

29th June, 1972

Mr. F.D. McCarthy,
Principal,
Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies,
P.O. Box 553,
CANBERRA CITY, A.C.T. 2601

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Before the end of the week I shall be sending you by road transport (IPEC) a package containing about 800 pages of (unpublished) song texts. At the present time this material is being added to the Second Edition of the Computerised Index of Australian Aboriginal Song Words now in its final stages of preparation.

Copies of all this material have been retained in my files. We are sending you this duplicate set for the A.I.A.S. Library.

In the enclosed lists you will find the titles of the sources from which the indexed song words have been taken. There is also an extra sheet referring to the field notebooks of Ruth Fink (See Source 94).

I am writing to the A.I.A.S. Library for a few remaining song words which appear in early (unpublished) manuscripts so that they can be added before we close the Index. As they now stand, the published sources in our Index continue until 1971. Because of the time which would have been required to read the print-out proofs, we have excluded the song words in T.G.H. Strehlow's latest book. Those collected by Carl Strehlow are, however, already indexed and will be found in the First Edition, reproductions of which will be available again next week. Our Second Edition, about twice the size of the first, will be run off before the end of this year. The project has been revitalised by Mr. Peter Hohaus, the new programmer in the Arts Faculty, and I am glad to be able to say that things are moving again and at a much faster rate.

With only a few exceptions, the sources on the enclosed list consist of phonetic transcriptions from my own field recordings of spoken song words. The sources for which I am wholly responsible are Nos. 209-212, 220-221, 227, 230, 238-251, 256-263. Those based on

my field recordings but written mainly by linguists who worked with me in the field (Beulah Lowe, Judith Stokes, Earl Hughes, K.L. Hale and Nora Kerr) are Nos. 47-57, 132, 164-174, 194, 231, 236, 252-5 and 277.

Many of these linguists have commented on the differences between song words and related speech forms; also on the large number of sung syllables which appear to have no literal translation. Other linguists who may not have had much experience in collecting song words might be advised to reserve judgement on these written sources until they have been able to give full auditory attention to both sung and spoken versions. A great deal of interdisciplinary work still remains to be done on the bulk of these unpublished sources.

You will notice references to tape recordings throughout my own texts. Song words in all these sources can be readily traced to the appropriate song item through the system of auditioning, copying and numbering of song items which Jill Lowrey and I have worked out together.

It will not be necessary for me to point out that many of my own sources are still in manuscript. The main reason for this is that typing needs checking and correcting and, at the present time, I am anxious to give more attention to other aspects of my work. Some of my transcriptions were typed by a junior typist in the Music Department who has now left and not yet been replaced. Others have been typed by Jill Lowrey who has had to spend rather more of her time doing this kind of work than I would have wished.

This brings me to the subject of employing the services of a typist. You may remember that I made brief reference to this subject while in Canberra last February.

There is still a great deal of non-phonetic typing to be done in connection with my work for the Institute and I should like to have your permission to revert to a previous arrangement by which such work was done by a part-time typist. Costs for these services

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are estimated at the rate of about \$15.00 (5 hours) a week. As I envisage it, the work would continue until about February or March of next year. I should be glad to hear from Mr. Sheppard as to whether I have your approval to continue the previous arrangement. As formerly, payments would be made through university channels and from my research budget.

I enclose a second letter relating to my application for a grant for field work in Arnhem Land.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Alice M. Moyle,
A.I.A.S. Research Fellow

c. Professor T.A. Jones