

MS 3501/1/41  
24th March, 1969

Dear Trevor,

In answer to your circular letter to staff members (19th March, 1969) I should like to draw your attention to the enclosed statement on my research plans for 1969-1970.

As you will see, I expect to be in the United States for the greater part of the 1970 Australian academic year. If leave of absence be granted me for this period, it would seem that I shall not be able to supervise post-graduate studies until after the completion of my Ph. D. dissertation in 1971.

In the Ethnomusicological Research Laboratory, there are as you know substantial collections of recorded music mainly from North Australia; also from New Guinea and other regions in the Pacific. We are building up an ethnomusicological library of photo copies and reprints and with the appointment of our new typist will now be able to continue with indexing of these items. The emphasis of the library, as you know, is on materials relevant to my own collections of North Australian songs and song words.

Though not at a sufficiently advanced stage to formulate usefully, I am proceeding with some tentative experiments in vocal interval measurement. To date there have been a few preliminary discussions about the method of approach with Geoffrey Nutting and also with Graham Ivey of Audio Visual Aids. My own feeling here is that a full-scale ethnomusicological investigation into Aboriginal musical perception and aptitude should soon be undertaken in view of the inevitability of young Aboriginal children becoming exposed to the (devious) ways of Australian school music teaching, especially class singing. For the effectiveness of such a research project, which might be spread over five years or more, some co-operation between Education, Psychology and Music would, I think, be essential.

Yours sincerely,

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

## RESEARCH PLANS 1969-1970

Research Project: A comparative study of the structure and meanings of Aboriginal songs recorded in Cape York, Gulf Country, Arnhem Land and the Kimberleys.

These song recordings are now being re-copied, numbered, catalogued and documented. Each song item receives a corresponding punch card on which is registered outstanding characteristics.

The words and music of selected items from each region are notated, aurally.

The International Fellowship just received from the American Association of University Women is for study at Indiana University during the 1969-1970 academic year. According to a letter just received from the Director of the Fellowship Program, the committee realises that it may be advisable for me to hold the fellowship to "more of a calendar year" than to the American academic year and will approve my working at various universities as best suits my research. Moreover the committee "does often approve of International Fellows accepting additional grants to take care of travel costs etc." so long as they are kept informed about this.

While in America I especially wish to study methods of notation and to examine computer applications to staff notation. As regards the latter I have already been in contact with Benjamin Suchoff of the Bela Bartok Archives, and with Jack Heller. At the Institute of Ethnomusicology, U.C.L.A., I look forward to observing at first-hand, results obtained with Seeger's "instant notator".

Provided that sufficient numbers of notations of Australian Aboriginal song items are forth-coming, computing methods should ultimately prove very useful, not only in marking off musical regions, but in tracing the geographical distribution - and possibly the historical sequence - of certain song styles.

According to the needs of my research, the duration of visits to the American institutions listed below may be considerably longer at some than at others. I expect to be absent for the greater part of 1970 and to spend a large part of my stay at Indiana University (Research Center of Anthropology, Folklore and Linguistics and Archives of Traditional Music).

As work in Australian Aboriginal music depends on the preservation and retrieval of tape-recorded song items, I am especially concerned with the need to keep watch on developments in methods of archiving tape-recorded music. For this reason I hope to visit other archives including those at the Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, and the Library of Congress, Washington.

U.S.A. INSTITUTIONCHIEF CONTACTS

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| 1. University of Hawaii, Honolulu                  | Professor Barbara Smith                      |
| 2. Institute of Ethnomusicology,<br>U.C.L.A.       | Professors Mantle Hood and Charles<br>Seeger |
| 3. Indiana University, Bloomington,<br>Indiana     | Professors A.P. Merriam and George<br>List   |
| 4. Wayne State University, Detroit,<br>Michigan    | Professors R.A. Waterman and B. Nettl        |
| 5. University of Michigan, Ann<br>Arbor, Michigan  | Professor Gertrude Kurath                    |
| 6. Wesleyan University, Middletown,<br>Connecticut | Professor D.P. McAllester                    |
| 7. Bela Bartok Archives, New York                  | Dr. B. Suchoff (also Prof. Jack<br>Heller)   |
| 8. Columbia University, New York                   | Professor Nicholas England                   |
| 9. Library of Congress, Washington                 | Archive of Folk Song                         |
| 10. Cantometrics Project, New York                 | Alan Lomax                                   |

If possible I should like to return to Australia via Europe and to visit the Berlin Phonogram Archives and the ethnomusicological section of the Museum of the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam.