

22 May 1985

Mr Alan Ward
Co-ordinator
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British Library National
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29 Exhibition Road
LONDON SW7 2AS

Dear Alan

I am sending you at last the results of my work on the Torres Strait tape transfers. The enclosed 'audition sheets' have been prepared from our own dubbings of tapes previously received from your archive.

Following attempts to compare recorded material with published music notations, my estimate is that we have 25 cylinders more or less matching the notations of C.S. Myers. This leaves 6 notations without corresponding recordings. Some of these may be among the broken cylinders.

There appear to be several recorded 'takes' of some of the songs. These include performances of the same song by more than one singer (cf. "Song IVA with cylinders A4, A7, A10, C103, C104, C105 and C105A).

Recordings made by the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition at places other than Murray, Mabuig, Saibai and Yam Islands in Torres Strait include Kiwai and Mawatta (Papua) and parts of Borneo (C1 and C9). Don Niles of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies has played copies of the Kiwai material to interested Kiwai people and has thus obtained confirmation of the inscriptions on cylinders C67 - C73. I enclose a copy of his letter to me with this information - a peace offering for sending him the Kiwai copies without first obtaining formal permission from the British Library National Sound Archive!

Miscellaneous items in the Torres Strait cylinder collection for which I have no information include: C16-17; C19; C25-26; C28; C31 and C66. Some of these may belong to other collections. I have a list (only) of the Seligmann set of New Guinea cylinders which was kindly sent to me by Lucy Duran. From a cursory glance at the 'Notes on box' I see nothing that suggests Torres Strait, though there are a number of unidentified cylinders. It is possible that one or two of the Torres Strait set may be part of your C62 (New Guinea) set.

To make sure of this, Don Niles should have access to both the 1904 and 1898 sets of dubbings. I believe he has already received tape copies of the former from Lucy Duran. If you would be good enough to send us a signed statement granting the AIAS permission to copy the Torres Strait tapes (9200-9205) for the IPNGS, we would arrange for these to be sent off to Don Niles as soon as possible.

Many thanks for sending your selected Options duly signed. The B1 Option ("Depositor's and Institute's permission required for quotation and for copying in part or whole") is carried out here to the letter and you will be asked from time to time whether certain requests can be met. I would be suprised if there were many other requests besides those of a few Torres Strait researchers: Dr Jeremy Beckett, Dr Wolfgang Laade, Margaret ~~Lewis~~ Lawrie and one or two investigators from Japan.

In regard to the Australian Aboriginal material (also auditioned) you may have heard already from Karl Sabbagh who is making a film about Baldwin Spencer. During his visit to this Institute last month I played him copies of some of the 1901 and 1912 cylinders. Now he is keen to have some of the spoken announcements by Spencer to dub on to his film sound tracks.

If you require the audition sheets relating to the Australian Aboriginal cylinders, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Alice Moyle (Dr)
HONORARY FELLOW