childers, Horton - Maryborough map area (SE Qld SG56-06); Winton, Longreach - Longreach map area (Qld Far West SF55-13); Buderim, Beerwah, Nambour, Bli Bli, Pialba - Maryborough map area (SE Qld SG56-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005879	00:00:28	Ernie Byquar talks in English about his wide spread occupations and sense of navigation.	6 September 1978	Pialba, Qld
	00:19:16	Ernie Byquar talks in English about post WWII race relations, bush foods and intermarriage with Aboriginal families.		
	00:22:50	Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar speak English and South Sea Pidgin about the language and family history including church movements.		
	00:53:13	End of field tape K10/78 and DUTTON_T02-005879.		

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005870/Field Tape K11/78

Performer/speaker(s):	Ernie Byquar, Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar
Personal subject(s):	Old Harry, Tom Lammon, Brian Lynn, Florence Youngsworth, Bill Randall, Jack Ambrom, Charlie Booker, Louie and Norman Walker, Sarah Henaway, Esther Henaway
Subject keywords:	Indigenous peoples - Pacific – Kanakas, History - Genealogy and family history, Language - Kriol - Pidgins and creoles, Occupations, Race relations – Attitudes, Social organisation - Kinship – Marriage, Language - Linguistics - Language evolution, Language - Change – Loss, History – Biographies, Employment - Conditions - Slavery and indentured labour
Language/people:	English and South Sea Pidgin
Places:	Pialba (SE Qld SG56-06)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
DUTTON_T02-005870	00:00:16	Ernie Byquar talks in English about how South Sea Islanders kept occupations and avoided the cane sugar labour inspectors.	23 August 1978	Nambour, Qld
	00:10:34	All talk in English about racial attitudes, marriage rules, personal histories and the influences in South Pacific Pidgin English		
	00:50:38	Norah Byquar and Mary Byquar sing a song in South Sea Pidgin		
	00:55:50	End of field tape K11/78 and DUTTON_T02-005880.		

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