

## Notes and News

### *International Library of African Music: Ford Foundation Grant*

THE International Library of African Music at Roodeport, South Africa, which has the world's largest collection of recorded African music, has received a grant of \$145,000 from the Ford Foundation. Dr. Hugh Tracey, Director of the Library, will use the grant to expand the geographical coverage of his recordings, particularly in West Africa, and to produce textbooks and other indigenous teaching materials for use in African schools.

### *The African Studies Association (U.S.A.): Oral Data Center, Grants-in-Aid for Scholars Preparing Collections of Oral Data*

IN June 1968 the Ford Foundation announced a grant of \$129,500 to the African Studies Association for the work of the Oral Data Committee in the next five years. The grant is designed especially to encourage the public deposit and dissemination of oral data collected in Africa, looking forward to a time when much of the valuable oral literature and oral traditions still alive in African societies will have disappeared in the march towards modernization. Tapes, transcriptions, and field notes that have been collected in Africa and are still in private hands will then become an invaluable source for the study of traditional African culture and history.

The Ford grant makes possible, first of all, the establishment of a central depository for African oral data in the United States. This Center for African Oral Data will be located at the Archives of Traditional Music, 013 Maxwell Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401, under the sponsorship of the African Studies Association. The Archives has already begun receiving and cataloguing tape collections of African oral traditions. Scholars who have collections of this kind are urged to communicate directly with the Archives of Traditional Music, which has facilities for air-conditioned storage of tapes, copying, and dissemination of taped material to scholarly users, universities, or other oral data centres in Africa or Europe. When a tape collection is put on deposit, the depositor receives a copy in return while the original is set aside and used only to make further copies. The Archives will publish announcements of its holdings from time to time and will seek to provide finding-aids in the field of African oral data generally.

Although the Oral Data Committee urges scholars to open their collections for public use at the earliest possible date, some depositors may wish to restrict use of their collections until their own conclusions have been published. Meanwhile, the Archives is prepared to hold copies under restrictions imposed by the collector. Deposit, in these circumstances, provides security against the loss of material that may exist in only one copy and assures its ultimate availability to other scholars.

The goal, however, is a series of well-presented collections of oral data, whatever the discipline of the original collector. In order to have maximum usefulness to other scholars, both present and future, collections of this sort need the fullest possible information from the collector, including tables of contents, annotation, in many cases at least, taped translations into a Western language, and perhaps transcription and written translation as well. To prepare a collection of oral data in this form is as much a 'publication' as the publication in print of a series of annotated written texts.

In order to encourage the scholarly preparation of oral data collections for deposit, the grant from the Ford Foundation provides for a limited number of grants-in-aid to assist with the necessary costs in time, informants, and materials. Grants will be made at the