THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES OF FOLK AND PRIMITIVE MUSIC

George List

The Indiana University Archives of Folk and Primitive Music is a repository of recordings of music in the aural tradition—folk music, music of primitive cultures, music from the Orient and certain types of popular music. The Archives also contains some recordings of non-musical folklore—tales, children’s rhymes, etc. Holdings of recordings now include some twenty thousand items with representation of a large portion of the cultural areas of the world. In addition to the recordings the Archives maintains a collection of folk, primitive and Oriental musical instruments.

Deposits are received from individuals and institutions. Within the restrictions imposed by the depositors tape copies of the recordings may be made available at Indiana University or by mail for research, classroom demonstration, educational radio and television programs or for any other educational use.

The Archives supports the collection and study of recordings of folk, primitive and Oriental music by the dissemination of information concerning methods of field recording, conditions of electrical supply in the various areas of the world, methods of documentation and cataloguing and, when feasible, by the loan of reels of tape and recording equipment to collectors who are engaged in promising projects.

The Archives of Folk and Primitive Music was founded by George Herzog at Columbia University in 1936 and was modeled to some extent after the famous Phonogramm Archiv at the University of Berlin where he had acted as Eric von Hornbostel’s assistant during the years 1922-24. With Herzog’s appointment as Professor of Anthropology at Indiana University in 1948 the Archives was transferred to the latter institution. Since 1954 the Archives has been under the direction of George List.

Contributors to This Issue

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FOLKLORE INSTITUTE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

The fifth summer Folklore Institute will be held at Indiana University from June 11 to August 8, 1958. These institutes have been held every fourth summer since 1942. Archiving formed one of the four main discussion themes at the 1950 Midcentury Institute (see Four Symposia on Folklore, ed. Stith Thompson, Indiana University Publications, Folklore Series No. 8, 1953). Seven courses in various aspects of folklore will be offered by the resident and visiting Folklore faculty. Among the many prominent folklorists visiting the campus for special lectures will be a number who have developed their own folklore and folk music archives and have given special attention to archival problems.

These visitors will include Thelma James of Wayne State University, chairman of the Committee on Folklore Archives of the American Folklore Society; William H. Jansen of the University of Kentucky, former Fellow of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, who made a special tour of Eastern folklore archives in 1955-56; Austin and Alta Fife, who established the Archive of Mormon Folklore at the University of Utah; Luc Lacourcière, director of the substantial archive of French-Canadian folklore at Laval University in Quebec; Aili Kolehmainen Johnson, chief archivist of the Michigan State University (now part of the Indiana University) Folklore Archives; Louis C. Jones, director of the New York State Historical Association and the Farmer’s Museum at Cooperstown, where he has placed the folklore archive he assembled while teaching folklore at New York State College for Teachers in Albany; John Ball of Miami University, director of the Ohio Folklore Archive.

Problems and methods of organizing folklore and folk music archives will enter into the discussion of several of the Institute courses, and will form a major topic in the course on “International Relations in Folklore,” when references to the great European folklore archives will be made by the special lecturers.

For further information about the Folklore Institute, write to Richard M. Dorson, Chairman Folklore Program, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.