

**Daisy Bates Papers**

**MSS 572.994 B32t**

**Series 2: 'Native Testaments of old natives'**

**Series 2, 1. The story of the Bibbulmun races and the tragic story of Natives (2 copies, 4 p., 3 p.)**

**Bibbulmun scrap manuscript (1 p.), transcribed by Jane Walkley.**

I discovered the name "Bibbulmun" in my first investigations amongst these dwellers of South Western Australia 1901-7 but could find no other meaning of the term than "bibbul" meaning "breasts" and "mun" for "many". Theirs were groups of 'many breasts', "many women", or groups having "many women amongst them". Women were always "negotiable" temporarily at the great gatherings for Beeda-wa ceremonies and when visiting groups in numbers came to exchange and barter local products (and women) for temporary use by the visitors who paid in products and perhaps their own women in the exchange and barter that always occurred at their great gatherings.