

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC COUNCIL

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EDITORIAL NOTES

THE PRESIDENT

News of the death of our beloved President, Jaap Kunst, has reached us as we are going to press. He died on 6th December after a distressing illness which he bore with the greatest courage. We offer our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

An appreciation by Dr. Arnold Bake appears below.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

From July 24th to 29th, 1960, some hundred and fifty members met in Vienna by invitation of the Österreichisches Volksliedwerk beim Bundesministerium für Unterricht. This Thirteenth Annual Conference was attended by representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, the Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Yugoslavia. Members were received by Herr Landeshauptmann von Niederösterreich Ökonomierat Johann Steinböck, and by the Bundesminister für Unterricht Herr Dr. Heinrich Drimmel; and all who attended the Conference owe a debt of gratitude to these kind hosts and to the Austrian National Committee. For the participants, Vienna was not only the City of Mozart and Beethoven, its very name a spell, but the home of the historic Phonogrammarchiv of the Akademie der Wissenschaften, the oldest in Europe, and the source of a monumental series of ethnomusicological studies.

Details of resolutions adopted by the Conference will be found on page 92 of this issue of the *Journal*, while *Bulletin No. XVIII* (September, 1960) contains the Regulations Governing the Folk Dance Commission (newly formed) (p. 19) and the new constitution of the Radio Committee (p. 18). From Dr. Karel Vetterl's communication concerning the need for an international selective bibliography of folk musics (see this issue, p. 68) there may well spring a major project sponsored by the Council.

The Editors wish to record their thanks to Mr. Anthony Baines who accepted the heavy responsibility of reporting the discussions.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Rector of the Université Laval and the Canadian Folk Music Society have honoured the Council with an invitation to hold its Fourteenth Annual Conference from August 28th to September 3rd, 1961, in Quebec. The main themes of the Conference will be: (1) Comparisons between the folk musics (including dance) of the various national and racial groups of the Americas and the folk musics of their respective homelands; (2) the present state of Amerindian folk music; and (3) folk musical instruments of the Americas. In addition, members are invited to offer for consideration papers on any other aspects of folk music and dance.

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF PUBLISHED RECORDS OF FOLK MUSIC.

Attention is called to this recently published catalogue, compiled by Dr. Klaus P. Wachsmann (see announcement on inside page of back cover.)

JAAP KUNST

The I.F.M.C. has suffered a great loss through the death of Jaap Kunst. Not only will the Council mourn a president whose interest in everything concerning it was alive and unflagging, but there will be very many members in all the different countries who will experience his death as a personal and irreparable loss.

It is true that no human being that leaves us can ever be replaced, but Jaap was something special. From birth music was his daily nourishment, his father having been a very beloved professor at the Conservatoire in Groningen, the town of his birth. Jaap learned the violin and loved his instrument. All through his life violin-playing, especially playing in string-quartets, was his absorbing hobby and it must have been one of the hardest blows fate dealt him when, during the last period of his illness, though he was still up and about, his condition made playing impossible.

This was, however, not his only sphere of interest. When he was still very young, he discovered that, even in Europe, the world of music is wider than the masterpieces of its classical composers. Spending his summers on Terschelling, one of the small islands to the North of Friesland and Groningen, the living folk music that he discovered there caught him, and inspired a love which was enduring and which later enabled him to understand and love the music of other peoples, progressively farther away from his native Groningen.

He had a keen intellect and his legal training and his methodical mind stood him in good stead when during the period as a government servant in Java, he had to fight for the recognition of the music of Indonesia as a worthy object for official research. His energy was prodigious and his articles and books on the music of the many different peoples of the Indonesian archipelago and, later, his untiring efforts in the field of general ethnomusicology in connection with the organisation of the Ethnomusicological Section of the Royal Institute for the Tropics in Amsterdam, are so many witnesses to his penetrating understanding, his enviable power of concentration and his methodical sense.

Ethnomusicology can ill spare this devoted worker, but that is not the reason why so many of the members of the I.F.M.C. in so many different countries will feel his death as a personal loss. He had a wealth of human sympathy and a great gift of communication. Wherever he went—and he travelled far and wide—his human sympathy evoked sympathy in the people he met. His power of communication made his lectures a joy, even in spite of language difficulties. His infectious enthusiasm for the things he was talking about captured his audiences so that when, in conclusion, he took his violin and played the folk songs he loved so much, everyone present felt they could share in them. His contributions in the field of ethnomusicology have been many and valuable, but what he has given as a human being has been greater. That is why people will feel his death as the departure of a personal friend who has lived a rich and fruitful life.

ARNOLD A. BAKE.