



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

OGRADY_G03

**Sound recordings collected by
Geoffrey O'Grady, 1959-1960**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) 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

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1959-1960

Extent: 5 sound tape reels: (6 hrs., 33min.) : analogue, 3 ¾ ips, mono.

Production history

These recordings were made by Geoffrey O'Grady between 1959 and 1960 in Sydney, NSW. They document Umpila, Koko Bera, Kaanju, Banambila and Torres Strait Islander languages and songs. The speakers include John Bon, John Butcher, Furry Short, Christopher Jeffrey and Peter Creek.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

Transcripts of field tapes XXXI, XXXII, and LVIII are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 18](#). 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 Professor Geoffrey O'Grady and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
001824A	<u>Field tape XXIX</u>	Language elicitation, stories and songs in Meriam Mir with John Bon
001824A 001824B 001825A	<u>Field tape XXXI</u>	Language elicitation and stories in Umpila with John Butcher
001825A 001825B	<u>Field tape XXXII</u>	Language elicitation and stories in Umpila with John Butcher
001825B 001826A	<u>Field tape XXXIII</u>	Language elicitation, stories and songs in Umpila, Kaanju and Koko Bera with John Butcher, Furry Short, Christopher Jeffrey and Peter Creek
001826A 001826B 001827A	<u>Field tape LVIII</u>	Language elicitation, stories and cultural discussions in Umpila and Kaanju with John Butcher

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

001824A/Field tape XXIX

Performer/speaker(s): John Bon

Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary – Word lists, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories & motifs, Storytelling, Music – Guitar

Language/people: Meriam Mir / Miriam Mer

Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)

Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
OGRADY_G03 -001824A	00:00:00	Vocabulary elicitation in Meriam Mir with John Bon, including body parts and functions.	1959-60	Sydney, NSW
	00:11:30	“This is our Island” sung in Meriam Mir by John Bon.		
	00:12:45	Narratives told in English and Meriam Mir by John Bon, including methods of cooking, kinds of food and John Bon's trip to Sydney from Mer.		
	00:18:45	Songs, accompanied by guitar, and stories in Meriam Mir by John Bon.		
	00:38:25	Meriam Mir language elicitation, with an emphasis on grammar, with John Bon. Includes verbs, imperatives, bodily functions and actions.		
	00:47:05	End of field tape XXIX.		

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001824A + 001824B + 001825A/Field tape XXXI

Performer/speaker(s): John Butcher

Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories & motifs, Storytelling

Language/people: Umpila

Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)

Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
OGRADY_G03 -001824A	00:48:20	Ten narratives in Umpila by John Butcher. No English is used.	1959	Sydney, NSW
	00:61:00	Umpila sentence elicitation with John Butcher.	1959-60	Sydney, NSW
	01:04:00	End of OGRADY_G03-001824A.		
OGRADY_G03 -001824B	00:00:00	Continuation of Umpila sentence elicitation with John Butcher.		
	00:10:40	Narrative about a crocodile man, told in Umpila by John Butcher.		
	00:13:15	Umpila sentence and vocabulary elicitation with John Butcher.		
	00:43:05	A zoological narrative in Umpila by John Butcher.		
	00:46:50	Elicitation of Umpila verbs with John Butcher.		
	00:51:05	The conclusion of the crocodile man story told in Umpila by John Butcher.		
	00:58:00	Umpila vocabulary and sentence elicitation with John Butcher.		
	01:04:20	End of OGRADY_G03-001824B.		
OGRADY_G03 -001825A	00:00:00	Umpila vocabulary and sentence elicitation with John Butcher, including place, animal and plant names.		
	00:07:30	End of field tape XXXI.		

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001825A + 001825B/Field tape XXXII

Performer/speaker(s): John Butcher

Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories & motifs, Storytelling

Language/people: Umpila

Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)

Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
O'GRADY_G03-001825A	00:07:35	Umpila vocabulary and sentence elicitation with John Butcher, including body parts, weather, the environment and food.	1959	Sydney, NSW
	00:56:20	End of OGRADY_G03-001825A.		
O'GRADY_G03-001825B	00:00:00	Umpila vocabulary and sentence elicitation with John Butcher, including verbs, pronouns, etc.	1959-60	Sydney, NSW
	00:31:35	End of field tape XXXII.		

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001825B + 001826A/Field tape XXXIII

Performer/speaker(s): John Butcher, Furry Short, Christopher Jeffrey, Peter Creek
 Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories & motifs, Storytelling, Music – Vocal
 Language/people: Umpila, Koko Bera, Kaanju / Kaantju, Meriam Mir / Miriam Mer, Banambila, Kalaw Lagaw Ya / Kala Lagaw Ya
 Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)
 Recording quality: Good
 Notes: The documentation does not always indicate who is speaking and in which language. This recording also includes some words in an unidentified language, which O'Grady calls the Normanton language (possibly Kurtjar).

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
OGRADY_G03-001825B	00:31:40	A word list in Umpila and Koko Bera with Furry Short and Christopher Jeffrey, including body parts.	May 1960	Sydney, NSW
	00:40:10	Narrative in Umpila by Furry Short about his visit to Sydney.		
	00:41:40	Umpila vocabulary elicitation with Furry Short.		
	00:42:20	Kaanju vocabulary elicitation with Peter Creek.		
	00:50:00	Narratives in Kaanju describing pictures from <i>The family of man</i> .		
	00:59:00	Songs performed in Umpila and Koko Bera by Christopher Jeffrey, Furry Short and Peter Creek, with partial explanations in English.		
	00:64:20	End of OGRADY_G03-001825B.		
OGRADY_G03-001826A	00:00:00	Koko Bera songs performed by Christopher Jeffrey.		
	00:03:30	Elicitation of Koko Bera and “Normanton language” vocabulary.		
	00:06:25	Narrative in Koko Bera by Christopher Jeffrey.		
	00:07:00	Short comparative word list in Eastern Torres Strait, Western Torres Strait, Umpila, Kaanju and Banambila.		
	00:11:35	End of field tape XXXIII.		

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001826A + 001826B + 001827A/Field tape LVIII

Performer/speaker(s): John Butcher

Subject keywords: Language elicitation – sentences, Vocabulary – Word lists, Language elicitation – Narratives, Stories & motifs, Storytelling, Kinship system, Kinship terms

Language/people: Umpila

Places: Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)

Recording quality: Good

Notes: The documentation indicates that Doug Miles is a co-collector of this material.

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
OGRADY_G03-001826A	00:11:40	Umpila language elicitation with John Butcher, including verb tenses, adjectives and adverbs.	September 1959	Sydney, NSW
	00:31:20	Discussion about kinship in Umpila and English between John Butcher and Doug Miles.		
	00:60:25	Umpila grammatical elicitation with John Butcher.		
	00:64:20	End of OGRADY_G03-001826A.		
OGRADY_G03-001826B	00:00:00	Continuation of Umpila grammatical elicitation with John Butcher.		
	00:11:00	John Butcher discusses Umpila kinship terms further.		
	00:50:45	Account in Umpila of a film about a trip to the moon.		
	00:58:40	Further discussion about Umpila kinship terms.		
	00:62:50	Elicitation of Umpila verbs with John Butcher.		
	00:64:15	End of OGRADY_G03-001826B.		
O'GRADY_G03-001827A	00:00:00	Umpila language elicitation with John Butcher, including verbs, intonation patterns, and kinship terms.	October 1959	Sydney, NSW
	00:15:55	Discussion about the various languages spoken at Lockhart River.		
	00:16:20	End of field tape LVIII and end of OGRADY_G03-001827A.		

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