

GRIMBLE PAPERS

Microfilm No.1

Gilbertese Myths, Legends and Oral Traditions

Collected by (Sir) Arthur Grimble between ca. 1916 and 1930

Copied from the Grimble Papers in the
Department of Pacific History, Australian National University

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✓ A. Island series:-

— (1) Banaba [English; 6p.].

- (a) The Darkness and the Cleaving Together.
- (b) The Breaking of the Tree of Samoa.
- (c) Obaia the Feathered and his journey to Onouna.
- (d) The progeny of Auriaria on Beru.

— (2) Beru [English; 19p.].

- Banned.*
- ✓(a) The Darkness and Cleaving Together.
 - ✓(b) The Breed of the Ghosts of the South.
 - (c) The Breed of Tamoa.
 - ✓(d) The Breed of the Ghosts of the North.
 - (e) The tale of Te Mamang.
 - (f) The progeny of Na Areau on Tarawa.
 - ✓(g) The Second Return of Na Areau to Tamoa.
 - (h) The Third Return of Na Areau to Tamoa.
 - (i) The Breaking of the Tree of Tamoa.

— (3) Butaritari [English; 3p.].

- (a) The tale of the voyage from Te-bongi-roro.
- (b) The tale of the voyage to Tamoa-the-namesake.
- (c) The Breaking of the Trees of Tamoa.

— (4) Tabiteuea [English; 5p.].

- (a) The Darkness and the Cleaving Together.
- (b) The tale of Na Areau and Taburimai.
- (c) The tale of Na Areau and Na Utima.
- (d) The tale of Na Areau and Taranga.

— (5) Tarawa [English; 18p.].

- (a) The tale of the Tree of Tamoa.
- (b) The tale of Nei Terere and the Tree of Tarawa.
- (c) The tale of Obaia the Feathered.
- (d) The tale of the Coming of Nei Nimanoa, the child of Te Uribaba.
- (e) The tale of Towatu-of-Matang.
- (f) The tale of the Coming of Taburimai with Nei Tituaabine and Taburitongoun from Tarawa.

Note: The Little Makin series has been published as Appendices 1 and 2 of Instalment No.3 (pp.85-103) of The Migrations of a Pandanus People. There are, however, differences between the text in the Grimble Papers (not reproduced here) and the printed version.

B. Nui series, obtained from Anetipa of Nui in 1922.

- (6) Rongorongon aia buaka anti [Gilbertese; 20p.].
- (7) Moan riki te Tongabiti (te borau) [Gilbertese; 16p.].
- (8) The tale of the first children of Taburimai.
- (a) [Gilbertese (part text only); 10p.].
 - (b) [Gilbertese and literal English; 14p.].
 - (c) [English; 6p.].
- (9) The generations of Darkness and Light.
- (a) [Gilbertese and literal English; 8p.].
 - (b) [English; 3p.].
- (10) Four letters from Anetipa concerning the items, written in 1921 [7p.].

C. Miscellaneous items.

- (11) Creation story: Marakei version [English; 3p.].
- (12) The tale of the War of the North and the South [English; 6p.].
- (13) The tale of Bue and Rirongo [English; 6p.].
- (a) Bue's voyage to the Sun.
 - (b) Bue's voyage to the West.
 - (c) Bue's coming to Tarawa.
- (14) The tale of the canoe-crest called Te Nimtaawaawa [English; 1p.].
- (15) The tale of Baretoka and the Tree of Tarawa [English; 2p.].
- (16) The tale of Na Utonga [English; 6p.].
- (17) The tale of Nei Maanga-ni-buka and the origin of the constellation "Ina-n-te-karon".
- (a) [Gilbertese and literal English; 9p.].
 - (b) [English; 4p.].

- ✓ (18) Ana mananga Auatabu mai Tarawa nakon te aba ae Beru [Gilbertese; 2p.].
- ✓ (19) The story of the canoe of Bakauanoku [English; 3p.].

D. Collection of Creation and related myths, some with commentaries, written in English and evidently intended to form chapters in some projected book.

- ✓ (20) Abemama version of the Creation myth (given by Ten Teeko of Abemama) [3p.].
- ✓ (21) Banaban myth of the pre-creation era (given by Te Itirake of Banaba) [16p.].
- ✓ (22) Banaban Creation-myth with appendices (given by Nei Tearia of Banaba) [14p.].
- ✓ (23) A Beru version of the Creation myth (given by Kinoki of Beru) [4p.].
- ✓ (24) A Maiana version of the Creation-myth (showing Nareau as an Absolute Spirit) (given by Toakai of Maiana) [7p.].
- ✓ (25) Nauruan version of Creation Myth, with appendices (given by Auweieda, High Chief of Nauru) [14p.].
 - (a) Areou and the Darkness.
 - (b) Tabakea's children.
 - (c) Areou in Heaven.
- ✓ (26) Tabiteuean Cosmogony (given by Kaikai of Tabiteuea) [11p.].
- ✓ (27) Tabiteuean version of Creation myth, with appendices (given by Tekawakawa of Tabiteuea) [11p.].
- not received* ✓ (28) The legend of the Tree of Tarawa (given by Anetipa of Nui) [5p.].

Note: All following items are written in Gilbertese unless otherwise stated.

- E. Items contained in a foolscap exercise book entitled "Genealogies, Myths Legends, and Notes on Ancestral Spirits" [64p.].
- ✓ (29) Te I-Mone (given by Taboia of Beru).
 - ✓ (30) Riiki.

- (31) Tetake (given by Naikara of Tabiang, Beru).
- (32) Kirata (given by Tiare of Tabiang, Beru).
- (33) Tetake (given by Nauoko of Tarawa).
- (34) Te Bo ma Temaki and Nareau (given by Kinoki of Beru).
- (35) Kaobunang (given by Tabeaua of Beru).
- (36) Te Bo ma Temaki and Nareau (given by Tekawakawa of Tabiteuea).
- (37) Ana Karaki Naka (given by Teau of Nuka, Beru).
- (38) Naka ao rikini Butaritari (given by Karawe, N. Beru).
- (39) Series of traditions (given by Mareko of Taboiaki, Beru).
 - (a) Te bo ma Temaki.
 - (b) Te Bu n anti Maiaki.
 - (c) Te Bu n anti Meang.
 - (d) Temamang.
 - (e) Ana Kariki Nareau i Tarawa.
 - (f) Kauouan okin Nareau nako Tamoa.
 - (g) Katenuan okin Nareau nako Tamoa.
 - (h) Uruakin te Kai n Tamoa.
- (40) Aia Kariki Te Bong ma Te Ngaina (given by Anetipa of Nui).
- (41) Karakin Tabiria; ana itera n aine (given by Anetipa of Nui).
- (42) Ana itera ni mane Tabiria (given by Anetipa of Nui).
- (43) Wa aika teniwa ake a mumun nako Nui man te buaka are Kaitu ma Uakeia (given by Anetipa of Nui).
- (44) Karakin Nakaa.
- (45) Te bo ma te maki (given by Nei Aria of Tabiang, Banaba).
- (46) Banaban Creation-story and sequels (notes taken from the account of Teitirake of Tabiang, Banaba) [English].
- (47) Karaki ni Bare.
- (48) Aron te Kaintikuaba nke e Korokoreaki (given by Nei Tearia of Banaba).
- (49) Karakin Naaka (given by Nei Tearia of Banaba).

- ✓ (50) Karakin te bongiro (given by Nateke of Butaritari).
- ✓ (51) Karakin Nei Tituabine (given by Nei Okobeta of Banaba).
- ✓ (52) Karakin Nei Ikiku (given by Nei Okobeta of Banaba).
- ✓ (53) Kain te Bo ma te Maki (given by Nei Tearia of Banaba).
- ✓ (54) Lands around Banaba at Creation (given by Nei Tearia of Banaba).
- ✓ (55) Genealogy of Nei Okobeta (given by Nei Okobeta of Banaba).
- ✓ (56) Kateirikin Tabiteuea (given by Kaikai of Tabiteuea).

✓ F. Items in a foolscap exercise book entitled "I. Travel lore, Stars, sailing directions, dangers at sea; tales of stars and voyages. II. Songs: especially songs of ancient voyages and wars." [33p.].

(57) Bukin rikin te itoi are Inan te Karon.

(58) Makin series (given by Nan Kabwe, Na Makei and Nan Tanana).

- (a) Genealogy belonging to the series (given by Nan Tanana).
- (b) The Planting of the Tree of Samoa.
- (c) The legend of Batuku.

(59) Kunani Moiua (given by Arebaio of Beru). Song.

(60) Kunan Nareau (given by Toma of Beru). Song.

(61) Kunan Naaka (given by Koriri of Tarawa). Song.

(62) Kunan Nareau. Song.

(63) Te Binekua (Kataneana). Song.

(64) Kunan Teborau. Song.

(65) Te Kuna mai Tarawa (given by Titau and Nauoko). Song.

G. Items in untitled exercise book, consisting of:-

- ✓ I. (66) An epitome of the history and culture of Abemama Island. The author is not stated but (on evidence obtained at Abemama) is believed to have been Hiram, the celebrated Abemaman authority on Gilbertese custom [54p.].

Note: The whole of this exposition is reproduced as it is difficult to separate legendary and traditional material from cultural descriptions.

✓ The Abemama MS.

- (a) Karakin aron Abemama ma te botanaomata.
- (b) Teirakin te buaka are e kakanato.
- (c) Okin te buaka ao bararikakina.
- (d) Karakin te botanaomata ae i Abemama.
- (e) Moan rikin te tautaeka ni uea i Abemama.
- (f) Te uea ma ana utu.
- (g) Utu n toka i aia utu ni uea.
- (h) Kain aon te aba a bon aki aronaki.
- (i) Koraki n toro ke kaunga.
- (j) Te mare ni iein i Abemama.
- (k) Tan tautaeka i aia uea.
- (l) Tuan te tiri aomata rimoa.
- (m) Aroia toro (kaunga).
- (n) Anti ma tabunea.
- (o) Ika ake a tabu kanakia ba rabataia anti.
- (p) Tai.
- (q) Namakaina.
- (r) Taekan te amarake.
- (s) Taekini moan rikin te aba.
- (t) Rikin te aba ae Kiribati.
- (u) Taekini Marawa.
- (v) Ka 2nd n taekinaia Anti ma Atua.
- (w) Taekan te rouia.
- (x) Te Tabunea.
- (y) Karakin Terakunene are "Antin Abaiang" [with English translation].
- (z) Nei Karua [with English translation].
- (aa) Te mkamka ni ba.
- (bb) Te manenriri.
- (cc) Te bikoukou ni karokoa rairakina (bung).
- (dd) Neire te toba.
- (ee) Taekan te mate ma tamnein te aomata.
- (ff) Mone ke Temamatannana.

✓ II. (67) Five Songs (two with English translations) [17p.].

- (a) Song of Titera (given by Titera of Tabiang, Beru). Song.
- (b) Fragment of Tarawan song. Song.
- (c) A song of Nareau - I. Song.
- (d) A song of Nareau - II [with English translation]. Song.
- (e) The song of Moiaua [with English translation].

— photocopies only
H. Items in an exercise book entitled "Spells, witchcraft, etc." [53p.].

- ✓ (68) The tale of the tree of Samoa (given by Mautake of Tarawa) [in English].
- ✓ (69) Story of the ancestors of Kauongo and Kaburoronteun on Tarawa [in English].
- ✓ (70) Song of the voyage of Naka and Nabongibong from Samoa to the North, when they fled from the basket full of sickness and all evil things which were cast out of Heaven upon earth when the world was created. The poet was Teburea of Arorae who died about a century ago. Song.
- ✓ (71) The story of Noubwebwe and the daughter of Teuribaba [in English].
- ✓ (72) Story of the coming of Tituabine and her friends from Samoa [in English].
- ✓ (73) The magic spells used by Nareau when he created the world [in Gilbertese and English].
- ✓ (74) Ellice Islands Creation story [in English].
- ✓ (75) Nei Tituabine [in English].
- ✓ (76) Taburimai [in English].
- (77) Karongoa.
- ✓ (78) Another set of charms said to have been used by Nareau in the Creation.
- (79) Creation story from Nui, related by Kuaroun, a descendant of the Nonouti fugitives from Beruan conquest [in English].

✓ I. Items in an exercise book entitled "Taian taeka mai Kiribati" [95p.].

(80) Abemama series.

- (a) Okoron atongan te Antimaomata ao te Anti.
- (b) Taian Anti ake a oti riki.
- (c) Te Antimaomata.
- (d) Te Otanga (Kibenanimatu).
- (e) Abemama ma te buaka ngkoa.
- (f) Rineia ke kakanatira.
- (g) Bakan Tebatanteabike i Abemama.
- (h) Kenna ke Tekunroro.
- (i) Tokarake te aba.

- (81) Karakin Te Obaia ae natin Nei Terere (given by Mautake and Nauoko of Tarawa).
- (82) Karakin Noubwebwe (given by Tororo and Mautake of Tarawa).
- (83) Taekan Auriaria of Samoa.
- (84) Karakin Auriaria of Banaba.
- (85) Karakin Taburimai.
- (86) Karakin Nei Tituabine.
- (87) Karakin Tabuariki.
- (88) Karakin ni Bue ma Rirongo (1).
- (89) Karakin ni Bue ma Rirongo (2).
 - (a) Okin Bue mai iroun Tamana ao nakona nakon Nei Bairaro.
 - (b) Nakoni Bue nakon Tarawa.
 - (c) Borauni Kotua nako Beru ma Nikunau.
- (90) Benuakura (Te Nimtawawa).
- (91) Temataua.
- (92) Tekikonang.
- (93) Te Bou uoua.
- (94) Manin Namakaina.
- (95) Te Kainikamata.
- (96) Tabora.
- (97) Teibi, and the Lizard.
- (98) The family of Tetonganga.
- (99) Auriaria of Tarawa (given by Anetipa of Nui).
- (100) Auriaria of Tarawa (given by Nauoko of Tarawa).
- (101) Notes and additions to Tarawa version of Auriaria story, to be taken from Maiana version as told by Ten Toakai [in Gilbertese and English].

- (102) Taekan ana Kain iri Tabakea.
- (103) Taekan Tabakea ma Tituabine ao natia ae Kaitetara.
- (104) Nei Tituabine.

✓ J. Typescripts of Songs.

- (105) Te Kuna ni Buaka (Tarawa war song, in 4 parts, given by Te Mweretaka of Te Aoraereke, Tarawa) [12p.].
- (106) Tangin te Buaka, ngke e raoiakinaki (War song from Noto, Tarawa) [3p.].
- (107) Te Man n Tinaba: in two parts (given by Nei Kabure of Noto, Tarawa) [4p.].
- (108) Song (given by Nei Kabure of Noto, Tarawa) [2p.].
- (109) Te Anene (given by Nei Kabure of Noto, Tarawa) [1p.].
- (110) Te Anene n tarae (given by Terenga) [4p.].
- (111) Mani-n te Tirere (given by Bakanebo and Taberu) [1p.].
- (112) Te Bino (given by Nei Tekaboi) [2p.].
- (113) "Te Kamei" are te Kibwi (given by Mweretaka) [2p.].
- (114) Te Kamei ae bon te kamei (given by Tenterenga) [3p.].
- (115) Te bino rimoa (given by Kaberu) [3p.].
- (116) Te Wa-n-Tarawa [3p.].
- (117) Te Wa ni banga [2p.].
- (118) Te kateitei [3p.].
- (119) Te tibeua [3p.].
- (120) Te tangi mate [5p.].
- (121) Te Kimoa [4p.].
- (122) Te Batere ni Bino [2p.].

(123) Te Kuna n Anene [2p.].

(124) Te Bino [2p.].

(125) Te Bino [2p.].
