



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

MS 308 Eskimo fables; rough notes

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 308 Eskimo fables; rough notes
Date:	1890-1891
Identifier:	NAA.MS308
Creator:	Turner, J. Henry Edmonds, Harry M. W.
Extent:	90 Pages
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Available Formats

Negative microfilm on file.

Citation

Manuscript 308, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Scope and Contents

The volume is unsigned. It contains an ink stamp of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Archives, and was probably written by J. H. Turner, an observer for the U. S. C. and G. S. who wintered at Tat-chek village, 1890-91. The name "Edmonds" appears on the 3rd page from the back; the context is not clear, but it may refer to Assistant Astronomer Harry W. Edmonds, Turner's colleague. Other members of the party were H. N. Kieraulff, physician; Gustav Bergmann, foreman; John Meade, assistant foreman; William Rundquist, cook; and W. E. Lindgard, C. P. Harkort, Otto Polte, and E. Engelstad, laborers. --U. S. C. and G. S., Report for 1891, part 1, Washington, 1892, page 89. The volume is ascribed to J. H. Turner on the basis of the above information, first noted by Mrs. Ray in U.S.N.A. At the end of the volume are brief notes in two other handwritings, one headed "Futurity" (beliefs about afterlife), 4 pages, and one giving Eskimo expressions or songs, 1 page.

Bibliography

An edited version of the tales recorded by Turner and a verbatim transcription of the four pages recorded by Edwards and headed "Futurity" have been published by Dorothy Jean Ray as "St Michael Eskimo Myths and Tales Collected by J. Henry Turner and H.M.W. Edmonds," Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska, Volume 14, Number 1, 1968, pages 43-83. A reprint is filed with the manuscript.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 308

Local Note

Letter of J. Henry Turner to Professor T. C. Mendenhall, Supt., U.S.C. and G.S., Washington, September 6, 1890, located in U.S. National Archives by Mrs. Ray (5/67) appears to be in same handwriting as main part of volume. Pages at end of volume seem to be in same hand as letters of Harry M. W. Edmonds to the Supt., U.S.C. and G.S., August 19, 1901 seen by Mrs. Ray in U.S.N.A.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Arctic peoples
- Eskimos
- Folklore -- Eskimo
- Indians of North America -- Subarctic

Cultures:

- Arctic peoples
- Eskimos
- Indians of North America -- Subarctic