

NEWS FROM ILAM

Cataloguing, conservation through digital conversion, and creation of on-line access to ILAM's holdings have been the focus of ILAM's projects for the past several years. As a result of these efforts the Hugh Tracey audio recordings and 1,000 images from his photo collection, and ILAM's books are searchable on-line via ILAM's website. And, back issues of our journal, *African Music*, are now available from the JSTOR database .

In addition, in 2009-2010 ILAM has conducted a National Heritage Council funded research project, the "Red Location/New Brighton Music History Project" on Eastern Cape Jazz. This project, in collaboration with the Red Location Museum, has entailed extensive oral history interviews with local jazz musicians and an outreach and education component that facilitated veteran jazz musicians teaching, rehearsing and finally performing a 'Jazz Heritage Concert' with promising young jazz artists of the community. A website feature and an exhibit on Red Location/New Brighton Jazz for the Red Location Museum are currently under development. All interview data and historical images and recordings collected are being deposited at ILAM and the Red Location Museum as a resource for further research efforts, for community education projects, and/or for individuals with an interest.

The culmination of the outreach and education component the 2008-2009 Hugh Tracey Fieldtape Cataloguing and Digitizing Project, funded by the Expressions Fund of the Rand Merchant Bank, has involved development, in 2010, of a full-scale museum exhibition entitled "*For Future Generations – Hugh Tracey and the International Library of African Music*". The exhibit premieres 14 October 2010 at the Origins Centre Museum at WITS University, Johannesburg, as this issue of *African Music* goes to press. A handsome exhibit book/catalogue featuring images and articles and an accompanying CD with recordings of music played on each of the twenty instruments from the Tracey instrument collection displayed in the exhibit has been published by ILAM. The aim of the exhibit is to inform exhibit viewers of the broad scope and scientific nature of Hugh Tracey's research and the imprint his four plus decade career has left for the benefit of future generations for preservation of African heritage as contained in the music of Africa he so carefully documented.

Finally, ILAM has embarked, with funding from the National Arts Council, on the 'ILAM Music Heritage Education Project' which has the aim of developing loose-bound African music education materials in compliance with South Africa's Arts and Culture Curriculum which feature recordings from the ILAM's collections. This project is an effort to return the music archived at ILAM to its communities of origin through the nation's schools, with the hope that exposing the youth to their musical heritage in this fashion is a way of fulfilling Hugh Tracey's vision for his "African Music Codification and Textbook Project" which was never brought to fruition due to lack of funding. Our vision, just as Tracey's, is to extend the project beyond South Africa as funding and cooperative agreements with the communities recorded by Hugh

Tracey are obtained. This project is ambitious and will require a good deal of time and commitment. I encourage graduate students and/or established researchers who are interested in making repatriation of ILAM's recordings part of a research project to contact me in this regard.

ILAM also welcomes any other proposals for research projects utilizing its collections. We have made great progress in making ILAM's holdings accessible to the world at large. It is hoped that our efforts will yield greater utilization of the rich and varied resources available through ILAM. As more and more work is done to make the incredibly rich and vast store of material Hugh Tracey amassed during his career accessible, the scope of his vision and the significance of his contribution to knowledge of African music and culture has become more and more apparent. I urge all with an interest and an idea for a research project to contact ILAM.

"The exhibit *'For Future Generations'* will return to the Albany History Museum in Grahamstown for a two to three month run February through April 2011. Thereafter it will travel to other museums in South Africa and internationally. Museum curators are encouraged to contact me if they wish to book the exhibit. When the exhibit is not travelling it will return to the Albany History Museum, to be displayed in a dedicated gallery there. This means it will not be packed away, but will serve to educate future generations, as Hugh Tracey envisioned when he said, in his catalogue for the **Sound of Africa** LP series, *"At the time the public showed little interest in African music and did not understand why I constantly stressed the social and artistic value of the music for future generations of Africans"* (H. Tracey 1973: 3).

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