



Fig. 6. Yoruba talking drums.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN MUSIC SOCIETY

PRESENT: Mr. H. Steafel (In the chair).
75 Members and friends.
Col. H. W. Boardman (Hon. Treasurer).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Miss J. Pim.
Mr. A. D. Viney.
Mrs. Waters.
Mrs. Hunt.
Mr. G. Relly.
Mr. C. R. Savory.
Mr. H. T. Tracey.

TRIBUTE TO DR. A. W. HOERNLÉ:

The Chairman stated that since the last Annual General Meeting the Society had suffered a great loss with the death of Dr. A. W. Hoernlé. Dr. Hoernlé, he stated had been a foundation member of the Society and it was in fact she who had encouraged Mr. Tracey to form the Society and had assisted him with suggestions as to the way in which the Society should be established and operated; it was, therefore, obvious that only Mr. Tracey knew the full extent of her support and it was regretted that he was not present to tell the meeting of her early association with the Society.

The Chairman spoke of Dr. Hoernlé's great knowledge of Africans and her humane attitude towards them which was enhanced by her very practical mind which was always directed towards the wise and fundamental actions to be taken to educate Europeans and Africans in their knowledge of each other. He pointed out that as the Society became established it was Mrs. Hoernlé and others who supported its extension into the Library of African Music. Her connections with the University of the Witwatersrand and other institutions were invaluable and she spoke with such knowledge and authority that her support influenced and gained help from many sources. Before and even during her illness she used to come to the

offices of the Society once a month to attend a small Executive Committee Meeting and her great kindness of spirit was always an inspiration and encouragement.

The Chairman concluded his tribute with: "Her wisdom and honesty will be missed by this Society and by the International Library of African Music more than I can say, but the impetus she originated will long make its effect felt." He then asked the meeting to stand and observe a minute's silence in tribute to Mrs. Hoernle's passing. This was done.

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING THEREFROM:

The Minutes having been circulated were taken as read and approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman's opening address comprised a resumé of Mr. Tracey's activities in America, to date. He informed the meeting that Mr. Tracey had been invited by the State Department of the American Government to undertake a lecture tour in America. This was an opportunity not to be missed and he thought the Society must accept it as a great tribute to the genius of its Honorary Secretary to receive such an invitation. Mr. and Mrs. Tracey left Cape Town by ship on September the 9th and proceeded direct to New York. Their itinerary, which was arranged in consultation with the State Department, would entail a most strenuous time of lecturing and travelling and would involve lectures to approximately twenty Universities, the Library of Congress, the African-American Institute, the Women's Africa Committee, the Manhattan School of Music, the Hartford Seminary Foundation, and many public audiences some of which would include Negroes. Starting from Washington on the East Coast, Mr. Tracey would travel right across America to California and Texas on the West Coast, up to Chicago and south into the Mississippi Valley. His tour would finish in New York on January the 26th, 1961, when he sails for England where he is due to give further lectures to some important Societies.

The Chairman stated that it was impossible at this stage to assess the outcome of this long tour and its effects on the American public, and the resultant benefits to Africans in Africa and also to the Society of African Music, but he felt sure that the meeting would wish him to convey the very best wishes of the African Music Society to Mr. and Mrs. Tracey. He felt certain that the African Music Society could have no more competent representative to present its ideals to America. The opportunity to do so had come at a most critical time and could not fail to be worth the effort and great amount of hard work by Mr. Tracey.

The Chairman then, in the absence of Mr. Tracey, delivered the report of the activities of the African Music Society during the last twelve months.

He stated that it was impossible and not necessary to differentiate between the activities of the African Music Society and those of the International library of African Music and he would not attempt to do so.

During the year over 600 people had visited the Studios of the African Music Society, many of whom had been Americans. Others came from many countries in Europe and Africa. One American missionary and his wife had worked in the Studios for three weeks and were now stationed in the Umtali district making studies of the language and music of that region.

Amongst distinguished visitors he mentioned the Hon. Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr. de Wet Nel, who had expressed his approval of the aims and objects of our two Institutions but had been guarded about promising any financial support, and up to date, we had not received anything except pious resolutions of approval. This, the Chairman pointed out, was unfortunate as concrete Government support would have strengthened the appeals Mr. Tracey is making in America at the present time.

He advised the meeting that we had received a further grant of £1,250 from a lottery in Rhodesia through the good offices of the Rhodesian Academy of Music and had thus been able to send 584 gramophone discs to 28 Universities, Colleges, Schools and Training Centres in the Federation.

The paintings which were exhibited round the walls of the Studio had been the rounds of many towns in South Africa under the direction of the South African Association of Arts which has its headquarters in Cape Town. The exhibition had evoked many comments of appreciation from Africans and Europeans and the sale of Christmas cards reproduced from ten of the originals had helped our finances considerably.

Two recording tours had been undertaken during the year, the first in Basutoland and the second in Bechuanaland on both sides of the border. Sufficient items had been collected and edited to produce seven new long playing discs of Sotho music and ten of Tswana music.

The system of dubbing African music onto long playing discs each containing forty minutes of music from Africans of one tribe or sub-tribe had been developed to meet the expressed wishes of Mine Officials and African employees of the Mines.

We were now issuing prepared programmes dubbed onto both discs and tapes. A complete programme is of 45 minutes duration and is composed of a balanced selection of both country and town items, played alternatively. The country items are selected from five or six different languages or dialects while the town items are selected for their liveliness and general appeal to Africans emerging from a rural life into urban conditions. It was too early to make a report on the reactions of Africans and mine officials to this innovation, but we hoped it would result in increased services and entertainment for Africans.

Through the generosity of an American visitor we had been able to present a gramophone and about thirty long playing discs to an African School in Meadowlands.

When the Headmaster had been visited a few months ago he had reported that the gift had so stimulated the music class that they had entered for a competition between African School choirs at the Eisteddfod in Johannesburg last September in which they had come first and won a challenge cup.

And so, the Chairman concluded, the trickles of music from all over Africa make their way to these Studios, are concentrated into streams and flow out all over the world to bring pleasure and instruction to an ever-increasing number of people.

The Chairman ended his address by thanking Mr. Hallows, the Auditor of the African Music Society, for the work he had done during the past year.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Hon. Treasurer informed the meeting that the Balance Sheet showed an improvement in the financial position. The excess of revenue over expenditure amounted to £467. Subscriptions, however had fallen since they had amounted to £359 for the previous year as compared with £327 for this year.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that 600 visitors had passed through the Society's Studios during the last 12 months but he would like to see this number increased since visitors meant an increase in revenue particularly if they purchased records containing the music they heard at the Studios. The Society's expenses had balanced nicely and he hoped to see that balance maintained in future.

Since the Balance Sheet had been circulated, the Hon. Treasurer then proposed that it should be adopted. The proposal was seconded by Miss Zidel.

The Rev. Brian Kingslake suggested that Mr. Hallows, the Auditor, should be given an honorarium. The Hon. Treasurer undertook to submit the suggestion to the new Committee for its consideration. The undertaking was accepted by Mr. Kingslake.

The Rev. Brian Kingslake make a further enquiry regarding future Committee meetings. The Hon. Treasurer promised that there would be a Committee meeting before the end of January, 1961. This was also accepted by Mr. Kingslake.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The outgoing Committee was re-elected en bloc. It comprises:

The Hon. Colin Stamp.
Miss J. Pim.
The Rev. Brian Kingslake.
Mr. H. Steafel.

The new Committee was proposed by Mrs. J. Boardman and seconded by Mr. Prins.

The Honorary Treasurer proposed that Mr. Michael Lane be elected to the Committee. The proposal was seconded by the Rev. Brian Kingslake.

Mr. Hugh T. Tracey was re-elected as Hon. Secretary of the Society and Col. H. W. Boardman as its Honorary Treasurer. These re-elections were proposed by the Rev. Brian Kingslake and seconded by Dr. Ordman.

The Chairman then thanked the staff of the African Music Society for the work they had done for the Society during the past year.

GENERAL:

It was resolved that meetings must be arranged at regular intervals so that matters can be dealt with expeditiously and Committee members can be kept fully informed of the progress of the Society. The Chairman suggested talks by Mr. Hugh Tracey, the Rev. Brian Kingslake and other knowledgeable speakers who are members of the Society.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3.15 p.m. when tea was served, music was played and the dancing proceeded with, by three African mine teams, notable being the Zingili team, who danced expertly in more natural surroundings than they were accustomed to on the mine.

H. W. BOARDMAN,
for HUGH TRACEY,
Honorary Secretary.