

12 Gems Collected from the Wars in Port-of-Spain

HELLISH

CALYPSO

COOK

Just Look at these Names

King Fighter

They Ballin Me Name
Indo Law Na Say So

Wrangler

Chinese Wife • Limbo Teacher
• Bongo Man

Nat Hepburn

Donkey Must Wear Pants

Mighty Striker

Can Can Girls

Viper

Dog Better than Man

Bomber

Gloria • Wife in Hawaii
• Kiss of Fire

Ripe Atrocities

Like farmer versus kangaroo, I never believed it myself until, after having actually heard it, I recorded a real calypso orchestra which played on true pitch, with reed and brass choruses interleaved like a squad of marines on parade drill.*

It is rather like the difference between an initiate and a novitiate at a ritual. The whole tenor of events can be misconstrued because of some basic misconception. The first of these is that they can't sing decently and can't pronounce intelligibly. Quite possibly this may be so in some cases, but the real answer is that they don't *want* to and don't intend to. Lined up alongside love and politics as targets for the jeering crossfire of calypso are the conventional notions of *good* music.

The second mistake can lie in the evaluation of the accompanying orchestras. Calypso engineered for mainlanders is usually played on a chromatic scale with divergences no bolder than a flatted minor third. These chaps are playing out-of-tune and raggedly because they are laughing while playing, or else they are speaking unspeakable lyrics into the mouthpieces of the horns they blow. They are just being swept along with the calypsonian into the making of a calypso's goal, a fully rounded pear-shaped atrocity.**

Atrocities generally may be grouped into divisions and sub-heads such as political, social, economic or architectural. But within the spheres of the various art forms, the deliberately perpetrated atrocity is rare. Passing quickly over the pedantic point as to whether or not calypso is music, and all music art, one emerges with calypso, this singular example of perversion.

*Only for money, mainlanders or when hopped.
cf. *Castiliane*, cat. 10890, \$4.98

**cf. overture, side B *Me Ting Is Mine*.

Hear also:

Hellish Calypso, cat. 1122, \$4.98
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Calypso Kings & Pink Gin, cat. 1185, \$4.98
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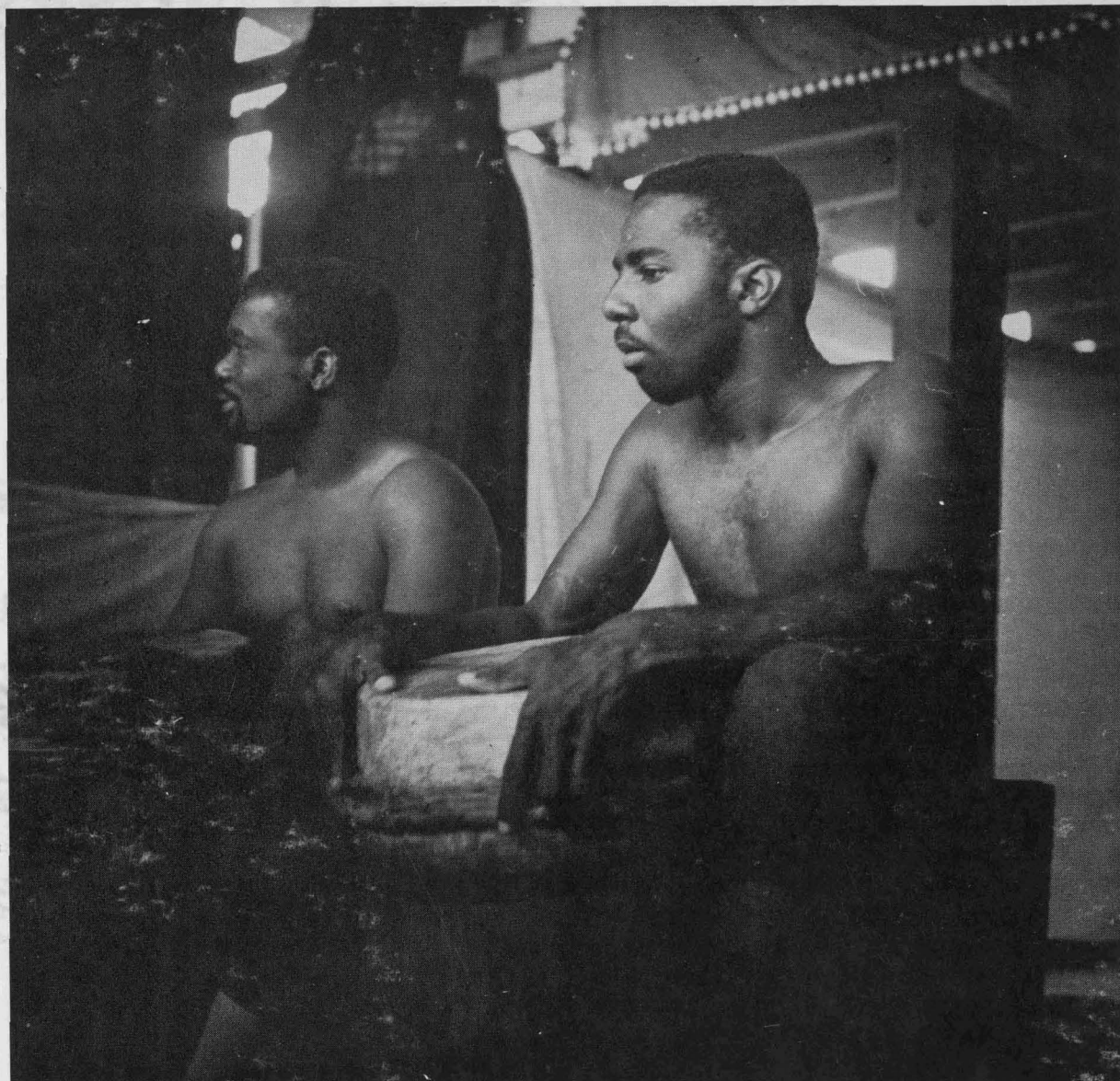
Write for free catalog of steelband calypso

COOK

Laboratories,

101 Second Street, Stamford, Conn.

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KING FIGHTER (Shirland Wilson, with Tom Charles and B.G. Syncopators, British Guiana)

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BOMBER

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