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2 NOVEMBER 1992

FRED WITHERS
ROB ALLINGHAM

Dear Fred,
re: ANC - ARCHIVES.

I have contacted two individuals with regard to musical archive programs already instituted or in the planning stages at other centres.

I telephoned Mary Rorich at Wits who told me she was tied up with other commitments but would be contacting me at some future date to discuss the subject of archives. Thus far, she has not come back to me.

I met Gordon Metz of the Mayibuye Centre in Cape Town at a recent Wits History workshop and had a good talk with him. He let me read a preliminary report that he was preparing on musical archiving and asked me for my comments. In general, his proposals seemed to be good ones, but I had two specific criticisms: (1) the report did not take into account the archiving role already being undertaken by existing institutions such as the ILAM and Gallo (2) the report did not deal realistically with the complications involved with existing copyrights. Gordon has promised to send me a copy of the report once it is finished.

I remain convinced that the most practical and cost-effective archiving method on a national level is one first suggested to me by Prof. Chris Ballentyne of the University of Natal, namely to establish a computerized central listing of all Southern African material held by individual archives around the country. Thus an interested party would be able to easily determine where any particular recording might be accessed and proceed with the appropriate arrangements with the archive
cont/PZ...

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holding it. The compilation of such a listing would probably best be administered by a centralized research organization such as the HSRC.

Such an arrangement would recognize and further engender the contributions of existing archives while extending their utility to a larger audience. It would also recognize the fact that South African music is so complex and has produced such a vast quantity of recorded performances - probably in excess of one million to date - that no all-inclusive central archive would ever be capable of effectively dealing with it.

Thanks.

KW

ROB ALLINGHAM.