

AFRICAN MUSIC

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN MUSIC SOCIETY

VOLUME 5

1971

NUMBER 1

EDITORIAL

A matter that has become of increasing concern to the Editors of this Journal is the geographical location of its editorial office, at the International Library of African Music, which has had its headquarters for 18 years near Roodepoort, South Africa. So far, we are happy to say, this location does not appear to have become an issue, as witness the continuing high quality of the articles we have been able to print, and the increasing membership of the African Music Society all over the world. A small number of our contributors, however, have cancelled, possibly — who knows? — for political reasons. We feel this is a pity, and we would like to repeat here that this Journal in no way subscribes to the political beliefs of South Africa, or any other country. As far as this is possible, we would like to reflect no other “-ism” than humanism and the arts. Our 320 Members in many parts of the world have paid to be kept informed of current research and ideas in African music, and this is what we are dedicated to doing, to continue to look for and print serious articles on African music, from whatever source they may come. The seventeen numbers, to date, of “African Music” have already become a store of information which hardly goes out of date; we want to increase this, bearing in mind the criterion of relevance to Africa, and the importance of encouraging competent African authorities to express themselves in our pages.

Why not move the editorial office of “African Music” away from South Africa? Money is the main consideration. Firstly, the African Music Society possesses no funds beyond what is necessary for the printing of the Journal every year. With the high cost of printing, we only just come out square each time. Secondly, all the editorial and other incidental costs for “African Music” are borne by the International Library of African Music, which subsidises “African Music” by effectively doubling the money obtained from subscriptions. As for the work of the Library itself, we have long felt a responsibility towards the African music and musicians of Southern Africa, and feel that they are best served by staying rather than leaving.

With these points in mind, we continue to hope, as we go into our second quarter-century, that Members will support the African Music Society as magnificently as they have in the first 25 years of its life.

THE EDITOR.