

15th April, 1966.

Dr. A. C. van der Leeden,
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Dear Lex,

Your notes have arrived and I write to thank you for your transcriptions - which must have taken up many hours - also for disclosing to me so much valuable material. I look forward immensely to your paper on this subject. Apart from Strehlow's work this avenue has been neglected, and to the detriment of ethnomusicological research. It looks now as if we shall be moving forward, at last.

Capell's references to "song language" has always puzzled me. As your work has revealed, this is the 'easy way' out of a very complicated situation. And the personal side of it, that is from the side of the individual's own choice of song words, seems to me to come very close to an "art" of literature if one may say this in connection with a preliterate, or non-literate culture.

I hope to make some reference to Hindu and Rimili's singing in a paper at the Canberra General Meeting next month. My aim will be mainly to contrast it with the 'indigenous' music of the Wanindilyaugwa clan songs. I had thought that Hindu and Rimili were singing in Nungkubuyu (Hughes' spelling!) but realise now that it is not quite so. And in Rul there seems to be connection with the Djunggawon myth. 'Is this so?

In two days I make a short trip to Canberra. I hope to see the new Archive "set-up" and also to make arrangements for obtaining copies of your tape collection.

More later.

Regards,

(Mrs.) Alice M. Moyle,
A.I.A.S. Research Fellow