

AFRICAN MUSIC TRANSCRIPTION LIBRARY

The attention of members is called to the important work that is being done by "African Music Research" under its Director, Hugh Tracey, in the collecting and recording of African music. The organisation has recently issued a catalogue of 357 records that are now available to the public and will be supplied with a complete library card index system. Sixteen language groups are represented. New recordings will be added every six months and will be immediately available for purchase.

The catalogue, published by Gallo (Africa), is in itself a valuable document on account of its notes on the songs, dances and instrumental pieces. Each section is prefaced with a short description of the tribe and there are some interesting photographs.

Particulars can be obtained from the African Music Research Library Transcription Service, P.O. Box 6216, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.

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OBITUARY

SVEN KJELLSTRÖM

Professor Sven Kjellström (1875–1950) played a prominent part in popularising Swedish folk music, although his background and inclinations were mainly in the field of classical music. He began his studies at the Musikkonservatoriet in Stockholm in 1889 and in 1890–92 he was engaged as violinist to the orchestra royal. At the same time he started his people's musical education programme with so-called workmen's concerts. During the years 1897–1900 he studied with Remy in Paris, belonged to several restaurant orchestras and was first violinist to the Colonne orchestra. After his return to Sweden in 1909 he co-operated with various musical organisations as an active musician, first violinist and organiser. In 1921 he became director of the Musikkonservatoriet in Stockholm.

In 1905 the artist Anders Zorn organised a special gathering for folk musicians, thus arousing interest in Swedish folk music. Soon similar gatherings were arranged in various parts of the country, either in the form of contests or of festivals. For many years Professor Sven Kjellström acted as adjudicator at these meetings. He was gifted with a fine ear for music, great skill as a violinist, and was thoroughly acquainted with folk music. He claimed that the folk musicians have a good technique and interpret the folk music of their district correctly. Professor Kjellström had no scientific interest in folk music but his contribution consisted in keeping the music of folk fiddlers on as high a level as possible. He repeatedly lectured on the radio in order to arouse the interest of a larger public in folk music.

MATS REHNBERG.

OTTO LEHMANN

The death of Professor Dr. Otto Lehmann in Hamburg on June 27th, 1951, at the age of 86 is announced with deep regret.

Professor Lehmann was a distinguished scholar. He studied natural science under Ernst Haeckel at Jena and took his doctor's degree at Halle University where he studied under Professor Kirchhoff. He held for many years the directorship of the Altona Museum. His publications include *Deutsches Volkstum in Volkskunst u. Volkstracht* (Berlin, 1938). His special interest was the farm-house buildings of

Northern Germany of which he was acknowledged as the leading expert, but he had a wide knowledge of folklore in general and his learning was valued far beyond his own country. In particular his ideas on the educational functions of museums had great influence.

Until the outbreak of war he was a familiar figure at international folklore conferences. He was President and later Vice-President of the International Commission of Folk Arts (CIAP). Although he was not a folk music specialist he was actively interested in the subject. He took part in the 1935 Conference held in London in connection with the International Folk Dance Festival, and although his health did not permit him to attend meetings after the close of the war, he kept in close touch with the Council's activities through correspondence.

Professor Lehmann was not only a learned scholar but he was a lovable man with live human interests and a keen sense of righteousness. When a colleague, who was assisting him in his work for the *Atlas für Deutsche Volkskunde*, was dismissed in consequence of Nazi persecution, Professor Lehmann refused to continue his work unless his assistant was re-instated.

FRITZ BRAUN.

FRANCE MAROLT

France Marolt, the Director of the Musical-Ethnographic Institute in Ljubljana (Yugoslavia, P.R. Slovenia), died, aged 60, in April, 1951.

The work of France Marolt was vast and manifold. He was a conductor of choirs, composer and melographer; for some time he took a keen interest in musical criticism; and he also devoted his efforts to the organisation of various branches of musical life. The most significant of his activities was his work as collector and scientific investigator in the field of musical folklore. Among his publications, the most outstanding were: "The Problems of the Slovenian Musical Folklore" (1934-35); "Studies in Slovenian Folklore" (1935-36); "The First Slovenian Traces in the Folk Songs of Kočevje" (1939); "The Folk Music and Dances of the Slovenian Coast and the Julian March" (1945) and "The Expression of Movement and Sound of Slovenian Carinthia" (1946). His last work, but not the least, was the paper "An Essay on Slovenian Musical Folklore" (1951) which he wrote for the Conference of the International Folk Music Council.

In the late France Marolt, Yugoslav musical folklore has lost its best and most distinguished representative. He has left behind numerous and significant results and his shining example will exercise a strong influence on the work of his successors.

NATKO DEVČIĆ.

MRS. A. SANSON CATZ

News reaches us of the death of Mrs. A. Sanson Catz. To the youth of Holland her death means the loss of an enthusiastic, devoted and well-nigh irreplaceable leader.

She contributed much to the popularisation of folk dancing, for instance, by her two volumes of Dutch Folk Dances which she published in collaboration with Mr. A. de Koe and by her activities as a Council member of the NEVO. She won universal regard and sympathy, not only as a folklorist but also as a human being.

W. D. SCHEEPERS.