



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

MS 2012 Three untitled Fox stories
collected by Truman Michelson

Digitization and preparation of these materials for online access
has been funded through generous support from the Arcadia Fund.

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 2012 Three untitled Fox stories collected by Truman Michelson
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS2012
Creator:	Michelson, Truman, 1879-1938 (Collector) Peters, Sam, 1885- Peters, Jim, 1866- Poweshiek, Horace (Translator)
Extent:	138 Pages
Language:	In Meskwaki (Fox) and English.
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Three untitled Fox stories collected by Truman Michelson Digital Content: Three untitled Fox stories collected by Truman Michelson Image(s): MS 2012 Three untitled Fox stories collected by Truman Michelson

Administrative Information

Available Formats

Digital surrogates are available online.

Processing Information

The description of this manuscript was updated in 2024 based on information provided by Dr. Patricia Afafe, Research Assistant to the Linguistic Editor of the *Handbook of North American Indians*, and Dr. Lucy Thomason, National Museum of Natural History Museum Technician (linguistics).

Citation

Manuscript 2012, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Scope and Contents

This collection contains four untitled stories by Sam Peters, handwritten in Meskwaki syllabary, with English translations by Horace Poweshiek. The texts were collected by Truman Michelson in Tama, Iowa. Although Jim Peters is identified as the source of the text, the handwriting matches that of his son, Sam Peters. The texts are a story about a man named Wêôtnesiwa; a story about ten people who travel around the island Earth and encounter all kinds of strange folk, including game animals who at first glance look like humans; a story about two men who find a passage to a world under our Earth where corn and buffalo are plentiful; and a winter story involving a transformation flight, a tale which Truman Michelson glossed as "partially like [William] Jones' Daughters of Mesōswa; partially like last part of [William Jones'] Ojibwa Blue Garter (European)." See William Jones, *Fox Texts* (Late E. J. Brill, 1907), 195-201 and William Jones and Truman Michelson, ed., *Ojibwa Texts collected by William Jones*, Publications of the American Ethnological Society, vol. 7, part 2 (G. E. Stechert and Co., 1919), 23-43.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 2012

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Fox
- Fox language
- Indians of North America -- Northeast
- Language and languages -- Documentation
- Meskwaki; Sauk & Fox

Cultures:

- Fox

Types of Materials:

- Folklore
- Manuscripts
- Narratives