ICTM Study Group on Musics of Oceania

Circular No. 21

1 June 1991

Study Group meeting at 31st ICTM Conference in Hong Kong, 3-9 July 1991

Please send Barbara Smith immediately any suggestions for agenda items you would like to have discussed at a Study Group meeting scheduled for 2:00-3:30 on Friday 5 July in Hong Kong and/or ideas about the items already on the agenda. (This meeting is in addition to the panel on the Chinese and their Musics in the Pacific and the individual papers of several of our members.) So far, the agenda items include:

a. consideration of when and where to hold our next extended meeting (such as that at Deakin University in 1988 which was graciously arranged by Messner);

b. how best to follow up on the topic of our meeting at Deakin;

c. information about the next Festival of Pacific Arts in Rarotonga, 16-27 October 1992 (Note: because no Study Group member lives there, it would be difficult/impossible to find a host institution for an extended meeting);

d. continued discussion (if we have more data and/or questions than can be handled during the panel) on the Chinese in the Pacific topic (including potential interest/merit in further research and/or publication under Study Group auspices);

e. whether, for a future ICTM conference, to seek an interface between a principal theme of the conference and the geo-cultural focus of our Study Group (as done for the 1991 conference) or stick more closely to our main focus;

f. suggestions for encouraging more participation by the islanders in projects such as videotaping, preparing biographies of indigenous musicians, etc.

News of Recent Conferences

The symposium on Oral Traditions, 22 May, in the Sixth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics included two papers on subjects of interest to our Study Group: Ingjerd Hoem's "Aspects of the oral dimension in Tokelau society today" and Kevin Salisbury's "Pukapukan moko: a linguistic approach to musical analysis." Unfortunately Crowe and Thomas were unable to attend (so Smith was asked to serve as Co-Convenor and Trimillos to chair the Round Table on "Practical Plans for the Use of Recorded Oral Tradition."

The symposium, am 31 May, "The Museum and Culture Center as a Focus for Pacific Arts," organized by Moulin and the Pacific Arts Association for the Pacific Science Congress included two presentations of interest to our Study Group: a paper by Jon Jonasson "Cook Islands Drums in a Polynesian Setting"; and Carmen Chigiy's material on "Traditional Dance in Modern Yap" was presented (in her absence) by Smith.

News of Members

In January 1991 Ellis and Kartomi were awarded the honor of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to music and ethnomusicology. A. Moyle was the first Australian ethnomusicologist to receive this distinction (in the early 1980s). Congratulations!

Crowe presented a paper, "The Creation of Latop at Bordeaux," at the meeting of the Pacific Arts Association in Paris (December 1990) devoted to "Relations of the European Museums and Pacific Collections with Pacific Countries."

Myers is currently in Bali working on Indonesian materials (see temporary address below).

Niles has been appointed Area Editor for Oceania for RILM. He is seeking input on publications for inclusion there.

Stillman has been appointed to the faculty of UC-Santa Barbara beginning Fall 1991 (see new address below).

Trimillos has been appointed to the School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Hawai'i to develop a program in the study of Pacific and Asian arts (see new address below).

Yamaguti was awarded the degree Bungaku hakase (Doctor of Literature in the traditional Japanese system) by Osaka University. His dissertation is entitled Mizo no yodomi kara: Berau bunda no ongakugakuteki kenyku (From muddy water: a musicological study of the Belau culture). Congratulations Dr. Yamaguti!

Information from Laade on his Music of Man Archive

"At long last the Catalogue of my field recordings made 1963-1965 for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies is completed. Before I left Australia the original field tapes were copied for the sound archive in geographic and systematic rearrangement of the musical items. With the help of a grant of the Institute the original chronological recording catalogue could now be converted into geographical and systematic order for use with the archive tapes. The catalogue has 424 pp. and consists of five parts: 1. Cape Yorke Peninsula, North Queensland (Aboriginal) (317 items); 2. Western Torres Strait Islands (Western Torres Strait language area) (367 items); 3. Eastern Torres Strait Islands (Eastern Torres Strait language area) (367 items); 4. Western District of Papua New Guinea (87 items); 5. Spoken texts in native languages (16 items). Each part comprises notes on the music and musical instruments, notes on the performers, song texts in original language with English translations, maps, bibliography. Depending on demand, the Institute will decide whether and in which form the catalogue will be made available. Selections of the recordings have been published on the following LPs: Albatros VPA 8279 (= Lyricord LLST 7331), Australia: Songs of the Aborigines; Folkways FE 4211, The Bora of the Pancoe River, Northeast Australia; Folkways FE 4023, Traditional Songs of the Southern Torres Strait Islands; Arch/Folkways AHM 4216, Music from South New Guinea. More will eventually be published on CD's of the new Jecklin-MUSIC OF MAN collection.

"The MUSIC OF MAN ARCHIVE, Laade's private sound archive cum library for which he hopes to find an interested party in the near future, counts presently over 40,000 records plus several hundred audiocassettes and original tape recordings which include the following materials from Oceania: 539 LP's, 52 7" discs, 9 78rpm discs, 1 CD, 22 audiocassettes plus original field recordings from Aboriginal Australia, the Torres Strait Islands, New Britain and Papau New Guinea."

Address changes:

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For Next Circular (and Hong Kong Meeting)—please send information to Barbara B. Smith, Music Department, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA.