

Finding Aid - Tahltan Native Studies Committee collection (147)

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Language of description: English

Tahltan Native Studies Committee collection

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Summary information

Title:	Tahltan Native Studies Committee collection
Reference code:	147
MOA Object ID [3203/1, 3203/2, 3203/3, 3203/4, 3203/5, 3203/6 a-b, 3203/7, 3203/8, 3203/9 a-b, 3203/10 a-b, 3203/11 a-b, 3203/12] :	3203/1, 3203/2, 3203/3, 3203/4, 3203/5, 3203/6 a-b, 3203/7, 3203/8, 3203/9 a-b, 3203/10 a-b, 3203/11 a-b, 3203/12
Date:	Between [196-] - [198-] (creation)
Physical description:	10 reel-to-reel audio tapes 8 audio cassette tapes ca. 10 cm. of textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Described by Clara Gimenez-Delgado in 2019

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Karen J. Clark (née Kuil) graduated with a degree in Anthropology and Archaeology and a Teaching Certification from the University of Oregon. After completing her Master's in Anthropology, she accepted a teaching position in the Catholic Residential School of Lower Post (BC, Canada), where she moved in 1964. In 1965, she was hired by the school village to teach Indigenous children from grade 1 to 8 during the week and kindergarten on Sundays. The following year, she was transferred to Cassiar (BC, CA) where she taught the primary grades. In 1966 she was hired as the first teacher at a new school in Pelly Crossing (YT, Canada) where she taught Indigenous children who barely spoke English.

In 1967 Mrs. Clark went back to Cassiar where she married Paul Clark (a mining engineer). She continued teaching in Cassiar and, in 1968, published "Johny Joe" to help Indigenous students getting more engaged with reading.

In 1969, Mrs. Clark moved to Alaska, where she graduated in 1970 with a Master's in Teaching from the University of Alaska. That same year, she was hired at the Two Rivers School (30 miles from Fairbanks, AK, US) to teach grades 1 to 4.

In 1973, Mrs. Clark was awarded Teacher of the Year by Fairbanks and the State of Alaska. That same year, Mrs. Clark and her husband returned to Cassiar, where she was hired as a reading specialist to help teachers of the school district to teach and encourage reading among Indigenous children. In 1975, she published "Sun, Moon and Owl" with a grant from the BC Teacher's Federation.

In 1976, she took a year's leave of absence to gather materials to write a book for the Tahltan children that could be incorporated into the school curriculum. With help from many Indigenous people, she gathered materials from the Telegraph Creek area, resulting in the "Tahltan Native Studies."

In 1977, Mrs. Clark moved to Alberta, where she became the program specialist for the Rockyview school District. In 1984, she published "Language Experiences with Children's Stories" and "Once Upon a Time."

In 1988, she became principal of the Exshaw School, in Exshaw (AB, Canada), where the majority of the students came from the nearby Stoney Reserve.

Mrs. Clark retired in 1989.

Custodial history

Collection was in the possession of Karen and Paul Clark until 2016, when they donated it to the Museum of Anthropology archives.

Scope and content

Collection consists of ten audio reel tapes and eight audio cassette tapes with recordings of stories, obtained by Karen J. Clark and Tahltan community members in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Along with Tahltan Native Studies Committee members, including Rose Quash, Rachel Joseph, Anne Gleason, and Judy Joseph, Karen J. Clark traveled around the Telegraph Creek area to record stories of the Elders and procure photographs. This work became the "Tahltan Native Studies" book, produced in 1976.

Documentation includes a lists of recordings with tape descriptions, a short biography of Karen J. Clark, and letters and documents related to her awards and publications.

Textual materials include three "Tahltan Native Studies" books, two sets of accompanying job cards, one set of activity cards, one set of photograph cards, and a course outline. The collection also includes the three book set "Sun, Moon and Owl" and the accompanying reading workbook and teacher's guide. "Sun, Moon and Owl" was written by Karen J. Clark, with grant funding from the B.C. Teacher's Federation, and published in 1975.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title specified by donor.

Immediate source of acquisition

Karen and Paul Clark donated the materials to the archives on October 17, 2016.

Restrictions on access

Must have permission from Tahltan Community.

Conditions governing use

Some terms apply. Consult the archivist for details.

Accruals

Further accruals may be expected.

Note [General]

Karen J. Clark also donated 12 objects to MOA (clothing, shoes, blankets, etc.) under the Tahltan Native Studies Committee collection. See Alternative Identifier field for the MOA IDs for these 12 objects.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Karen J. Clark (Kuil)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Tahltan (subject)
- British Columbia (place)
- Telegraph Creek (place)
- Lower Post (place)
- Cassiar (place)

Series descriptions

Series 01: Textual records

Scope and content: Series contains textual records created or received by Karen J. Clark during her active years, including printer's copies, published editions and photocopies of her books, personal correspondence, photocopies of newspaper clippings, and teaching materials.

Physical description: 10 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

- English
- Latin

Access points:

- Textual material (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Arrangement: Series was arranged maintaining original order except in the case of the correspondence which was arranged together to avoid misplacement

Publication status:

published			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
01	File - Miscellanea <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains a biographical sketch of Karen J. Clark, a paper printed photograph of the sewed badge of the Indian Residential School of Lower Post; photocopies of four letters addressed to Mrs. Clark in 1967, 1968, 1972, and 1973, 1981; photocopies of two newspaper clips about Mrs. Clark and/or her classes; two photocopies of the cover of "Sun, Moon and Owl"; a photocopy of the cover of "Tahltan Native Studies", a photocopy of an advertisement to buy her last books "Language Experiences with Children Stories" and "Once Upon a Time".		0.5 cm of textual records
02	File - Tahltan Native Studies book and associated materials <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains a published copy of the book "Tahltan Native Studies", a photocopy of it, the "Course outline Tahltan native Studies, year 1-5" The "Course Outline" presents a photograph on the first page with four people in it. Below the photograph, someone added a post-it note with the names of the people.		3 booklets and 2 sheet of textual records
03	File - Tahltan Native Studies, printer's copy <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains a printer's copy of the book "Tahltan Native Studies"		2 cm of textual records
04	File - Tahltan Native Studies Job Cards <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains 31 job cards with a photograph on one side and text on the other side. The photographs include aspects of the Tahltan culture (stories, symbols, people, history, etc.). The texts are divided between: information about the card and a section named "Something to talk over with the Elders." These job cards were created to be used in class activities and part of their content was eventually introduced in the "Tahltan Native Studies"		1 cm of textual and graphic records
05	File - Tahltan Native Studies Job Cards book <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains a printer's copy of the Job Cards book and a printed copy of that same book. The book included photographs with different aspects of the Tahltan culture, explanations of them, and related activities for the children.		2 cm of textual records
06	File - Sun, Moon and Owl books <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains "Sun, Moon and Owl" book 1, 2, and 3, the "Teacher's Guide to Sun, Moon, and Owl", and the "Reading Skills Worksheets for Sun, Moon and Owl books 1, 2 and 3" all written by Karen J. Clark and published in 1974		4 booklets and 1 cm of textual records
Series 02: Sound recordings			
<i>Scope and content:</i> Series is divided into two sub-series. Subseries A, Interviews, contains materials gathered by the Tahltan Native Studies Committee with information about the Tahltan culture. Subseries			

B, Class materials, contains recordings made by Karen J. Clark and some of her students as part of class activities or to be used in class

Physical description: 8 audio cassette tapes
10 reel to reel audio tapes

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

Subseries A: Interviews

Scope and content: The recordings include interviews with different members of the Tahltan community in which they narrate traditional stories and/or talk about Indigenous traditions and ways of life

Physical description: 5 audio cassette tapes
10 reel-to-reel audio tapes

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)

Arrangement: Items were grouped together following the content

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
1 (MAN-202) cc_0079_b	Item - Florence Johny (Lower Post) counting & singing (Tahltan)Tape labelled "tape M" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 1 (cc_0079_b): Florence Johny counting and singing in Tahltan. First she counts to 20 in Tahltan and English. Later she sings two songs that she learned from her grandparents. No content on side a		1 audio cassette tape
2 (MAN-203) cc_0080_a cc_0080_b	Item - Eva Carlick 3 sisters and Tahltan-Tlingit WarsTape labelled "tape N" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 1 (cc_0080_a): Eva Carlick tells a version the story of the 3 sisters. Track 2 (cc_0080_b): Eva Carlick narrates the Tahltan-Tlingit Wars. Recorded by S. Carlick		1 audio cassette tape (90 min.)
3 (MAN-204) cc_0082_a cc_0082_b	Item - Amos Allick & Margaret AbouTape labelled "tape P" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i>		1 audio cassette tape (120 min.)

	<p>Track 1 (cc_0082_a): Karen J. Clark interviewing Amos Allick about his family traditions and life as a kid.</p> <p>Track 2 (cc_0082_b): Amos Allick tells the story of Wolverine man. Includes short interventions by Margaret Abou.</p>	
4 (MAN 205) cc_0077_b	<p>Item - How Crow Got Daylight, Sun and Moon and How Crow Made the Animals, Told by Johnny Jack Tape labelled "tape K" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Note [General] :</i></p> <p>Audio cassette tape included two recordings (cc_0077_a and cc_0077_b). cc_0077_a is an item in Subseries B "Class Materials" cc_0077_b is an item in Subseries A "Interviews"</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 (cc_0077_b): Johnny Jack tells the story of how Crow brought Sun, Moon, and Daylight and the story of how Crow made the animals</p>	1 audio cassette tape (25 min 08 sec.)
5 (MAN-206) cc_0078_a cc_0078_b	<p>Item - Ghosts and Death, by JoAnne Dennis, Marie Pete, Nito Pete</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 & Track 2 (cc_0078_a & cc_0078_b): JoAnne Dennis, Marie Pete, and Nito Pete telling ghosts stories and talking about death</p>	1 audio cassette tape (30 min.)
6 (MAN-207) rr_0074_1 rr_0074_3	<p>Item - Rose Quash, Gibson Quash, Minnie Creyke on Hunting, Trapping, Traplines, and Ester Knowles on Food, Stories, Medicine, and Language Tape labelled "tape A" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 (rr_0074_1): Interview to Rose Quash, Gibson Quash, and Minnie Creyke where they talk about food processing, hunting, trapping, and traplines Track 3 (rr_0074_3): Interview to Ester Knowles where she translates some fruit names and sentences from English to Tahltan, stories about her past and childhood (living "in the bush"), memories about medicinal remedies, stories about Tahltan traditions, and translations of animal and plant names from English to Tahltan No content on tracks 2 and 4</p>	1 audio reel to reel tape
7 (MAN-209) rr_0076_1 rr_0076_3	<p>Item - Rose Quash, Anne Gleason, Judy Joseph on Dushinas, Ghosts, more on snares, and Opal Ball Tape labelled "tape C" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 (rr_0076_1): Anne Gleason, Rose Quash, Judy Joseph, and Karen Clark talking about ghosts stories, Tahltan traditions (medicine, death, and frogs), and stories about people they knew Track 3 (rr_0076_3): Rose Quash, Anne Gleason, Judy Joseph, Irene Inkster, Patty (?), and Karen Clark on how you can catch rabbits, snares, potlatches, and Opal Ball No content on tracks 2 and 4</p>	1 audio reel to reel tape
8 (MAN-210) rr_0077_1	<p>Item - Rose Quash and Anne Gleason, The Big Girls Tape Tape labelled "tape D" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p>	1 audio reel to reel tape

	Track 1 (rr_0077_1): Karen Clark interviewing Rose Quash and Anne Gleason and talking about becoming a woman (periods, marriage, and having children) No content on tracks 2, 3, and 4	
9 (MAN-211) rr_0078_4	Item - Legends: August Brown Tape labelled "tape E" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 1 (rr_0078_4): Karen Clark interviewing August Brown who tells five Tahltan legends as told by different people Duplicated content on track 3 No content on tracks 1 and 2	1 audio reel to reel tape
10 (MAN-213) rr_0080_2 rr_0080_4	Item - Rose Quash, Irene Inkster, Ann Gleason on Indian Medicine and Frogs Tape labelled "tape G" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 2 (rr_0080_2): Rose Quash, Anne Gleason, Irene Inkster and Karen Clark talking about making jam, medicine practices and giving birth, hunting practices, taking care of babies, the story of the Three Sisters, treating animals right, and Tahltan ceremonies and traditions Track 4 (rr_0080_4): Rose Quash talking to Anne Gleason and Karen Clark about fishing practices and fish treatment and storage. Irene Inkster talking about Tahltan traditions on using fruits and plants and medicine practices, skin treatment, and moose related stuff. No content on tracks 1 and 3	1 audio reel to reel tape
11 (MAN-214) rr_0081_1 rr_0081_3	Item - Ann Gleason, Rose Q., and Doreen Day on Burial Practices, and Rosie Dennis Singing Telling "Big Girl" Stories Tape labelled "tape H" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 1 (rr_0081_1): Ann Gleason, Rose Q., and Doreen Day talking about burial practices. Track 3 (rr_0081_3): Rosie Dennis singing songs in Tahltan and English and telling stories of her growing up years and Rachel Josep's (?) grandfather talking No content on tracks 2 and 4	1 audio reel to reel tape
12 (MAN-215) rr_0082_1	Item - Rachel Joseph, Judy Joseph, Anne Gleason, Minnie (Ball) Creyke on Scrapers, Tanning Moose Skins and Values Tape labelled "tape I" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 1 (rr_0082_1): Talking about Tagodi (?), hunting practices, respect for animals, caring for children, and values No content on tracks 2, 3, and 4	1 audio reel to reel tape
13 (MAN-216) rr_0083_2 rr_0084_4	Item - John Carlick and Jean Brown on 3 Sisters and How Crow Brought Daylight Tape labelled "tape J" by Karen J. Clark <i>Scope and content:</i> Track 2 (rr_0083_2): John Carlick telling the story of how Crow Brought Daylight and the story of the Three Sisters. Track 4 (rr_0083_4): Jean Brown telling the story about the Frog, the Woman Who Turned into an Owl, How Crow Got Water and Daylight. Between the stories, she tells Tahltan traditions and her life story, counts from one to thirty, and then to a hundred in tens in Tahltan and English	1 audio reel to reel tape

No content on tracks 1 and 3

Subseries B: Class materials

Scope and content: Recordings include materials created by Karen J. Clark to be used in reading classes, materials created by students during Mrs. Clark's classes, and materials created by Mrs. Clark to track the learning capabilities of students

Physical description: 3 audio cassette tapes

Language of the material:

- English

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)

Arrangement: Items were grouped together following the content

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
1 (MAN-208) rr_0075_4	<p>Item - Lower PostTape labelled "tape B" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 4 (rr_0075_4): Karen Clark and her students at Lower Post telling and reading stories and rimes and singing in class. Karen Clark singing Duplicated content on track 2. No content on tracks 1 and 3</p>		1 audio reel to reel tape
2 (MAN-212) rr_0079_4	<p>Item - Legends and Class Lower PostTape labelled "tape F" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 4 (rr_0079_4): Karen Clark and her students from Lower Post telling Tahltan legends and stories. Short stories by different children with the Giant Worm Story, stories about Willy Cigar, Charlie McDonald, the Susina legend, and the Nass River Indians among others. Duplicated content on track 2 No content on tracks 1 and 3</p>		1 audio reel to reel tape
3 (MAN-217) cc_0081_a cc_0081_b	<p>Item - Mark Carlick and Geoffrey CooperTape labelled "tape O" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Karen J. Clark with Mark Carlick and Geoffrey Cooper reading from the "Spache diagnostic Reading Scales" in June 1980. The scales are a series of individual reading tests used to evaluate oral and silent reading abilities. During the duration of the tape, Karen J. Clark performs the same test to both children in separate occasions. Track 1 (cc_0081_a): Karen J. Clark with Mark Carlick Track 2 (cc_0081_b): Karen J. Clark with Geoffrey Cooper</p>		1 cassette tape (43 min.)

<p>4 (MAN-218) cc_0083_a cc_0083_b</p>	<p>Item - Doyle Interviews RickyTape labelled "tape Q" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>As part of what looks like a class exercise, two students (Doyle and Ricky) interview each other about fishing stories, their families and the towns they have lived in. The recordings are mixed with music recordings independent to the class activity. There are interventions from other students saying their names.</p> <p>Track 1(cc_0083_a) Track 2 (cc_0083_b)</p>	<p>1 cassette tape (60 min.)</p>
<p>5 (MAN-219) cc_0084_a cc_0084_b</p>	<p>Item - Legends, JoAnne Dennis: Old Woman and the Rabbits, the Girl Who Went to Get Blueberries, the Girls Who Went to the Stars; and Robbie and the Sled Dog RaceTape labelled "tape R" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 (cc_0084_a): JoAnne Dennis (age 14) tells three stories by request of Karen J. Clark: the Old Woman and the Rabbits, the Girl who went to get blueberries, the girls who went to the stars.</p> <p>Track 2 (cc_0084_b): Karen J. Clark, reads the story of Robbie and the sled dog race marking with a sound whenever she turns the page</p>	<p>1 cassette tape (40 min.)</p>
<p>6 (MAN-205) cc_0077_a</p>	<p>Item - Children Telling Riddles and SingingTape labelled "tape K" by Karen J. Clark</p> <p><i>Note [General] :</i></p> <p>Audio cassette tape included two recordings (cc_0077_a and cc_0077_b). cc_0077_a is an item in Subseries B "Class Materials" cc_0077_b is an item in Subseries A "Interviews"</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Track 1 (cc_0077_a):Children alternate the recording to tell short stories and riddles in what appears to be a class exercise and then they sing together as a group</p>	<p>1 audio cassette (12 min. 20 sec.)</p>