

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

9th October, 1957.

Dear Mr Lawton,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd October. (GL:FC) Also for the typed information concerning Spencer's cylinder-recordings which you were good enough to send me.

Quite obviously, Adelaide has the biggest share of the 1901 collection and Melbourne has all that is left of the 1912 lot. It would be interesting to discover how the 4 1901 reels in Melbourne became separated from the those you have. I have written to Percy Rainger in the U.S., who made music transcriptions of two samples of singing. I hope he remembers something about their whereabouts at the time.

I am also in touch with Spencer's daughter, Mrs Rowan (Vic.) who is greatly interested in the present goings on.

As regards transcribing the tapes on disc, I may be able to help.

Disc recordings are preferable for music transcriptions and analyses-on which much of my own work depends. With this in view I talked the matter over with Professor Elkin last week. He seemed willing and pleased to co-operate. Moreover, he knows how to get tapes transferred to "masters" free of charge! For years the A.B.C. (through the P.M.G. technicians) have been doing this for him, the only cost being the actual pressings which are done by E.M.I. I understand that Spencer's material (1901 and 1912) would go on to 12 inch microgroove (L.P.)

If you and others concerned would agree to such a proposition, the tapes which the A.B.C. made from your Adelaide cylinders could be lent to the A.B.C. recording engineers (via Elkin) while masters are made.

Meanwhile I think Mr Brazenor of the National Museum of Vic. would lend his tapes (he has several copies) for the same purpose. (I have already discussed the possibility of such a scheme with him and it would mean approaching the Museum trustees for their permission.)

It is possible that some objections may be raised to the idea of putting Spencer's records on discs which bear the University of Sydney label. From the practical point of view, the ease and cheapness of the arrangement would surely overcome any difficulties of another kind.

I, personally, cannot see that it matters who issues the discs providing that adequate verbal acknowledgement is made both to Adelaide and Melbourne at the commencement of the series. And, once pressed, the discs will belong to whosoever orders and pays for the set.

If this suggestion wins approval, I shall certainly do all I can to start things moving.

Regards, Yours sincerely,