



**LOVE
POEMS**

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LOVE POEMS OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PAPUA POCKET POETS

PORT MORESBY 1968

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Leo Bera, Peter Malala, Elijah Titus, Joe Prentuo, Paul Bengo
(all from the University of Papua and New Guinea, Preliminary
Year students.)



Cover design: Georgina Beier.

When I was a small boy
I played happily on the sand
With my toy canoe, my canoe
So brightly coloured.

When I became a man like my father,
You pulled my hand away
And I no longer played
With my canoe, my canoe
So brightly coloured.

You pulled me with happiness
I pulled you with happiness,
We were happy.
On the morrow we fought
And were sad.
My happiness is not like the colour of my canoe.

Robert Siti.

Yuo Island

Two white birds

Fly fly together

Sit sit together

One fruit on a tree

Steal steal together

Eat eat together

Swallow swallow together

Take off take off together

Fly fly away together

Sit sit together.

James Numbaru

Roro

Beautiful girl

once you and me

now I am sad

alone in my house oo - oo - oo.

Wind came

my thoughts sad

your message came

you sing in the house oo - oo - oo.

Wind came

my thoughts sad

your message came

you sing in the house oo - oo - oo.

Lucas Aihī.

FAREWELL SONG

Never come back !
have you forgotten
lime and limestick
don't you think
of mustard leaves
and betel nuts?
Never come back !

Sorrow is my sorrow
Grief is my grief
Sorrow is my sorrow.

Later I'll cry -

You listen

Later I'll sing

You'll hear.

Later my handkerchief

I'll wave it

You'll see

Sorrow is my sorrow

Grief is my grief

Sorrow is my sorrow.

John Kamir.

Dagua

TALAMAU'S LOVE SONG

He sits beating the drums;
what is he really doing?

It is breaking my heart,
I Talamau !

Ask him for an answer
what is he really doing?
Tell him I am coming
forever !

Christine Ati

Kuanua

LOVE CHARM

Mm - Mm - Mm

There is the snake

Lying on your way

The glistening chief
coming from the forest
whispering silently to you.

And just there
it is lifting you
from your mat.

B. Amos Lauk

Sister come to uncle.

on the verandah we will make love
you need not cry
mother is out digging
you need not cry

Vari Asigau

Kara

The lazy boy sits on the sand
He looks at the light of the sun
that tells of the dying day.
The sun is going down
to bring darkness and night.
Now the clouds are all grey
after a tiring day.
He is sad for his father and mother who are dead.
The weary sea gulls come flying home.
A little breeze sweeps over the coast.
No! he is not thinking of his father and mother:
he is thinking about his great love.

Kathy Abel

Mekeo

RELUCTANT GIRL

She said in the house, she said in the house,
she said in the bush, she said in the bush,
she said in the house, she said in the house,
she said in the bush, she said in the bush.

Charles Maino

The girls of this world
numerous as the stars in the sky
but you are the only girl
who satisfies my thoughts.

Kiss me, I kiss you too
sit closer, turn around, lie down
so we may count the stars in the sky.

John Sau.

Rovana

The ocean is peaceful
the silence makes me sad.

The ocean is peaceful
the silence makes me sad.

You are hidden behind the mist

go seek your own happiness.

My name is dirt to you

so let me follow the waves.

When I step across the waters

I'll play in the porpoise's teeth

When I step across the waters

I'll play in the porpoise's teeth.

I haven't made love charms yet
in the backyard

My name is dirt to you

So let me seek my own happiness

my name is dirt to you

so let me follow the waves.

G. Beti

Taim mi skul meri
mi laik mariti
mariti finisi
mi hatu waka tumasi
Hatu waka tumasi
mi go kukim kaikai
manki i karai
mino save silipi.

Leo D. Laita.

Yu meri sutim mi long karanas
kam pastem mi kis long yu.
Yu meri sutim mi long karanas
mi lukim yu mi sori tumas long yu.

Yu lukluk olosem gutpela palava
long al gras ontap long maunden
yu lukluk olosem long gutpela palava
mi lukim yu mi laikim yu tumas

Yu gutpela girl mi pren belong mi
olsem wanem yu laikim mi?
Mekim pren belong yu mi tupela
mi lukim yu mi sore tumas long yu.

Samuel Tulasoi

Last night you came
to lie on my head rest.
With fluttering stomach
I awoke from my dream.

E. Emori

Rigo

THE SNAKE BRIDE

O mother, o father,
what tail am I holding?
Python's tail is sticky,
python's tail is slippery.
Daughter of a chief
a gift to the python.

Lahui Sabadi

Bola

Heading towards the road
a barking little dog,
a yellow brown dog.
Running for the road to freedom
your daughter is crying
heading towards the road.

Peter Malala

LOOSE WOMAN

She walks along the first road.
She gives birth: three, three makes six.
She walks along the second road,
Gives birth: three, three makes twelve.

Chief don't talk about it
my people don't discuss it.
My evil deeds are my own,
if my children die, never mind.

Elijah Titus.

Boikin

SONG FOR A GIRL ON HER FIRST MENSTRUATION.

Hold, hold it tight,
grab the black crayfish,
hold, hold it tight.
Grab the white eel,
Sisirik, Miampalumbo
grab the black crayfish
Kayame Parilumpo
kill the white eel.

Joe Prentuo.

BALLAD

Poet: I was hiding behind the Kuturu tree
with Abia's daughter.

Abia: I came tracing your footprints
in search of my daughter
but water came
and washed them away.
I came tracing your footprints
in search of my daughter
but the floods
had arrived before me
washing your footprints away.

Leo Bera.

Keram

Sandama girls, Sandama, where are you?

Water girls, water, where are you?

Come out of the river

And let us walk through the bush.

I can hear Sandama crocodile

eating something in the water.

I can hear him moving in the water.

I can hear him, there!

Sandama girls, water girls,

come out of the water

and let us walk through the bush.

Paul Bengo