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National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center

Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation - Grace Nicholson: Pomo Indian Creation Myths

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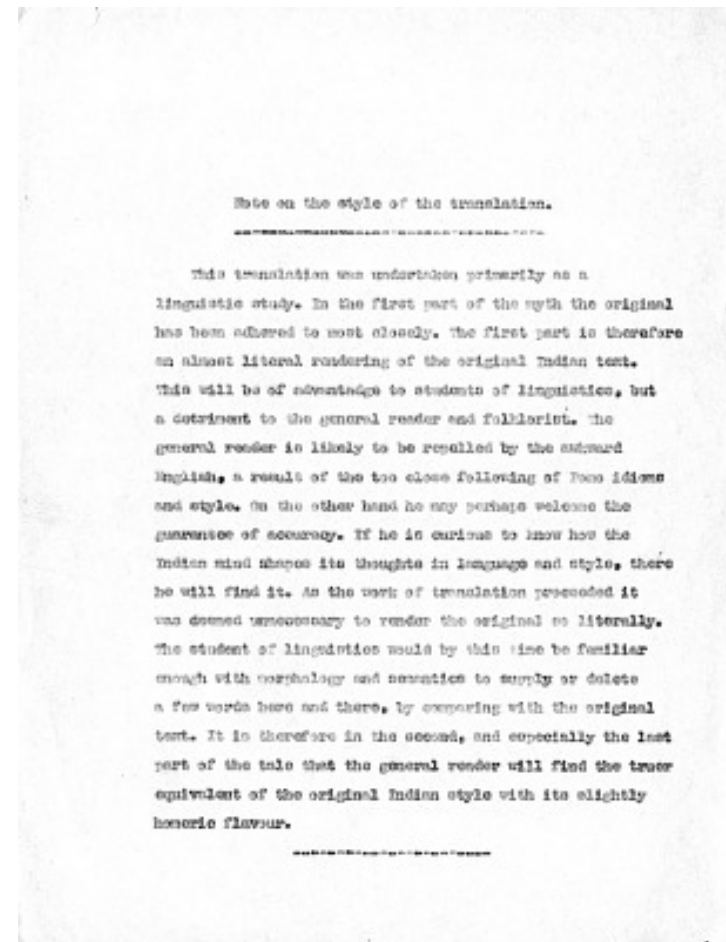
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Note on the style of the translation.

This translation was undertaken primarily as a linguistic study. In the first part of the myth the original has been adhered to most closely. The first part is therefore an almost literal rendering of the original Indian text. This will be of advantage to students of linguistics, but a detriment to the general reader and folklorist. The general reader is likely to be repelled by the awkward English, a result of the too close following of Pomo idioms and style. On the other hand he may perhaps welcome the guarantee of accuracy. If he is curious to know how the Indian mind shapes its thoughts in language and style, there he will find it. As the work of translation proceeded it was deemed unnecessary to render the original so literally. The students of linguistics would by this time be familiar enough with morphology and semantics to supply or delete a few words here and there, by comparing with the original text. It is therefore in the second, and especially the last part of the tale that the general reader will find the truer equivalent of the original Indian style with its slightly homeric flavour.



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