

13 October, 1983

Ms. Lucy Duran,
Curator, International Music Collection,
National Sound Archive,
The British Library,
29 Exhibition Road,
London SW7 2AS

Dear Lucy,

Two points: First, I should be grateful if you could verify/correct the points made in the enclosed letter to the Canberra Times. As Editor of IASA (Australia)'s Newsletter I should like to reproduce this letter in a future issue. If there are mistakes in it (there is no reference to the British Library incorporation, for instance) I should like to publish the corrections. This could be done anonymously or by reproducing an answering letter from your National Sound Archive. I shall leave this to you.

Second, I wish to report that I have been able to identify the collector and location of the recordings I provisionally identified in the B.I.R.S. as Australia "F" series. In the notes I left with you, I suggested that the material might be Australian material (without being able to hear it) because of the pieces of newspaper (Sydney Morning Herald) inside the cylinders. Now that I have heard Lloyd's tape transfer there is no doubt about this. Moreover, I have since found that the recordings were made in South Australia, lower Murray River region, and by Professor A. Radcliffe-Brown. We have his unpublished notes in our Library. I came upon his reference to the contents of the six cylinders only yesterday after a prolonged search. I am now working on the date of these recordings and will inform you when I am certain about it.

Unfortunately, the first cylinder (singer: Albert Karlawan) is broken. I wonder if Lloyd Stickells' internationally recognised expertise could be brought to bear on this. If the broken pieces could be carefully glued together, and the singing transferred to tapes, I think we would have a small but very valuable set of Australian recordings from a musical region about which very little is known.

I look forward to receiving Lloyd's transfer of the large diameter cylinders of Baldwin Spencer and to having the full complement of the Australian cylinder material by the end of this year.

Enclosed please find a very early article of mine on the Spencer cylinders. These were transferred to tapes in the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne some twenty or more years ago. You may hold duplicates of some of them.

Looking forward to an early reply from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alice Moyle
Honorary Visiting Fellow