ICTM Study Group on Music of Oceania
Circular No. 11

1 December 1987

1988 Study Group Meeting in Australia

From 1 January 1988 communications about the meeting will be sent by Florian from the host institution, Deakin University. I am anticipating a very stimulating and delightful meeting! (Other communications relevant to our interests will continue to be sent by Barbara Smith from Honolulu.)

Other Forthcoming Events in the Southern Hemisphere

Our Study Group meeting is the last in a series of events—especially in Australia—of potential interest to our members. The Symposium of the International Musicological Society will contain a session on "Intercultural contact through music and dance since 1960 in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia—among these areas and with other areas of the world." Please be careful to avoid confusing our ICTM-SGMO meeting with any of the several other meetings (some of which also contain the designation 'international').

Territorial Survey of Oceanic Music (information from McLean)

Funding has at last been received from Unesco for 1986-87. Because this funding arrived so late it will now be expended during 1988-89. Planned surveys for the Loyalty Islands and Rotuma have had to be cancelled. During 1988 Lisa Lawson will be surveying the Marshall islands. Enough money remains for at least two and possibly three further surveys. Applications are now invited from persons wishing to carry out surveys in Island Melanesia, Micronesia or areas as yet unresearched in Polynesia. Except for the extension of scope beyond Polynesia terms of reference for the surveys are still as published in the "Call for Applications" printed in Circular No. 3 (1985).

News of Other Organizations/Institutions

There were no papers specific to musics of Oceania at the SEM meeting in Ann Arbor in November. However the following members of our Study Group attended for other reasons: Chenoweth, Christensen, Feld, Keali'inohomoku, Lawson, Lee, Smith, Trimillos, Wild. Most of these met during one lunch period to share information on past, current, and future activities. The 1987 Seeger Lecturer was Hugo Zemp, whose work on musics of the Solomon Islanders is well-known to Oceania specialists. His current activities focus on the musics of his 'backyard', and he presented several recent films about yodelers and yodeling.

Recently established at The University of New South Wales (Kensington 2033 Australia) is The Centre for South Pacific Studies. The programme in South Pacific Arts includes music. Currently an MA student is analyzing tapes recorded by Grant McCall in Easter Island.

New Member

Filip LAMASISI
Temporary Address Changes

Vida CHENOWETH (March–June)  Stephen WILD (to 20 March 1988)

News of Members

Bailey was formally congratulated by the Guam Legislature for her contributions to the revival of Kantan Chamorrita singing which was featured in Guam's Second Annual Folk Arts Symposium and Festival in September. Some singers from the Northern Marianas also participated.

Chenoweth plans to spend March–June in New Zealand and June–August in PNG as an International Consultant.

Christensen is working on several of the activities forthcoming in Australia.

Feld's immediate plans are to undertake more fieldwork in PNG.

Keali'inohomoku is expanding her comparative research on Polynesian and Amerindian dance.

Lamasisi plans to complete his dissertation and degree in Spring 1988.

Lawson plans to complete her dissertation and degree in Spring 1988 before going to the Marshalls.

Lee hopes to do further fieldwork in Fiji.

Lobban has arranged for the printing of a bi-lingual book of children's game songs from the North Solomons Province of PNG for use in their schools.

McLean reports that he is working on transcription and analysis of Tikopian songs to be included in a forthcoming book by Raymond Firth.

R. Moyle's study "Traditional Samoan Music" has been formally accepted by Auckland University Press in association with the Institute for Polynesian Studies for publication in 1988. It will be a companion volume to his recently published book on Tongan music.

Niles' 1985 Supplement to Commercial Recordings of Papua New Guinea Music has been distributed. The 1986 Supplement is expected soon.

Smith plans to spend Christmas in Kosrae getting acquainted with the principal singing tradition there.

Trimillos has been active with Hawaiian music and musicians—a Hawaiian cowboy program (cassette recording forthcoming) and exhibit (article in catalogue), and as ethnomusicologist for Robert Mugge's film "Hawaiian Rainbow" to be premiered in London this month.
Wild is currently Visiting Professor at the University of Washington.

Yamaguti joined Smith in Yap for team research during the last 10 days of her stay in October-November.

Publications


Notice

The Library of Congress now owns the collection of recordings published by Moe Asch under the Folkways label and is interested in receiving evaluations of both the discs and the accompanying notes to guide to their further use. Criticisms, corrections, additions, etc. from ethnomusicologists on the items of their specialization will be most welcome. Please send to Joe Hickerson, Archive of Folk Culture, Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540.