



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

MS 970 Letters from James G. Swan to George Gibbs

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 970 Letters from James G. Swan to George Gibbs
<b>Date:</b>	July 20, August 20, and September 4, 1855
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS970
<b>Creator:</b>	Swan, James G., 1818-1900 (Collector) Old Toke (Informant) Gibbs, George, 1815-1873
<b>Extent:</b>	9 Pages
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Citation

Manuscript 970, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Scope and Contents

Contents relate to medicine men; story of the Thunder Bird; notes on religion, customs, tribal names, etc.

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## Scope and Contents

Letter of July 20 gives names of tribes from Columbia River to Cape Flattery, obtained from Old Toke; refers to vocabularies requested by Gibbs but not yet recorded by Swan, and visit to Capt. Vail at Gibbs' request, about collection of debt. Letter of August 20 discusses medicine "Tomanawas," relates stories of Thunderbird, the "Smissee" (duck), the winds, and customs and religious beliefs of Indians from Columbia River to Nisqually.

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 970

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

American Indian -- Northwest Coast  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Ducks  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Ethnology  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Thunder Bird  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- medicine men  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- tribe names  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- winds  
Folklore -- American Indian -- Northwest Coast  
Language and languages -- Documentation  
Medicine -- American Indian -- Northwest Coast  
Names, tribal -- American Indian -- Northwest Coast

Cultures:

American Indian -- Northwest Coast  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Ducks  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Ethnology  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- Thunder Bird  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- medicine men  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- tribe names  
American Indian -- Northwest Coast -- winds