



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

MS 7561 Anthropology lyrics for songs

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 7561 Anthropology lyrics for songs
Date:	n.d
Identifier:	NAA.MS7561
Creator:	Lurie, Nancy Oestreich (Donor)
Extent:	6 Pages
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Citation

Manuscript 7561, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Biographical / Historical

Lurie reported that "The Great Athabaskan Migration," AKA "The Athabaskan Bastards Caused the Great Pueblo Fall," is very old and was composed, I'm told around the campfire during fieldwork at a SW dig. I first heard it when I was a graduate student at the University of Chicago, 1945-47, and it already was an established part of the repertoire when grad students sang to guitar accompaniment at parties. My sequel, written ca. 1959 when June Helm and I did field work among the Dogrib, never gained any wide currency. There aren't as many N. Athabaskan researchers as SW archeologists. The other Northern Athabaskan song was composed by June and me during the field season of 1967 at Fort Rae, NWT, when a linguist, Bob Howren, then of the U. of Iowa, and a graduate student whose last name I've forgotten also spent the summer there. It was inspired by the fact that the Dogrib word for peanut butter is squirrel shit. The first jars they saw, I believe "Nutty Club" brand, had a picture of a squirrel on the label and the Dogrib drew a natural conclusion . . . I have no idea where I got the other song, but my copy is a xerox of old darened thermofaxes . . . Although there are out and out typos, it appears that some of the misspelling is intentional. . . I don't recall hearing it sung, but the culture and personality field started in the 1940s."

Scope and Contents

Included are lyrics "The King-Pin of Anthropology" for the tune of Gilbert and Sullivan's "I'm the Ruler of the Queen's Navee"; "The Northern Athabaskan Bastards", by Lurie for the tune of the "Wabash Cannonball"; "The Great Athabaskan Migration for the tune of the "Wabash Cannonball"; and "The Ethnolinguists Lament" by Helm and Lurie to the tune of "On Top of Old Sophie."

Local Numbers

NAA MS 7561

Local Note

Electrostatic copies of typescripts

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Helm, June, 1924-