We welcome eight new members to the Study Group and regret dropping two (because of non-concurrent ICTM membership). A new membership list is enclosed.

Festival of Pacific Arts:

The 4ᵉ Festival des arts du Pacifique was held in Tahiti 29 June - 15 July. Four members of the Study Group (and one who has since joined) attended and, in addition to seeing each other at various performances, met once to share information on their Oceania-related activities, discuss ideas for a Study Group meeting in the not-too-distant future, and compare impressions of Festival performances. All were happy for the opportunity to see the large-scale presentations from French Polynésia--from Rurutu (Austral Islands), the Marquesas, the somewhat innovative production "Ruahatu" by the well-known Tahitian, Coco, as well as the huge group of school children who performed at the opening ceremony at Pater Stadium.

The performing groups from the 22 countries ranged from large to small; from mature adults to young adults to children, and mixed ages; from exclusively male to exclusively female, and both. Performances also varied according to the characteristics of the several venues (large and small performing area, indoor and outdoor, formal and informal) and the different durations assigned (some groups presented entirely different program content in their shorter performances, some a segment of their full-length program, some a traditional and a modern style of dancing to the same song simultaneously). Program content also gave evidence of social, political (national and international), religious, and economic concerns and values of the mid-1980s. Inevitably impressions and evaluations vary according to the background and interest of each observer as well as which performance at which venue was attended. Probably Study Group members have read the review of the Festival by Victor Carell (initiator of the First Festival in Suva in 1972 and advisor to the Cook Islands performing group) and commentary on socio-political aspects of the Festival by Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson, both in September 1985 issue of Pacific Islands Monthly.

Two cassettes were available at the Festival: (1) "Ruahatu - Te Moana Nui" which bears the Festival logo was produced by Te Fare Tauhiti Nui (no price or address given for ordering); (2) "Warawi Wayenece, avec la participation de l'Association Boenando" Kanak Modern Music, éditée par AMAKAL Production, which was available at the New Caledonia booth in Craftman Village.

News items from and/or about Study Group Members (see also recent publications):

Banner is working on audio-visual documentation of Hawaii's participation in the Festival in Tahiti.

Christensen participated, as Secretary General, in the ICTM conference in Stockholm.

Crowe updates us on his activities since going to France in August 1983. He plans a visit to Australia, New Zealand and Vanuatu in 1987. He has
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presented papers at Paris (University of Paris III on Pacific musics; University of Paris VII on Vanuatu political history), at Belfast (European Seminar in Ethnomusicology), in New York (PAA 3rd International Conference) and prepares to present again in Paris and London in autumn 1985 a paper on "Melanesian Sonemic-Envelope Successions (Scales)". A paper on "Kava, dreams and silent song in Vanuatu" is due from Anuario Musical, Barcelona 1984. He is following up the use of slit-gong rhythms (as published in Deacon 1934) in land-right court-cases in Malekula, Vanuatu. Residence in France, he says, has assisted his theoretical orientation.

Feld has accepted appointment to the University of Texas at Austin (starting September 1984).

Kaeppler compared dance movements, etc., of the participating groups at the Festival in Tahiti. She continues working on the hula pahu in three types of notation.

Lobban's material on children's game songs from Papua New Guinea (collected during the years he taught there) has been accepted for publication by the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies as Oral History Vol. 13 No. 2.

McLean (as Study Group members already know) has been busy as Sub-regional Co-ordinator for Oceania for Music in the Life of Man with attendance at a regional meeting in Tokyo, circulation of a questionnaire, and preparation of a report for the MLM Board.

Messner has accepted appointment (starting January 1986) to Deakin University.

Moulin, as part of her on-going research on Marquesan music and dance, interviewed Marquesans and observed Marquesan performances (among others) at the Festival in Tahiti, as well as enjoyed comparing Tahitian dance as performed at the Festival and the Fête with that performed during her years of residence in Tahiti.

R. Moyle (taking over from Stubington who had to withdraw) has been conducting the survey in the Northern Cook Islands for the Territorial Survey on Oceanic Music with co-worker Tony Tauvaliki. (Also see publications.)

Smith, while at the Festival, was especially interested in observing trends in styles of presentation as compared to the previous Festivals.

Stillman observed performances of French Polynesian groups (among others) at the Festival and Fête in Tahiti, then departed to the Austral Islands and Mangareva to conduct the surveys there for the Territorial Survey on Oceanic Music with co-worker Michel Yeng Kow. When this is completed, she will undertake research, beginning with library research in the pacific and elsewhere, for her doctoral dissertation.

Tatar has completed the ARCS-2 historical recordings from Micronesia project (see publications) including distribution of copies to those areas in which the recordings were made (and to a few locations on the US mainland where some descendants of those recorded now live). She is currently working on a project to preserve and catalogue Bishop Museum historical recordings from French Polynesia on a grant from the government of French Polynesia.
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News of others concerned with musics of Oceania:

Ilaita Gigimat is studying ethnomusicology at The University of Queensland.

Phillip Lamasisi gave a report on activities of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies at the ICTM conference in Stockholm.

Mari Nakamura of the Institute of Pacific Culture, Japan, and a student of Osamu Yamaguchi, was a member of the team from Japan that engaged in audio-visual documentation of the Festival in Tahiti.

Recent publications by Study Group members:


Richard Moyle. "Report of Survey of Traditional Music of Niue", the report on the pilot project for the Territorial Survey on Oceanic Music, conducted by Moyle and co-workers E. F. Talagi (who will become Head of the Niue National Museum Centre) and D. Puhetetama (announcer and chief translator at the local radio station). It is now published and available (NZ$3.00 or US$2.00, prepayable; price includes surface postage) from the Administrative Assistant, Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

Elizabeth Tatar, ed. Call of the Morning Bird: Chants and Songs of Palau, Yap, and Ponape Collected by Iwakichi Muranuchi, 1936. ARCS-2 Historical Recordings from the Audio-Recording Collection, Anthropology Department, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, 1985. It contains one cassette (the format preferred by Micronesians) and a 61-page text. It may be ordered (US$18.50 plus postage--$1.00 within the USA, $2.00 foreign) from Bishop Museum Press, P. O. Box 19000-A, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, USA.

Also of potential interest to members:

"Composing Songs" (Chapter 5, pp. 47-59) by Moarerei Kirion in Kiribati: A Changing Atoll Culture. The book, with chapters by 14 Kiribati authors, may be ordered (Pacific Islands price F$6.00, regular price F$8.00 plus $2.00 packing and seamail postage) from Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, Box 1186, Suva, Fiji.

Death:

It has been learned that Ymesei Ezekiel, best known composer and head of music in the schools in Belau (Palau) died in 1984. Work on the book of his songs continues.
Please send items of interest to be included in the next Circular to:

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MEMBERS OF ICTM STUDY GROUP ON MUSIC OF OCEANIA (As of October 1985)

Summer BANNER               Dr. Margaret J. KARTOMI

Vida CHENOWETH              Joann W. KEALI'INOHOMOKU

Dieter CHRISTENSEN          John KELSEY

Peter CROWE                Raymond KENNEDY

Professor C. ELLIS          Wolfgang LAADE

Steven FELD                  Lisa LAWSON

William FELTZ                Dorothy Sara LEE

Dr. David John GOLDSWORTHY  Mr. W. D. LOBBAN

Dr. Mantle HOOD             Jacob Wainwright LOVE

Adrienne KAEPPLER           Mervyn MCLEAN
Dr. Florian MESSNER

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Yoichi YAMADA

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Alice MOYLE

Richard MOYLE

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Helen PAYNE

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