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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MS 1239

Aboriginal Language, by Adolph Kristen

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Adolf Kristen
Title:	Aboriginal language, by Adolf Kristen
Collection no:	MS 1239
Date range:	1899-1979
Extent:	0.085mt (1 box)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

Aboriginal language, by Adolf Kristen, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 1239, Item 1

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

Holograph – photocopies

Grammatical description of the Malak Malak language; language phonology; morphology and syntax; word-lists; general dictionary of approx. 330 items; dictionary of approx. 344 verbal roots; etymology; semantics; includes discussion on religion and secret cults; Aboriginal freemasonry.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Father Adolph Kristen 1848-1907.

Father Kristen joined the Austro-Hungarian Province of the Society of Jesus in 1866 and was ordained a priest in 1882. After a couple of years teaching at the Jesuit

Mission at Kalksburg near Vienna, in late 1884 he joined the Austrian Jesuit Mission in the Northern Territory. Until 1889 he worked at the original mission station at Rapid Creek, then he went to Daly River to pioneer a new mission. In 1894 his health deteriorated, so he went to SA to recuperate, staying there until 1900 when he was recalled to Austria where he worked for some time in the Jesuit college at Innsbruck before being transferred to Kapornak in Hungary where he died in 1907.

During his time in South Australia, he wrote a treatise on "Aboriginal language", which is held in the Australian Jesuit Archives in Melbourne. (AIATSIS file no. 1973/54-5 Linguistic Research Correspondence. Correspondence is dated 13 February 1979)

'The Society of Jesus in Australia' is also known as 'Australian Jesuits' and the head office is in Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia.

The Society of Jesus was founded in 1534 in Montmartre outside Paris.

The Jesuits first arrived in Australia in 1848, arriving in Adelaide. In 1853 they bought a property near Clare, and named it Sevenhill.

Some-time after 1879 the Austrian Jesuits sent four men to establish a mission among the Aboriginal people around Darwin and along the Daly River.

Plagued by disasters, the ruination of their crops, and great floods, the Mission was declared a failure and closed in 1899 after a second flood had destroyed all their work.

References:

(AIATSIS file no. 1973/54-5 Linguistic Research Correspondence)

Australian Jesuits, *About us*, <<https://jesuit.org.au/about/province-contacts/>>, 2020, viewed 7-4-2020

A history of the Jesuits in Australia, <<http://jesuit.deependmelbourne.com.au/wp-content/uploads/the-history-of-the-jesuits-in-australia.pdf>> Viewed 7-4-2020

Provenance

This copy of Adolf Kristen's, 'Aboriginal language', was obtained from the Jesuit Archives in Hawthorn. Negotiations were begun with the archivist at the Jesuit Archives in Hawthorn, in 1979, by Michael Walsh, a Linguistic Research Officer employed at AIAS (now AIATSIS).

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from the collection.

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Related material

For a complete list of works by or about the Society of Jesus, by held by the Library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For e.g. *Baptismal register of the Daly River Mission Station, 1886-1902*, MS 684; *The Jesuit Mission stations in the Northern Territory 1882-1899*, by G. J. O'Kelly, MS 640; *Jesuit pioneers on Daly River Mission*, by Frank Flynn, P FLY; *A new mission on the Daly River*, Frank Flynn, P FLY; and other material.

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our [sensitivity message](#).

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS/SUBJECT HEADINGS

Language – Linguistics – Grammar and syntax

Language – Linguistics – Language classification

Language – Linguistics – Phonology and phonetics

Language – Semantic

Language – Vocabulary – Dictionaries and glossaries

Language – Vocabulary – Word lists

Religion – Rites

Jesuits – Australia Provence

Northern territory – Top End

Linguistics - Australia

Malak Malak language N22

Archivists note

Father Dennett was at the Provincial Archives in Hawthorn, Victoria.

From Austlang, the Malak Malak language code is N22.

<<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/n22>>

DESCRIPTION

Item

MS 1239/1 Kristen, Adolf. Aboriginal language, Kooringa, SA, 1899, pp. 1-59; pp. 60-119; 120-171; 171-214, 5 leaves, a-e, with a note about inserting p. 196, from F.J. Dennett, 6 Feb. 1979. Typescript, photocopy.

BOX LIST

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Finding aid updated by Cathy Zdanowicz May 2020

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