

Letter to
See Boydell 7/6/66

Ethnomusicology Section

8th July, 1966.

Mrs. Barbara Gibbons,
75 Nicholson Street,
ST. LEONARDS, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Gibbons,

Thank you for your letter of 28th June. I have listened to some of the recordings you have sent to the Institute and found them very interesting. I hope you will be able to continue recording. There are still many fragments of traditional music to be salvaged from these places as you know. Do you often visit Coff's Harbour?

The best means of preserving the music is, of course, to have the material recorded on tape. If music notations are to be made this can be done afterwards, after tape copies have been run off. The important thing is not to use your first, or original recording for continued playback. If you have sent them to the Institute for preservation then I am sure copies would be sent to you if you ask for them.

Notation of oral or unwritten music presents many problems and some of them are central to the study known as Ethnomusicology. I am not sure how deeply you would like to go into this subject. The most recent book on the subject is entitled Theory and Method in Ethnomusicology (\$6-50) which may be obtainable from Collier-Macmillan International, 137 Clarence Street, Sydney. The author is Bruno Nettl.

For a list of recordings, also relevant books and papers written in Australia on Australian Aboriginal music, you may like to obtain a book which I have just prepared for the Institute. It is entitled A Handlist of Field Collections of Recorded Music in Australia and the Torres Strait (\$2-50) and may be obtained by writing to Mr. Boydell. This will give you a general idea of the scope of the work in which we are engaged and will indicate where certain Australian writings are to be found.

Please contact me again if you have difficulty in obtaining any of the books or articles listed.

With best wishes,

Your sincerely,