

ADULT FICTION

PROSE – ENGLISH MYTHOLOGY & LEGENDS

SWA-MG1 Australia 1990

DREAMTIME LEGENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES – JENOLAN CAVES *

SW – Fiction – Legend

Scr: (?)

Perf: Bob **CORBETT** & Mick **SUMMERS** (readers)

Prod: Ed Matzenik

Prod. Co: Enrec Studios; Tamworth, N.S.W.

Time: (Total) 60.00

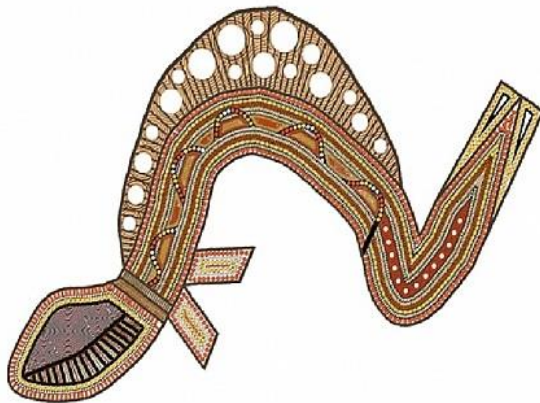
CASSETTE: DREAMTIME LEGENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

Enrec Walkabout Series (?) (Sd 2 – Tk 3)

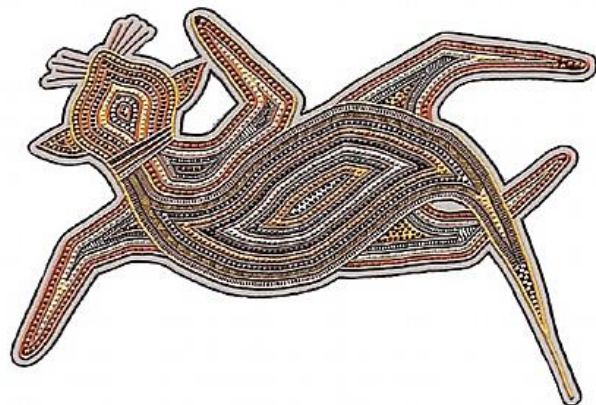
Notes: Normally cassettes are not included in this discography, but given the importance of this Aboriginal myth concerning the famous Australian show cave it was imperative that it be presented here. However, nothing is known about the content of this legend.

Very likely this is the “Dreamtime creation story of the Gundungurra people [which] describes how the countryside came into being, and involves a struggle between two ancestral creator spirits – one a giant eel-like creature, Gurangatch, and the other, Mirrigan (sic), a large native cat or quoll. In the early years of the 20th century, the Gundungurra people penetrated the caves as far as the subterranean water, carrying sick people to be bathed in this water, which they believed to have curative powers.” (Anon. 2015)

The Jenolan Caves Website gives more detail on the legend– “Gurangatch excavated the valley of Harry’s Creek, till he came to Binomil, the present Jenolan Caves, where he had the good fortune to meet with some of his relatives. Gurangatch was weary from the hard work, and sore from all the blows he had received during his journey. He suspected that his enemy was still pursuing him, and he begged his friends to escort him away. So they took him out of the caves, and led him over the main range, into a deep waterhole, called Joolundoo.



GURANGATCH



MIRRAGAN

“While this was going on, Mirragan [the tiger cat, a renowned fisherman] had arrived close to Binomil or Jenolan Caves, but he was very tired and lay down on a little hill to rest. After resting, he searched about the caves and found tracks of where Gurangatch had been staying, and also the tracks of where he had been taken away to Joolundoo by his friends. Mirragan was worn out, and when he saw that his enemy was with his family, he decided to get help. He thought it would be wise to block Gurangatch's escape. So he set out to build a wall of rock, Wundakmaloi which is the sandstone escarpment between Jenolan caves and Joolundoo. Mirragan then hurried away to his friends out West.” (Anon. 2012)

This cassette can be consulted at five libraries in Australia: State Library of New South Wales, State Library of Western Australia; State Library Victoria, Karratha Public Library, and South West Institute of TAFE Library.

Ref: Anon. 2012, Gundungurra Creation Story of Jenolan Caves, jenolancaves.org.au

Anon. 2015, Jenolan Caves, Data, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenolan_Caves)

Dreamtime Legends of the Australian Aborigines, National Library of Australia, nla.gov.au

Dreamtime Legends of the Australian Aborigines, State Library, New South Wales, Catalogue, sl.nsw.gov.au

Jenolan Caves, Spoken Word, Australian National Film & Sound Archive, Jenolan – p.3, afc.gov.au

SWA-MG2 United States 1968

THE TWELVE LABORS OF HERACLES – THE NEMEAN LION CERBERUS

SW – Fiction – Greek Classics – Drama

Scr: Padraic COLUM (From his book “The Golden Fleece”)

Perf: Anthony QUAYLE (reader)

Prod. Co: Caedmon Records; New York, NY

Liner Notes: Pearl Cleveland Wilson

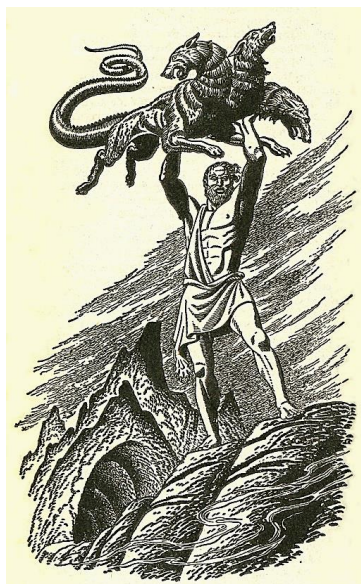
Time: (Sd 1 – Bd 1) 5:48 & (Sd 2 – Bd 1) 3:10

LP: THE TWELVE LABORS OF HERACLES AND OTHER ADVENTURES

Caedmon TC 1256

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1 & Sd 2 – Bd 1)

Notes: Many slightly different variants of the mythical tales about the twelve labors of Hercules have been written and published over the centuries. This reading is an excerpt from Padraic Colum's book, *The Golden Fleece*. The Greek hero, son of Zeus, was called Heracles, “but to the Romans his name sounded not quite natural, so they changed it to Hercules.” (Liner notes)



THE NEMEAN LION – For his first labor Heracles was sent by King Eurystheus of Mycenae to kill the Nemean lion. Nemea is in the northeastern part of the Peloponnese, which is today part of the Corinthian prefecture. Heracles followed the trail of the lion to the side of a mountain. The beast was standing at the mouth of a cavern, then it went into the cavern. Heracles saw bones strewn at the cave entrance. (Some sources say that the lion's cave had two entrances, one of which Heracles blocked before entering the other. – Anon.2 2014) He went far into the cavern and found the lion sleeping then it yawned. Now Heracles had great strength for at the age of 8 months he had strangled a great serpent. So Heracles sprang on the lion and choked it. The lion struggled but “the strong hands of the hero held around its throat until it struggled no more.” Then he stripped it of its skin and wore the skin as a cloak.

Cerberus
Illus. by Steele Savage

CERBERUS – The last labor required Heracles to bring the three-headed dog, Cerberus, out of the Underworld. Heracles journeyed to a cave, the entrance to the Underworld. “Far into that dismal cave he went and then down, down.” He reached the Acheron River and Cerberus bellowed at him. The hound sprang at Heracles but he could not bite or tear through the impenetrable lion skin. Heracles held him by the neck of his middle head. Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, declared to



Heracles that the gods of the dead would not strive against Heracles if he promised to bring Cerberus back to the Underworld. Heracles agreed and he carried Cerberus by the neck of his middle head out of the cave to Mycenae. He held the monster up to King Eurystheus but the king scrambled into a jar and died from fear. Heracles returned to the brink of Acheron and loosed Cerberus. The bellow of the hound was heard again.

The other labors of Heracles related in this version do not mention caves.

The cave of the Nemean lion is said to be located near Cleonae (or Kleone), which is 15 km. southwest of the ancient city of Corinth and some 3 km. east of ancient Nemea. The 2nd century Greek geographer, Pausanias tells us – “In these mountains is still shown the cave of the famous lion, and the place Nemea is distant some fifteen stades.” (Pausanias II Century) A stadia is an ancient Greek unit of measurement where one stadia = 184m (203 yards), so 15 stades would be 2760m or about 28 kilometers.

Several locations are given for the entrance cave to the Underworld (Hades). In Greece itself there are at least four places indicated. In Epirus of northwestern Greece at the confluence of the Acheron and the Cocytus, the River of Woe and the River of Wailing, there is a rock where one entrance can be found. And at southernmost point of Greece, near the tip of the Mani peninsula in the Peloponnese, different authors have suggested three different caves as the entrance to the Underworld. (Brison 2005)

Ref: Anon.1 2014, Cerberus, [Wikipedia](#)

Anon.2 2014, Nemean Lion, [Wikipedia](#)

Brison, David 2005, Caves in The Odyssey, *Proceedings of the 14th International Congress of Speleology Vol. 1*, 21-28 August 2005, Hellenic Speleological Society, Athens, p. 58

Bulfinch, Thomas 1913, *Bulfinch's Mythology*, Grosset & Dunlap, New York, p. 144-147

Colum, Padriac 1921, *The Golden Fleece & Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles*, MacMillan Co., New York

Hamilton, Edith 1940, *Mythology*, Little, Brown & Co., Reprinted by New American Library, New York, p. 164-167

Heracles, Greek Mythology, [Wikipedia](#)

Labours of Hercules, The Twelve Labours, [Wikipedia](#)

Padriac Colum 1921, *The Golden Fleece & Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles*, Contents & Synopsis, [bartheby](#)

Padriac Colum, Part III. Chapter IV – The Life and Labors of Hercules, [Colum](#)

Pausanias, II Century, Book 2.15.2, From Cleonae to Argos, [theoi](#)

The Twelve Labors of Heracles & Other Adventures LP, [Discogs](#)

The Twelve Labors of Heracles & Other Adventures LP, [worldcat](#)

caveinspiredmusic.com