

# Thomas Illidge papers

**Accession number** OM72-115

**Date** 1816-1927

**Author / Creator**

**Illidge, Thomas, 1843-1927**

**Abstract** Papers of Thomas Illidge

**Scope and content** The early papers are documentary records of the Illidge family tree. The bulk of the collection however, dates from 1893, and consists of letters and notes which record Thomas Illidge's research on the Aboriginal people of Queensland. Burial and other customs are prominent subjects. Also included is a copy of a paper read by him before the Royal Society of Queensland, "On *Ceratodus Fosteri*" (the "Burnett Salmon" or Queensland lungfish); a letter 19 May 1916, to Dr Bashford Dean of the American Museum of Natural History regarding the transfer of a specimen of *Ceratodus* to the museum; and also Thomas Illidge's obituary notice.

**System of arrangement** Arranged into 3 series

**Description** 1 folder of papers

**Guides** Transcripts available.

**Administrative / Biographical history** Thomas Illidge arrived in Queensland as an officer of the Post and Telegraph Department in 1865. He took a keen interest in the traditions of the Aboriginal tribes of Queensland, compiling and collecting a great deal of information, weapons and artefacts, most of which he bequeathed to the Queensland Museum.

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

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**Notes** Users are advised that this Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander material may contain culturally sensitive imagery and descriptions which may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Annotation and terminology which reflects the creator's attitude or that of the era in which the item was created may be considered inappropriate today. This material may also contain images, voices or names of deceased persons.

**Custodial history** Passed down to Mrs Worthington, Thomas Illidge's daughter. Possibly donated by her in October 1969.

**Preferred citation**

OM72-115, Thomas Illidge Papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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## Series 1: Papers (1834-1927)

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Papers

**Date** 1834-1927

**Scope and content**

This series of papers have been collected by the Illidge family and include items of which relate to Thomas Illidge snr & his son George, who were glass engravers in England, and includes an obituary for Thomas Francis Illidge (1843-1927) of Auchenflower, Brisbane. [Items 1-9]

### Description

**Description** 10 cards (leaflets, an invitation and obituary etc.)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8835

### Access

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**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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## Series 2: Correspondence (1916-1929)

**Series number** 2

**Series title** Correspondence

**Date** 1916-1929

## Scope and content

This series of letters, notes, and manuscripts relate to Thomas Francis Illidge (1843-1927) and his interest in Australian Aboriginal customs, ceremonies and language.

## Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

## Description

**Description** 1 folder (notes & letters)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8835

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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**Other guides** Transcripts available

## Other

**Notes** Australian languages

## Items in this series:

### List (12 May 1922)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/10

**Date** 12 May 1922

## Scope and content

Handwritten list of Aboriginal items handed to the Queensland Museum by Thomas Illidge.

## Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

## Description

**Description** 1 sheet

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Letter (30 April 1922)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/11

**Date** 30 April 1922

### Scope and content

Letter written by Thomas Illidge to the Director of the Queensland Museum regarding Aboriginal burial customs as observed in NSW and Queensland.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 6 sheets (6 pages & photocopy of same)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Reminiscences (15 September 1969)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/12

**Date** 15 September 1969

### Scope and content

Biographical reminiscences relating to Thomas Francis Illidge as related by his daughter Ruth Atkinson nee Illidge (1875-1975), who wrote from Mt Olivet Hospital in 1969.

### Author / Creator

Atkinson, Amy Ruth, 1875-1975

Description

**Description** 5 sheets (5 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Notes on Australian Aboriginal customs (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/14

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

Hand written notes by Thomas Illidge on Australian Aboriginal corrobbees he witnessed.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 2 sheets (2 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Notes on Australian Aboriginal language (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/15

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

Single page of a multi-page letter. Thomas Illidge describes his work obtaining Aboriginal word lists, some of which are included at the end of the page.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 1 sheet (1 page)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Notes on Australian Aboriginal customs (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/16

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

Hand written notes by Thomas Illidge on burial customs as observed near St Lawrence, Marlborough and Yaamba in the Rockhampton District.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

### Description

**Description** 4 sheets (7 pages of content)

### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/18

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

A story of an Aboriginal man who left his employment, and his interpretation of his employer who prayed for bread every day, as told by Thomas Illidge.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

### Description

**Description** 1 sheet (1 page)

### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/19

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

A story of Bishop Derium and Johnny Campbell, as told by Thomas Illidge.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

### Description

**Description** 3 sheets (3 pages)

### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/20

**Date** 1865-1920

### Scope and content

The story of Dicky and the sacramental wine, as told by Thomas Illidge.

### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

### Description

**Description** 3 sheets (3 pages)

### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/21

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of Jimbo and eating meat on Friday, as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 2 sheets (2 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/22

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of Billy too scared to pray for repentance, as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 1 sheet (1 page)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Origin of the porcupine (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/23

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**



The story of the origin of the porcupine, "Kearginga" as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 2 sheets (2 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/24

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of a station hand Joko toasting the health of dinner guests, as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 2 sheets (2 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/25

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of an Aboriginal man who attended church for the first time, as told by Thomas

Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 1 sheet (1 page)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Origin of the Laughing Jackass (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/26

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of the origin of the Laughing Jackass as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

Description

**Description** 2 sheets (2 pages)

Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

**Stories of Australian Aboriginals (1865-1920)**

**Unit ID** OM72-115/27

**Date** 1865-1920

**Scope and content**

The story of Johnny Campbell, and being asked to hold a horse, as told by Thomas Illidge.

**Author / Creator**

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

#### Description

**Description** 1 sheet (1 page)

#### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

### Letter (19 May 1916)

**Unit ID** OM72-115/17

**Date** 19 May 1916

#### Scope and content

Letter written by Thomas Illidge to Doctor Bashford Dean of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in which he discusses the possibility of selling specimens of 'Ceratodus Fosteri' which he has bred, to the institute. On the reverse is an Aboriginal vocabulary list.

#### Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

#### Description

**Description** 1 sheet (2 pages of content)

#### Access

**Other guides** Transcript available

## Series 3: Published works (15 December 1893)

**Series number** 3

**Series title** Published works

**Date** 15 December 1893

## Scope and content

[Item 13] Paper titled "On Ceratodus Fosteri" by Thomas Illidge, read before the Royal Society of Queensland.

## Author / Creator

Illidge, Thomas Francis, 1843-1927

## Description

**Description** 1 leaflet (4 pages)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8835

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