

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
NEWFOUNDLAND FOLKLORE ARCHIVE

FACE DISGUISES

You can help us to preserve the folklore of Newfoundland.

This traditional material is part of the unwritten history of the province which the University is attempting to record.

Every community is rich in many areas of folklore, so if you have any information on the subjects in which we are interested or can get it from someone else, please find answers for our questions.

General Instructions.

1. Write down the information exactly as you learned it or as it was told to you. Use the exact words and phrasing of the informant. Do not attempt to "correct" the form of the information.
2. Write in black or blue ink, or type (double-spaced).
3. Write on one side of the paper only.
4. Number pages in the upper right hand corner.
5. Complete the following information requested at the end of each item, as illustrated.

Informant's name	age	occupation	
Home community	Bay	religion	
Learned from	community	relationship	
When			
Student's name	age	Course number	Home community
St. John's address	Date		

6. Indicate clearly if you or your informant want any names withheld.

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In the following questions the word mask is used throughout. When writing your information, please use the word which is known in your community (false face, mummer's face, etc.).

Please write details rather than give straight yes or no answers. Whenever possible, illustrate with a drawing or a photograph.

These questions suggest some points about which we need information. Please feel free, however, to write about any aspect of face disguising, mummering, or janneying, even though it may not be covered by the questions.

1. On what occasion(s) did or do people dress up or use some kind of face disguise? What is the local term for the disguise? In what community was this, and when (the approximate years it was practised)?
2. If masks are worn what are they made of? Are boxes, wood or bark, bags, cardboard, animal skins, sheep's tails or other things used? How is the mask made?

How are the masks decorated (with hair, moss, animal skins, sheep's tails, etc.)? How are the decorations fixed on the mask?

ILLUSTRATE with a drawing, an actual photograph or a mask if possible.

3. Do the older people remember masks that were different from those worn today? When were these worn? By whom? Please describe one of these older masks in detail and tell about its owner if you can.
4. Are masks preserved from year to year or are they made up new every time?
5. Describe what use is made of ashes, paint, shoepolish, paper, cloth, nylon stockings, etc., in typical face disguises in your community. What is such disguising called?
6. Do people wear costumes when they disguise their faces? What kind? What would be a typical costume (describe in some detail)?

Drawings and/or photographs would be a help in explaining your answers.

ANY ACTUAL MASKS WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FOLKLORE ARCHIVE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED.