

**AUSTRALIAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL  
STUDIES**



Acton House  
Marcus Clarke Street  
Acton, ACT

Postal address:  
GPO Box 553  
Canberra  
ACT 2601

Telephone:  
(062)46 1111

Telegraphic address:  
ABINST

Mr Alan Ward  
Archive Administrator  
The British Library National  
Sound Archive  
29 Exhibition Road  
LONDON SW7 2AS

Dear Mr Ward

Due, apparently, to postal difficulties at this end, your letter of 18 October did not reach me until 30 November. I regret this unavoidably long delay in answering.

At this Institute there have also been requests for information about the Torres Strait cylinders and I am now making arrangements to work more intensively on the identification of their contents.

I consider it necessary to match up what I hear, during the auditioning process, with the descriptions and music notations made by C.S. Myers in the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition's reports. I shall also take into account the inscriptions, as I found them, on the exterior of the cylinder containers. This work should help to reduce the possibility of perpetuating errors in future references to these sound-recorded data.

I shall be in contact with you as soon as I get to the end of the Torres Strait Collection and this should be about the middle of February. I hope this will not be too late for your enquirers' purposes.

In a letter I wrote to Lucie Duran (dated 1/11/84) I expressed my concern about the cylinders which are missing. Numbers found on the Torres Strait "C" set were in red ink and they ran up to 117. Within that series, however, there are gaps between 40-51, and 79-102. This looks as if over 30 cylinders in this particular series have strayed. I can only suggest that I may have overlooked them during my search in your Archive in 1978 and that they may still be found mixed in with the numerous other cylinder collections which you hold.

Please find enclosed a copy of this Institute's 'Options for conditions of deposit of material.' As the 'Depositor' of tape copies of these Australian and Torres Strait cylinders in our Sound Archive, the British Library National Sound Archive is free to choose its own options of access and use.

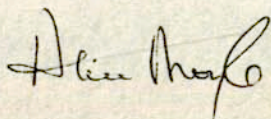
And, as you will appreciate, it is necessary for AIAS Library officers to be informed of each depositor's selection.

My suggestion is that you select A1, which allows the tapes to be listened to by any Institute user, and B1 (the latter only in special circumstances).

Despite the fact that this material can be easily transferred from one tape or cassette to another, the contents of this collection should, in my opinion, be treated as "rare" and valued accordingly.

The enclosed copy of an article I wrote last year may be of interest.

Yours sincerely



Alice Moyle (Dr)  
Honorary Fellow

19 December 1984

enc.