

Hawaiian Chants and Meles  
NOTES ON THE PROVENANCE OF THIS COLLECTION

Albert Pierce Taylor, Librarian of the Archives, died while in his office on January 12, 1931. A note shows that this collection was received at the Archives from Mrs. A.P. Taylor by A. A[ylett] A[lizio] on March 21, 1931. It then contained "79 sheets." A penciled note shows that H.H. rechecked the collection on October 8, 1937 and found "only 67 copies." Since some of the items are written on more than one sheet, it is difficult to determine if the difference between the "79 sheets" and "only 67 copies" represents a loss of 12 items or are merely different ways of counting the same material.

The collection was placed in a "leader file" and was made part of the Historical file as item no. 5. At least 6 items from the collection were stamped with the number 5, or in some instances the number was penciled on. In addition at least 49 of them were given a serial number, with at least one number being used more than once. These serial numbers may possibly indicate the original order of the collection. The following table shows the original serial numbers, where found, followed by the item numbers assigned by the translator in their present arrangement:

1 = 41	10 = 60	20 = 45	30 = 29	40 = 25
2 = 63		21 = 56	31 = 34	41 = 67
3 = 30		22 = 57	32 = 28	42 = 68
4 = 21	13 = 75-76	23 = 73	33 = 24	43 = 83
5 = 26-27	14 = 87	24 = 77		44 = 52-53
6 = 40	15 = 74	25 = 72	35 = 17	45 = 35
	16 = 85	26 = 69-70	36 = 20	46 = 31-32
8 = 23	17 = 47	27 = 33	37 = 80	47 = 64
9 = 4-5		28 = 62	38 = 19	48 = 65
9 = 55	19 = 86	29 = 15	39 = 59	49 = 18

The items bearing the following numbers assigned by the translator have the number 5 stamped on them but lack any additional serial number:

1, 2, 7=14, 16, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 46, 51, 54, 71, 84.

The items bearing the following numbers assigned by the translator have the number 5 penciled on them but lack any additional serial number:

48, 58, 61, 78, 92. No. 92 is obviously from a different source.

The items bearing the following numbers assigned by the translator have no other numerical identification:

3.

Several items appear to have originally been other units taken from the Historical file and added to this collection. The following table shows the original unit numbers, followed by the item numbers assigned by the translator:

63 = 88      64 = 50      83 = 81-82      84 = 6      110 = 22

The translator's number 66 was later found to be a continuation of 53.

The collection eventually was added to and filled with a number of genealogical books, the source of which is not certain in most cases. Many of these books bear a small label with the number A 166. Other materials bearing the same A 166 label are now located with the census records and in the Kalaniana'ole collection, M-80. It is possible that all these A 166 items were originally part of the Kalaniana'ole collection. The items bearing the following numbers assigned by the translator are associated with the A 166 collection:

- 49. A notebook of clippings from newspapers, containing chants and melees.
- 89. A typed translation from an unnumbered page in genealogy book G-29.
- 90. A typed copy of a Hawaiian text, with translation, from page 101 in genealogy book G-35.
- 91. A typed translation from an unlocated source, but probably also from one of the A 166 genealogy books. Typed copy actually says A 116, probably a typographical error.

The collection is now being separated from the genealogy books and placed with the private manuscript collections as M-432.

Notes by Richard F. Thompson, Librarian. 14 March 1977.

## CHANTS AND MELES 1. THROUGH 87.

This collection of Hawaiian poetry consists primarily of chants sent as letters to the Hawaiian newspaper *Ka Hae Hawai'i* in 1860. There are a few other chants included in the collection; a chant written on the back of an early Territorial ballot, a collection of newspaper clippings of chants, and a number of chants without dates or identification.

The most numerous chants are name songs (mele inoa) and dirges (kanikau). Many of the mele inoa chants are for the Prince Ka Haku O Hawai'i, son of Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma, born in 1858. The mele inoa chants, kanikau chants, and the few Western style songs appear to have been as a whole composed by the person or persons submitting them to the newspaper. A few of the chants were traditional or a part of ancient Hawaiian literature, genealogies, or religion. These were submitted by people interested in preserving older works. One letter contained a version of a Pele chant found in Emerson.

These traditional chants were the most difficult to translate and many were just superficially described rather than translated. Translating the chants in this collection was made difficult by several factors. A fair amount of the vocabulary, the place names and characters alluded to, and the symbolism is not documented and is unknown to the translator. The older writing system in which the chants were transcribed does not mark all significant sounds thus creating ambiguities in writing that would not occur if the actual sound of the chants had been preserved. The spelling and handwriting practices of the scribes including poor word division, capitalization, and punctuation compounds the problems of interpreting these documents.

These problems coupled with the fact that the translation of these chants was not undertaken as an in-depth study of the material should suggest to anyone using these chants that the English translations should not be considered exact equivalents of the Hawaiian. Especially troublesome portions were marked in the translations. As the translating work progressed the following symbols came to be found useful:

(? Hawaiian word ?) meaning of this word not known.

(? English word?) translation is considered an educated guess.

/?/ identity not documented. Used mostly after place names not listed in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

/pr/ pronunciation not documented. Used mostly after place names not listed in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

After working on a number of chants a decision was made to include glottal stops and macrons in Hawaiian words when the pronunciation was known. Hopefully, this will help readers pronounce these words. In the translation of the earlier chants of the collection these features of more modern Hawaiian spelling were not included.

W. H. Wilson 2/9/1977

Hawaiian Chants and Meles

This collection consists primarily of chants sent to the Hawaiian newspaper Ka Hae Hawai'i in 1860. See the collection for more extensive notes.

1. He Mele no V. K. Ka'ahumanu      A Song for V. K. Ka'ahumanu  
by J. W. Iaukea. original with partial photographic copy and  
introductory note. translated.
2. Mele Inoa o Ka Lani 'o Kahakuohawai'i - Name Song for His Highness  
Kahakuohawai'i by K. Kapaakea. translated. stamp: 5.
3. He Mele Aloha no kekahi Keiki Na'auao i Holo aku i L. Luna a  
Make 'Oia - A Song of Love for an Intelligent Person Who Went  
to Lahainaluna and Died by J. P. N. K. Western style. translated.
4. Untitled dirge for Liholiho. not translated.
5. Untitled dirge for Kina'u. not translated.
6. He Inoa no Kekulani Fayerweather      A Name Song for Kekulani  
Fayerweather. translated. marked Doc. #84.
7. Mele 1.      Song 1. translated.
8. Mele Kaua'i (Mele 2.)      Kaua'i Song (Song 2.). translated.
9. Untitled. (concerns Hilo, Puna, and volcano area) translated.
10. Untitled. not translated. see 11., 12., 13., 14.
11. Untitled. not translated. see 10., 12., 13., 14.
12. Untitled. not translated. see 10., 11., 13., 14.
13. Untitled. not translated. see 10., 11., 12., 14.
14. Untitled. not translated. see 10., 11., 12., 13.
15. Pule Palo      Prayer of Revelation by Kaeleowaipio. translated.
16. Untitled dirge for Kamehameha III. by the children of  
Keaweikekahiali'iokamoku. translated. stamp: 5.
17. Untitled dirge for Eleio Nua by Kahalelaau. translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 35.
18. Mele Kanikau no Keoua      Dirge for Keoua. translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 49.

19. He Mele no Ka Haku O Hawai 'i -A Song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i by Kaulu and S. W. B. Kaulainamoku. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 38.
20. Untitled incomplete chant by Kaakau. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 36.
21. He Mele no Ka Haku O Hawai 'i A Song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i by Mr. C. Kaaikaula. Western style. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 4.
22. Untitled name song for Kaumakaokane. with photocopy. from Cummins collection. translated. marked Doc. #110.
23. He Mele no Ka Haku O Hawai 'i A Song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i by Napalihauliokoolau. almost identical to chant 21. Western style. translated. stamp: 5.
24. He Kanikau no Iehova ke Akua 'Ike 'Ole 'Ia A Dirge for Jehovah the Unseen God by S. D. Keolanui. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 33. He Mele no Kamehameha A Song for Kamehameha by G. T. Puaainuhau. not translated.
25. stamp: 5. numbered 40.
26. He Kanikau A Dirge by I. Kauhi. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 5.
27. He Kanikau A Dirge by I. Kauhi. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 5.
28. Untitled fragment by Kailialaikahuanu o Kaala. translated. numbered 32.
29. He Mele no Ka Haku O Hawai 'i A Song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i by Kaanaana. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 30.
30. He Mele -A Song by A. G. Kaohihua. name song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 3.
31. He Mele - A Song by S. W. Haia. traditional Pele chant. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 46.
32. He Mele -A Song by S. W. Haia. traditional Pele chant. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 46.
33. Untitled fragment. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 27.
34. Untitled incomplete chant by S. W. Kelihune. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 31.
35. He Mele -A Song by Lohemele. see chant 46. for another version. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 45. marked no. 1.
36. He Mele no Ka Haku O Hawai 'i A Song for Ka Haku O Hawai 'i by Aikake Harbottle. translated. stamp: 5.

37. He Mele Aloha i ka Na'auao      A Song of Love for Education.  
translated. stamp: 5.
38. He Mele - A Song by Nauinapokaikalani. translated. stamp: 5.
39. Hemolele no Ku'u Hoa Luhi o ka Pi'ina Ikiki 'o Ma'ema'e  
Perfect is the One with Whom I Shared the Fatigue of the Hot  
and Humid Ascent of Ma'ema'e by W. Piimoku. photocopy included.  
translated.
40. He Mele no Kaueue A Song for Kaueue by Kahinakua, Kalauli, Hokii, R. D.  
Kapela, Kekuawili, Manaole, and Lahi. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 6.
41. He Mele -A Song by M. K. Kaiwi. dirge. translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 1. marked section one.
42. Untitled dirge resembling chant 43. translated. stamp: 5.
43. Untitled dirge resembling chant 42. translated. stamp: 5.
44. Untitled dirge. translated. stamp: 5.
45. He Mele Aloha      A Love Song by D. B. Kahawaii. incomplete.  
not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 20.
46. He Mele Ali'i      A Royal Song by S. W. B. Kaulainamoku. see  
chant 35. for another version. not translated. stamp: 5.
47. He Mele no Kahoomahele      A Song for Kahoomahele by J. W.  
Kuhelemai. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 17.
48. Untitled dirge. incomplete? written on a territorial ballot.  
not translated.
49. Puke Mele Inoa o Nā Ali'i o Hawai'i Book of Name Songs for  
the Ali'is of Hawai'i collected by J. A. Nahaku. newspaper clippings. not  
translated. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~
50. Badly damaged chant. handwritten A Dirge for Ka'ahumanu II appears  
to be a translation. stamp: 64. numbered 4.
51. Two copies of a dirge possibly for Liholiho. translated. one copy  
has stamp: 5.
52. He Wahi Mele no Kinau'u me Kona... A Little Song for Kina'u  
and Her... photocopy included. partially damaged. not translated.
53. Kanikau -Dirge. photocopy included. partially damaged. not translated.
54. Na Niau no Kaimualii (meaning not clear). probably for Kaumuai'i  
of Kaua'i. not translated.

55. He Wahi Mele                      A Little Song by J. W. Kalaikahiki. a dirge.  
translated. stamp: 5. numbered 9.
56. He Inoa no Kamakakoa A Name Song for Kamakakoa by J. A.  
Kahoolimoku. Kamakakoa may be another name for Queen Emma.  
translated. stamp: 5. numbered 21.
57. He Mele    A Song by Kaulainamoku. incomplete. not translated.  
numbered 22.
56. Untitled. not translated. numbered 5.
59. He Mele                      A Song by Kaneheana. about Puna and Pele. not translated.  
stamp: 5. numbered 39.
60. Untitled Name Song for Liholiho. not translated. stamp: 5.
61. Untitled. translated.
62. Untitled chant about a dream by W. B. Kahue. translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 28.
63. He Mele Ho'ālohaloha no ke Aupuni Hawai'i A Song Expressing Love  
for the Hawaiian Nation by J. A. Kahookaumaka. Western style.  
translated. stamp: 5.
64. Untitled Pele chant by W. B. Kapu. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 47.
65. He Mele                      A Song by G. H. E. Keaniole. not translated. stamp: 5  
numbered 48.
64. He Inoa no Kīna'u a me ke Kanikau A Name Song for Kīna'u and  
a Dirge by C. Hookano. photocopy included. incomplete. translated.  
stamp: 5. numbered 44.
67. He Mele A Song by Kaiaikawaha. not translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 41.
68. He Mele                      A Song by C. W. K. Kenui. photocopy included. translated.  
stamp: 5. numbered 42.
69. He Mele no Kani Kauikeouli                      A Song for Kani Kauikeouli by  
J. A. K. translated. stamp: 5
70. He Mele no Kalani Kauikeouli                      A Song for His Majesty Kauikeouli  
by J. A. K. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 26. marked no. 3.
71. Kanikau Aloha no Davida Malo                      Dirge of Love for David Malo  
by Ema Malo. Rebeka. translated. stamp: 5.
72. He Mele no W. Leleiohoku                      A Song for W. Leleiohoku by Kaanaana.  
translated. stamp: 5. numbered 25. marked no. 4.

73. He Mele A Song by D. M. Kapule. not translated. stamp: 5.  
numbered 23.
74. Kahi Mele o Lawekaho'olawe The Little Song of Lawekaho'olawe  
by G. B. H. photocopy included. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 15
75. He Mele no ka Ua A. Song for the Rain by P. Haleakala. photocopy  
included. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 13.
76. He Mele no ka Wa'a "No Kekauluohi O'mano" A Song for the Canoe  
For Kekauluohi O'mano" by P. Haleakala. photocopy included.  
not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 13.
77. He Mele A Song by F. W. Kaawaloa. same chant as chant 55.  
not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 24.
78. Untitled. not translated. numbered 5.
79. He Mele no Kamehameha A Song for Kamehameha. translated.
80. He Mele Kanikau A Dirge by W. I. Haaheo. translated. stamp: 5  
numbered 37. marked no. 2.
81. Lonoikamakahiki I " 'O ke Akua Pōloli " Lonoikamakahiki I  
"The Hungry God ". not translated.
82. He Mele no Lonoikamakahiki-kapu-o-Keawe I A Song for  
Lonoikamakahiki-kapu-o-Keawe I. not translated.
83. He Mele A Song by D. M. Makaole. photocopy included.  
not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 43.
84. Short note from C. W. K. Kenui describing a chant. translated.  
stamp: 5.
85. He Mele no Kekuaokalani A Song for Kekuaokalani by S. C. L.  
Halo'u. not translated. stamp: 5. numbered 16.
86. He Mele he Inoa no Iosia A Song a Name (Song) for Iosia (Josiah)  
by G. M. Kauaoena. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 19.
87. He Mele Inoa no ka Haku O Hawai'i A Name Song for Ka Haku O Hawai'i by  
Makaliilii, Kekuawili, R. D. Kapela, and Nailielua. photocopy  
included. translated. stamp: 5. numbered 14.
88. Hawaiian Mythology by a Hawaiian. English. stamp: 63.
89. Several Prayers Used in Love Charms (with explanatory notes  
by Mary Pukui). The Kalakaua Collection. A 166. Archives of  
Hawaii.



90. An English translation of a treatise on omens concerning sick people. with Hawaiian text. Kalaniana'ole Collection. A 166. Mele Book p. 101. Archives.
91. A Concoction for Venereal Disease in Men. A 166. (Archives of Hawaii). Kumuhonua Descendants.
92. A typewritten English translation of A Mele on the Creation, by Chiefess Kekupu'ohē, sent to the Archives by David A. Somes of Winchester, Mass. Notation: Doc. no. 5.
93. Short poem from back of 1850 petition to legislature