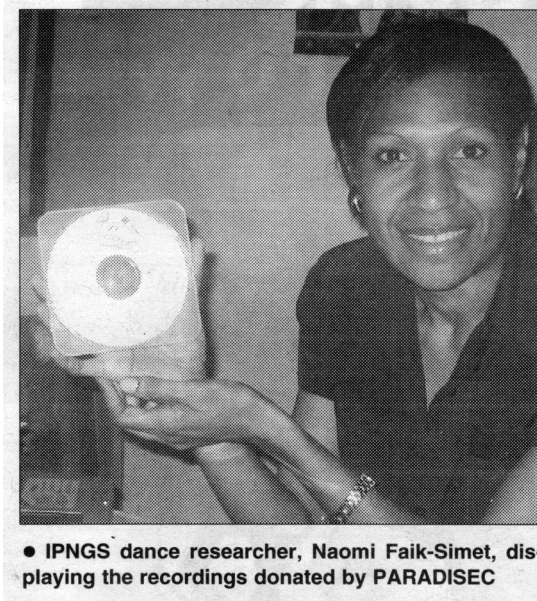


Institute of PNG Studies gets music recordings

The Music Archive of the Institute of PNG Studies recently received 159 compact discs documenting Papua New Guinea's music, languages and history from the Pacific and Regional Archive or Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC). PARADISEC was established to provide digital conservation and access for materials from the Pacific region.



Initially it has focussed on the safe preservation of original field recordings made in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of these recordings were made on reel to reel or cassette tapes. PARADISEC makes digital copies of these recordings and returns the originals to the collectors or their institutions.

PARADISEC's project director, Professor Linda Barwick said, "Papua New Guinea is very lucky to have the Music Archive of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS). It is internationally known as the largest and most important collection of Papua New Guinea music in the world. PARADISEC is very happy to be able to contribute to this collection to make it even more representative of the research recordings that have been undertaken there."

Acting Director of IPNGS Don Niles noted that the support of PARADISEC is essential for the continuing development of the Institute's Music Archive.

"The Institute's Music Archive is mandated to provide a permanent, historical record of the music of this country. With the ongoing assistance of organisations such as PARADISEC, we can ensure that such recordings are available in Papua New Guinea," Mr Niles said,

Mr Niles said such collaborations have enabled us to make our Music Archive as representative as possible of the richness of musical traditions in this country.

"We are proud of this accomplishment, our collaboration with PARADISEC, and how these efforts continue to reflect the aims of the founders of the Institute," he said.

The recordings digitised by PARADISEC consist of many different types of materials, for example, language data, origin stories, locally significant events, music, etc. Often such materials have been used by their collectors as part of their ongoing investigations into Papua New Guinea traditions. While the written results of this research are frequently available, the recordings originally collected are not. PARADISEC has sought to remedy this situation.

Managed by a steering committee representing the University of Sydney, University of Melbourne, and the Australian National University, PARADISEC also organises occasional seminars and workshops.

IPNGS staff participated in two of these workshops in 2003 and 2006. After the first workshop, IPNGS staff received ten compact discs for the Music Archive, consisting of recordings made by Australian researchers in Bougainville, Sandaun, and Central provinces, between 1964 and 1980.

Relations between IPNGS and PARADISEC have continued to grow since then.

The present gift to the IPNGS Music Archive focuses on recordings made during fieldwork in many parts of the country from 1969 to 2005.

Most of the eleven collectors of these recordings were primarily engaged in linguistic work in Papua New Guinea. Analysing these materials, some of them did extensive work on language classification to help us understand more about the tremendous diversity in this country.

Other collectors have focussed primarily on one area, writing in detail about a particular language. Finally, the most recent collections result from work still in progress by scholars now writing up their findings. All these

collectors were associated with the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, or the University of Melbourne during the time of their fieldwork.

The largest collections of PARADISEC materials received by the IPNGS Music Archive come from three linguists, well known for their early work on classifying languages in the region: Arthur Capell, Donald Laycock, and Thomas Dutton.

Capell (1902–86) did a number of early surveys of languages throughout the Pacific and was the first linguist to survey languages in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. He was a very important scholar in undertaking research on many different languages and writing extensively on their features and classification.

Laycock (1936–88) is best known for his work on languages in the Sepik provinces, the Buin language of southern Bougainville, and Tok Pisin. In the Sepik, Laycock surveyed many languages and published a highly influential classification of them. In Buin, Laycock followed the initial work of Richard Thurnwald, who did research in the area sixty years earlier. Both Thurnwald and Laycock were particularly fascinated by the expressive poetry of Buin songs. Laycock was also the author of a book for learning Tok Pisin and wrote extensively about the use of that language in songs, plays, poems, and short stories.

Dutton conducted fieldwork in PNG, later taught at the University of PNG (1975–78), and then took up a position at the Australian National University. He will certainly be remembered by many of the early UPNG graduates. Dutton was also responsible for doing essential work on the classification of languages here, but his focus was on Central and Oro provinces.

With Dicks Thomas of UPNG, Dutton co-authored the essential book for learning Tok Pisin.

Another primary focus of Dutton's research has been on Police Motu (now known as Hiri Motu) and the version of Motu used on hiri voyages, primarily by the trading partners of the Motu in the Gulf. He has written the main textbook for learning Hiri Motu, as well as a monograph about its history, *Police Motu: Iena Sivarai*, published by UPNG.

Another large collection obtained from PARADISEC comes from Alan Rumsey, who began his work on the Ku Waru language of Western Highlands in 1981. After co-authoring a book on this language and, particularly, its use in oratory or formal speech-making, Rumsey has increasingly focussed on a verbal genre known as

tom yaya kange. These are sung stories, presented by master performers, telling tales which fascinate, amuse, educate, and enchant listeners.

The recordings donated by PARADISEC to the IPNGS Music Archive reflect the essential materials collected by these linguists and others during the course of their research in Papua New Guinea.

Often taken from original tapes in deteriorating condition, they have been digitised to the highest international standards. Niles further noted that the "dedication, expertise, and generosity of PARADISEC to the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies is very deeply appreciated. Some of Papua New Guinea's traditions and history are contained on the 159 compact discs we have received from them. We will do everything possible to honour our responsibilities to the people of this country to preserve these materials for present and future generations."