

Reverend James Tait Scott Torres Strait Islands papers

Accession number 29018

Date 1870s-1890s

Author / Creator

Scott, James Tait, 1854-1894

Scott, Eliza Jessie

Abstract Letters and journals of Eliza Scott and her husband, the Reverend James Tait Scott, who for a period in the early 1880s lived and worked in the islands of the Torres Strait on behalf of the London Missionary Society.

Scope and content Item 1. Album. This album or scrapbook contains a series of approximately 52 letters (32 typed, 20 handwritten) by Eliza and the Reverend Scott to Eliza's parents, written from Mer (Murray) Island, Thursday Island, Erub (Darnley) Island and Cooktown between 27 July 1880 - 5 September 1882. Also included in this album is Eliza's autograph journal for 9 April -12 May 1882, including two drawings and various notes, letters and one unframed painting of an island hut on board, signed "E.J.S."

System of arrangement Arranged into 3 series.

Description 3 albums

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items.

Guides Transcript available selected items: Item 2.

Access restrictions Restricted access. 24 hours notice required. Please contact Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland for more information.

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Preferred citation

29018, Reverend James Tait Scott Torres Strait Islands Papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Album (1880-1882)



Series number 1

Series title Album

Date 1880-1882

Scope and content

This album or scrapbook contains a series of approximately 52 letters (32 typed, 20 handwritten) by Eliza and the Reverend Scott to Eliza's parents, written from Mer (Murray) Island, Thursday Island, Erub (Darnley) Island and Cooktown between 27 July 1880 - 5 September 1882. When Eliza arrived at Murray Island she declared it "the most beautiful place I have ever seen by a long way" and was struck by the generous welcome of the islanders who presented them with yams, bananas and sweet potatoes. The letters describe to her family back in Scotland the behaviour and customs of the islanders including their dances and music; as well as some of the less desirable behaviour of European visitors. The Scott's early use of a typewriter is noteworthy. Also included in this album is Eliza's autograph journal for 9 April -12 May 1882, including two drawings and various notes, letters and one unframed painting of an island hut on board, signed "E.J.S." [Item 29018/1]

Author / Creator

Scott, James Tait, 1854-1894

Scott, Eliza Jessie

Description

Description 1 album (scrapbook, 52 letters)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Series 2: Journal (1880-1881)



Series number 2

Series title Journal

Date 1880-1881

Scope and content

This journal or diary was kept by Eliza Scott with entries from 15 October 1880 - 24 February 1881; it also includes 20 watercolours and 25 drawings depicting local flora and fauna, the islanders, their dress and implements, as well as houses and landscapes. Some pages of the diary also are decorated with fragments of actual specimens of local butterflies. The daily entries note their endeavours to educate the children of the island, their delight in exploring, and the difficulties of limited food supplies when ships were delayed. Eliza writes as one whose eyes are always wide with amazement, as is evident in her delightful art works; the local people bringing her things of interest to sketch. Her journal also reveals how dependent they were on news from home, always noting how many letters and from who they were received, and the disappointment when it was delayed. It concludes a few days into their voyage on the Jessamine. The journal includes words interpreted by the Scott's as spoken by the people of Mer (Murray) Island. A

transcript is available for this journal. [Item 29018/2]

Author / Creator

Scott, Eliza Jessie

Description

Description 1 journal

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access

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Series 3: Photograph album (1870s-1890)

Series number 3

Series title Photograph album

Date 1870s-1890

Scope and content

This photograph album which is fitted with a brass clip, contains approximately 36 carte-de-visite portraits of Eliza and James Tait Scott and other family members taken in Scotland and Lymington in Hampshire, 1870s-1890s. [Item 29018/3]

Description

Description 1 album (36 carte-de-visite portraits)

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Access

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