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B. N. O. Walker (Hen Toh) Archive

Walker, Bertrand N[icholas] O[liver] (Hen-Toh) (1870 – 1927). A substantial archive of unpublished writings, including stories, poems, and a Wyandotte glossary. Approximately 280 pages, both manuscripts, typescripts, and corrected carbons, with a 1909 chronotype portrait of Walker by George B. Cornish. Materials generally in very good or better condition. Individually filed in an archival case, 0.5 linear feet.

This archive of stories, poems, and other writings, most of which are unpublished, more than doubles the known corpus of writings by B. N. O. Walker, who published his work under his Wyandotte name, Hen-Toh. Lost for almost 100 years, these manuscripts were recently discovered among the fugitive papers of Charles Marius Barbeau (1883 – 1969), the Canadian ethnologist who relied on Walker's help for his landmark work, *Huron and Wyandot Mythology* (1915).

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1. Correspondence

1. M. M. Quaife to B. N. O. Walker, TLS, January 16, 1916, 1 p., with envelope.

Quaife, the Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, writes with details on manuscripts in the Society's collections relating to Wyandot history.

2. Manuscripts: Poetry

A. Collections

1. [*Five poems*]. 11 pp. (including blanks), bound with brass grommets.

- i. *A Mojave Lullaby*
- ii. *Sunset in Mojave Land*
- iii. *A Desert Memory*
- iv. *Song of a Navajo Weaver*
- v. *Pontiac*

B. Individual poems

1. *Adios*, typescript, 1 p.
2. *Agency Police [I: Bigknife]*, typescript. 1 p.
3. *Agency Police [II: High Waters]*, typescript. 1 p.
4. *Agency Police [III: 'Notha Gen]*, typescript. 1 p.
5. *Agency Police [IV: The Seneca races were goin' on]*, typescript. [NB: on same sheet as #3 above]
6. *An Ancient Village Site*, typescript, three and a half drafts (I), some with holograph emendations, 7 pp.

7. *At the Station*, typescript fragment, 1 p. [NB: lower half of page missing, variant of #15 below]
8. [*Bits of Legend, Bits of Lore*], holograph manuscript, 1 p.
9. *The Call of the Ozarks* (I), typescript, 1 p.
10. *The Call of the Ozarks* (II), typescript, 1 p.
11. *The Calumet or Peace Pipe*, typescript., 1 p.
12. *A Desert Memory*, typescript, 1 p.
13. [*Down the Ragged Trail*], holograph manuscript, 1 p.
14. *Eternamente*, typescript, 1 p.
15. *Evening at the Station*, typescript, 1 p. [NB: variant of #8 above]
16. *Fire*, typescript, 1 p.
17. *Fishin'*, holograph manuscript, 1 p.
18. *Freedom Triumphant*, typescript, two drafts, 2 pp.
19. *Is It Vers Libre ?*, typescript, 1 p.
20. *A Jazz Lullaby*, typescript, 1 p.
21. *A Mojave Lullaby*, two drafts, typescript., 2 pp.
22. *Our Yesterdays*, typescript, 1 p. [on same sheet as #28 below]
23. *Politics*, typescript, 1 p.
24. *Sleep it in Summa'time*, typescript, 1 p.
25. *Song of a Navajo Weaver*, typescript, three drafts, 3 pp.
26. *Tobacco*, three drafts, typescript, 3 pp.
27. *Was She a Modern Eve?*, typescript, 1 p.
28. *The Winds of Passion*, typescript, two drafts, 1 p. [on same sheet as #22 above]

29. *Song of the Storm Swept Plain* by William D. Hodjkiss, typescript, 1 p.

NB: This last item is Walker's transcription of the first four stanzas of Hodjkiss's poem.

3. Manuscripts: Folklore

A. Collections

1. *Myths, Tales, and Legends*. Carbon typescript with holograph emendations. Seneca, Mo., 1917 [?]. 35 pp.
 - 1) [Title page], 1 p
 - 2) *The Singing Maids. A Wyandot Myth*, 2 pp.
 - 3) *He Noh, the Thunder. A Wyandot Myth*, 3 pp.
 - 4) *The Dog Charm. A Wyandot Folk Tale*, 3 pp.
 - 5) *The First Keeper of the Wampum. A Lake Region Legend*, 17 pp.
 - 6) *The White Hawk. A Shawnee Legend*, 5 pp.
 - 7) *The Sun Shower. A Wyandot Myth*, 4 pp.
2. *Other Indian Myths and Tales*. Carbon typescript with holograph emendations, 1918. 52 pp.
 - 1) [Title page], 1 p.
 - 2) *Foreword*, 1 p. [NB: clearly an earlier draft of the forward to his 1919 collection.]
 - 3) *The Great White Bear - A Wyandot Folk Tale*, 11 pp.
 - 4) *The Trickster - A Wyandot Folk Tale*, 8 pp.
 - 5) *The Magic Moccasins - An Algonquin Tale*, 7 pp.
 - 6) *The Little Fisherman - An Odjibway Tale*, 5 pp.

- 7) *The Last Arrow - A Wyandot Myth*, 2 pp.
- 8) *The Red Swan - A Lake Region Indian Tale*, 17 pp.

B. Individual Stories

1. *The Animals Go into the Sky*, typescript, 3 pp.
2. [*Captain Hammond*], holograph manuscript, 1 p.
3. *The Coming of the People and the Conflict*, typescript, 9 pp.
4. *The Dog Charm: A Wyandot Love Story*, holograph manuscript, 4 pp.
5. *The Great Island*, typescript, 6 pp.
6. [*Huntin' Indian Man*], holograph manuscript, 5 pp.
7. *More about the Great Island*, typescript, 5 pp.
8. *Neighborhood Yarns, as told by the Captain*, typescript, 1 p.
9. *The Singing Maids*, typescript, 2 pp.
10. [*A Tramp with Uncle Jim*], holograph manuscript, 7 pp.
11. [*Visiting Aunt*], holograph manuscript, 8 pp.
12. *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*, typescript, 6 pp.

C. Fragments

1. [*Rat and Otter*], holograph manuscript [pp. 3 and 4 only], 2 pp.
2. [*Witch Woman's House*], holograph manuscript [pp. 2 to 5 only], 5 pp.
3. [*Flowers*], typescript [p. 7 only], 1 p.

D. Collaborations with Charles Maurice Barbeau

NB: All published in *Wyandot and Huron Mythology* (1915)

1. *The Coming of the White Man*, typescript, 1 p.
2. *Cosmogonic Myth*, typescript fragment [p. 1 only], 1 p.
3. *The Old Robin*, typescript, 1 p.
4. *The Snakes in the Cranberry Patch*, typescript. 3 pp.
5. *The Witch's Daughters and the Suitors*, typescript, 9 pp.
6. *The Witch Stomatse'a and the Trickster*, typescript, 3 pp.

4. Manuscripts: Non-Fiction

A. Bound volume

1. *Wyandot Notes / Etc. / Glossary*, Reporter's notebook with approximately 50 pp. of holograph notes on Wyandot language, history, and genealogy, circa 1921. Partially disbound.

The notebook includes transcriptions of Wyandot names ("Charlotte McKee / Willia holograph manuscript / Wynadot name / Yohn-deh-shu-ress / Gathering sand"), and some colorful vocabulary ("Skenh-shu-ron-noh. What the Wyandot called the Iroquois. A Fox.") There are also family notes on Adam Brown (who, it is revealed, played the bagpipe), and sketches of other individuals ("Tah-tu-Fahn-yoh, Old Man Cobb. Indian doctor. Had his ears cut. Lived out in the bush. ... Always had a wooden bowl of corn soup for visitors." An entry dated 8/26/21 comprises notes on a business committee meeting.

B. Loose notes

1. [*Reading Notes on Wyandot history*], holograph manuscript, 20 pp.
2. [*Isaac Zane's Rifle*], typescript, 3 pp.

A historical relation received from the third Isaac Zane, grandson of the original owner of the rifle.

3. *Righteous Indignation*, typescript, 1 p.

A short political statement.

4. *Explanatory notes*, typescript, 1 p.

Translations and historical notes, perhaps intended to supplement a collection of poems.

5. *Shon-dow, a home*, typescript, 1 p.

Translations and notes on pronunciation with a note addressed to “Effie.”

6. [*Wyandot names*], holograph manuscript, 1 p.

A short list of translations of Wyandot names.

7. *Trifles*, typescript, two drafts, 10 pp.

An essay on Mark Twain, one a corrected draft with a typed note at the end addressed to “Peggy,” the other a fair copy. We are not 100 percent certain that this essay is by Walker – the corrections here are in red ink instead of pencil, which makes a comparison of the handwriting difficult.

5. Photographs

A. Photograph by George B. Cornish

1. *Hen-Tah, Wyandot Chief* [Portrait of Bertrand N. O. Walker], 1909. 7¾ x 6 in. Sepia-toned collotype printed on double-weight paper.

6. Printed Materials

1. William Elsey Connelley (1855-1930), *Wyandot folk-lore*. Topeka, Kan: Crane & Company, 1899.

NB: Walker’s copy, with his notes.