



The University of Sydney

Department of Music

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE :

21st April, 1961

Rev. A.H.Hall
Goldie College
Banga
Munda P.O.
British Solomons

Dear Mr Hall,

Thankyou for your long and informative letter of 9th April, the contents of which have been most helpful. By now, I hope the tape and transcriptions have reached you.

I also wish to acknowledge the arrival of that fascinating packet of song-texts written out by your students. ~~These will be affixed to the music transcriptions and placed in the Music Archives.~~ I have already played some of the tape to my small class of 4th year Arts (Music Hons.) students. As a basis for a study of Melanesian melodic forms the collection is very valuable. I hope, in due course, to prepare a ^{music}-text analysis. There is much to discover, as you have found, in regard to accent and rhythm. I know nothing of these languages but can at least recognise the great diversity-also incorporation of European words in some of the song-texts (e.g. "British"; "American" etc.)

The Isaac who included his own transcription of an "ancient song of Buka" may perhaps be interested to compare his version with my Trans No. 30. "Key" and clef are different, ofcourse; also he has used minim-crotchet proportions where I have used crotchet-quaver but there is recognisable similarity. One notable exception being the interval between the two lowest notes. He transcribes a "semitone", whereas I have transcribed a (large) minor third. I wonder whether he agrees with my interpretation of this interval or not..... Did he intend to sing semitone, perhaps? I am inclined to think not, as this interval is "foreign" to such a tune. I might add that the finding of this transcription was a delightful surprise to me.

I thoroughly appreciate your rescue work in the face of the inevitable onslaught of jazz and "Neo-Hawaiian" influences. The more recording the better. Transcription and analysis can always be done later. For this urgent work the tape-recorder (and tapes) is an indispensable ally. If you have any difficulty in obtaining tapes let me know, as I may be able to help here.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Doyle