

A O C Davies notes

Accession number OM66-02/3

Date 1924-1925

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1889-1974.

Abstract Loose manuscript pages and typescript bound volume, of notes and observations made by Arthur Davies while teaching on Murray Island (Mer) in the Torres Strait.

Scope and content Manuscripts: 1. The Cult of Bomai Malo, 7p.; 2. Pasee's yarn on the death of his father lu, 2p.; 3. Ebb or Eep. Funeral ceremony, 1p.; 4. The Story of Tarare, 1p.; 5. The Story of Gelam the Hill, 1p.; 6. Abeb and Kos, 1p.; 7. The Story of Cedar or Side [Sida] (pt 2.), 1p.; 8. Nargeg and Gagee, 1p.; 9. A Story of Dauar, 1p.; 10. The Story of Maidoo or the floating wood, 1p.; 11. Sider or Cedar (pt 1), 1p.; 12. Markep and Sarkep, 1p.; 13. Eruam, 1p.; 14. The Story of Gedore. How the cocoanut got its eyes, 1p.; 15. Coortoot of the long arm, 1p.; 16. Gareware or Garewee of Duar, 1p.; 17. Gees, the beginning. Pop and Cord (Adam and Eve) 1p.; 18. Pepcare, 1p.; 19. Pass and Sergade, 1p.; 20. Erado, 1p.; 21. Miwara, 1p.; 22. Tagai. A story of the stars, 2p.; 23. Koit and Pacore, 1p.; 24. Turtle or Num Zogo, 1p.; 25. The Woodlark tragedy, 1p.; 26. Kitti Zogo, 1p.; 27. Leware Zogo, 1p.; 28. Puleb Zogo, 2p.; 29. Tomag Zogo, 1p.; 30. Saroup. An event observed by Pasee, 1p.; 31. Methods of counting at Mer, 1p.; 32. Ancient marriage customs, 2p.

System of arrangement Arranged into 2 series.

Description 33 loose pages; 1 bound volume.

Additional format Digital copy available for selected items: Typescript available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10462/PubsTD/01107502>

Guides Transcripts available.

Administrative / Biographical history Arthur Davies emigrated to Australia from England in 1907 with his recently widowed mother and four of his five siblings. Davies a school teacher, enlisted in the first AIF in 1917 but was medically discharged; his brother George Francis Davies, 12th Infantry Battalion, was killed in action, Lagnicourt, France, 15 April 1917. In 1924 he was seconded to work in the school on Murray Island / Mer and during the eighteen months he was there, took a deep interest in the customs and legends of the Meriam people.

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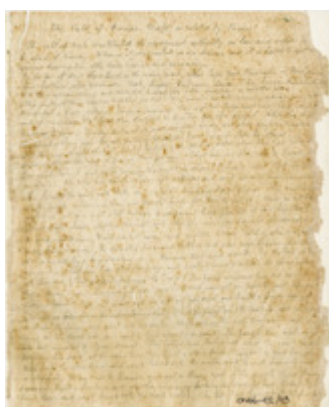
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Series 1: Manuscripts (1924-1925)



Series number 1

Series title Manuscripts

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Handwritten manuscripts written by Arthur Davies on various cults, rites, customs and legends of Mer (Murray Island) of Torres Strait, including the cult of Bomai Malo, as told to Arthur Davies between 1924 and 1925.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 32 manuscripts

Additional format Digital copy available

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Items in this series:

The Cult of Bomai Malo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/1

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The Cult of Bomai Malo as related by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island)
Bomai came from Tuger in west New Guinea, he transformed himself into a whale and swam down until he reached Boigu Island in the far west of Torres Strait where he was stranded. Malo, a man with a shark's head, came with four brothers to find his uncle, Bomai. Of importance for the Meriam people is that Bomai, the very secret and sacred name for the god of the Meriam, came first; Malo, the lesser god came after. [Contextual notes by Sam Passi as extracted from Nonie Sharp's work '*The Stars of Tagai*' published by Aboriginal Studies Press, 1993]

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 7 pages (numbered [46]-52)

Pasee's yarn on the death of his father lu (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/2

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The death of lu Pasee, as related by his son Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). In this story Pasee relates his memory of the passing of his father lu, a Zogo le, Tamilib man of Malo and the ceremonies performed as they arranged his funeral pyre.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 2 page (numbered 52-53)

Ebb or Eep (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/3

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Ebb or Eep, funeral ceremony told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). This story relates the role of the Ebb or Eep who perform funeral rituals, supervise the smoking of the body and the distribution of the cured remains of the deceased.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 54)

Story of Tarare (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/4

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Tarare as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Tarare, son of Ourcam who lived at Meare, whose skin was turned white by men during a Zogo ceremony.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 55)

Story of Gelam the Hill (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/5

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Gelam, the Hill as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island) This is the story of Gelam, who lived with his mother Atwere at Moa Island, and the making of his canoe in the shape of a whale (dugong).

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 56)

Abob and Kos (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/6

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Abob and Kos as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island) This is the story of the two sons of Kudare, named Abob and Kos who are expert fishermen.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 57)

Story of Cedar or Side [pt 2] (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/7

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Cedar or Side as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island) [The story was told in two parts the second part first.] This is the story of a man named Cedar who came from the Fly River in New Guinea to Mer (Murray Island), where he meets brothers Abob and Kos.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 58)

Nargeg and Gagee (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/8

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Nargeg and Gagee as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Nargeg and her son Gagee and Gagee's encounters with an old man named Iream-morish.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (page 59)

Story of Dauar (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/9

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Dauar as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of the island of Dauar and five birds named Gob, Pelarwah, Selare, Bouger and Nea. They encounter the rat Mocas, and three whales Gaibo, Mat and Goal.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 60)

Story of Maidoo or the floating wood (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/10

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Maidoo or the floating wood as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of an old woman named Maidoo who lived at Taerey on Dauar Island, she had three daughters Biesore, Egerargate and Outpare.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 60)

Sider or Cedar [pt 1] (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/11

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Sider or Cedar told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). [The story was told in two parts, the first part last] This part begins: "Sider or Cedar came from the

Fly River, New Guinea and landed at Dauar where he left his tract which may be seen today. From Dauar he crossed to Omar to see another man called Kobi."

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 61)

Markep and Sarkep (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/12

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Markep and Sarkep, as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). Markep and Sarkep are two stones at Zomerid and represent two men.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 62)

Eruam (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/13

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Eruam, a story told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Eruam, who had his camp was inside a stone in the creek at Ere Pat, and his encounter with two girls, Decu and Tareppe (or Taresebursabre).

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 63)

Story of Gedore (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/14

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Gedore; How the cocoanut got its eyes, as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). Gedore (Godore) who lived at Melgare, observed a new fish called Ooo that had sprung from fallen cocoanuts.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 64)

Coortoot of the Long Arm (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/15

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

The story of Coortoot as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Coortoot, who had a very long arm and how he was able to steal food from people's kopmaurie (beach oven) without being seen.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 64)

Gaware or Gareweer of Dauar (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/16

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Gaware or Gareweer of Dauar as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Gaware, an old woman who met Abeb and Koss when they came to Dauar (Dowar Island).

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 65)

Gees, the Beginning (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/17

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Gees, the beginning. Pop and Cord (Adam and Eve) as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of the first people on Mer. Pop, a man appeared first, and his mate Cord who was formed from white clay.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 66)

Pepcare (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/18

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Pepcare as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of two birds, Mowar Mouar, which had a white neck, and Pierre which had a black neck, and of two women Seriamur and her daughter Pepcare who lived on Dauar.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 66)

Pass and Sergade (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/19

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Pass and Sergade as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of two women, Pass and Sergade, their sons Edoure and Miedam, and a man named Kimiere.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 67)

Erado (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/20

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Erdo, as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of a woman named Erado, who lived at Katti Peat.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 67)

Miware (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/21

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Miware, as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Miware, who was killed by turtles while fishing.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 68)

Tagai. A story of the stars (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/22

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Tagai. A story of the stars as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). The story of Tagai tells of a man setting out on a canoe voyage with his twelve-man crew, six Usiam (the Pleiades) and six Seg (Orion), who eat the food and water prepared for the voyage. Enraged, Tagai strings each group together and throws them into the sea, and their images are set in a pattern of stars. The star constellation of Tagai gives signs for voyaging, for turtle-mating time, a time for garden preparation. Included is a sketch of the constellation showing Tagai with his spear.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 2 pages (numbered 69-70)

Koit and Pacore (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/23

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Koit and Pacore as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of two fish named Koit and Pacore, who take Wak, a girl for their wife.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 71)

Turtle or Num Zogo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/24

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Turtle or Num Zogo as told by Aet Pasee to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of two Num Zogo's one at Kop, Mer, the other at Gear Peat, Dauar.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 72)

The Woodlark tragedy (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/25

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

This is the story of the Woodlark tragedy as remembered by Aet Pasee, told to Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island). The *Woodlark* was a fishing schooner that visited Murray / Mer Island in the 1860s, this story tells of the crew coming ashore looking for women. When one of their number was killed, they took revenge on the people of Mer, killing many.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 73)

Kitti Zogo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/26

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Kitti Zogo as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of the Kitti Logo, at the village of Ulag.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 74)

Leware Zogo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/27

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Leware Zogo as told to Arthur Davies, Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Leware Zogo, at Dauar Island, and a song about yams.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 74)

Puleb Zogo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/28

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Puleb Zogo as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island) This is the story of Puleb Zogo, carved stone figures some of which Davies removed, and the telling power of the stone

figures.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 74-75)

Tomag Zogo (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/29

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Tomag Zogo as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Tomag Zogo, stones and shells that represent islands and reefs, used to foretell coming events.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 75)

Saroup (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/30

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

Saroup. An event observed by Aet Pasee as told to Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island). This is the story of Saroup, where any person having been shipwrecked who comes ashore, was killed. Those who came ashore by boat were not and their lives spared.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 75)

Methods of counting at Mer (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/31

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

This manuscript which was compiled from notes made by Arthur Davies, at Mer (Murray Island) describes the Mer way of counting; and is followed by a word list for parts and features of the body.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 1 page (numbered 76)

Ancient marriage customs (1924-1925)

Unit ID OM66-02-03/32

Date 1924-1925

Scope and content

This manuscript was compiled by Arthur Davies at Mer (Murray Island) and describes the Mer marriage customs, including 'stealing a wife' - arrangements to meet and choose a girl; parental approval; wedding celebrations and feasting; and their renaming.

Author / Creator

Davies, A. O. C. (Arthur Oliver Cromwell), 1899-1974

Description

Description 2 pages (numbered 77-78)

(1 digital)

Series 2: Typescripts (1930-1960)



Series number 2

Series title Typescripts

Date 1930-1960

Scope and content

One bound volume, representing typed transcripts of the handwritten notes. [Creator unknown and content unverified, not to be represented as verbatim transcripts.] [Item OM66-02/3 33]

Description

Description 1 volume (41 pages)

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