

THE WORLD

IN MY MAIL BOX



Wm. Spaulding

THE WORLD IN MY MAIL BOX

FOLKWAYS

FD 5562

CONCEIVED, RECORDED & NARRATED BY TONY SCHWARTZ • WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY ELLIOTT GRUSKIN

FOLKWAYS RECORD & SERVICE CORP.

THE WORLD IN MY MAIL BOX

Descriptive Notes Are Inside Pocket

FOLKWAYS RECORDS album No. FP 62

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EXCHANGE

FRIENDSHIP AROUND THE WORLD THRU TAPE EXCHANGE

BY Tony Schwartz



FP 62 FOLKWAYS RECORD AND SERVICE CORP., N.Y.



EXCHANGE by Tony Schwartz
Friendship around the world thru tape Exchange.

Side One
BAND ONE

The widespread possession of the inexpensive magnetic recorder makes it possible for people all over the world to exchange recordings.

This record will give you a few of the more than ten thousand folk recordings I have exchanged with people in forty countries.

Although the exchange I established is mainly musical, you can see the possibilities for any type of audible material.

It is a real thrill to open your mail and hear something like this... SOUTH DAKOTA FARMER.

In addition to making many new friends, your mail can bring much beautiful music... COMMENT AND SONG FROM PITTSBURGH PA.

BAND 2

A Norwegian student sings of a little Norwegian boy... SONG

COMMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

BAND 3

A song he sent me from an African city nightspot... SONG

BAND 4

And another from an outlying district... SONG

BAND 5

A housewife in Ireland... COMMENT AND SONG

BAND 6

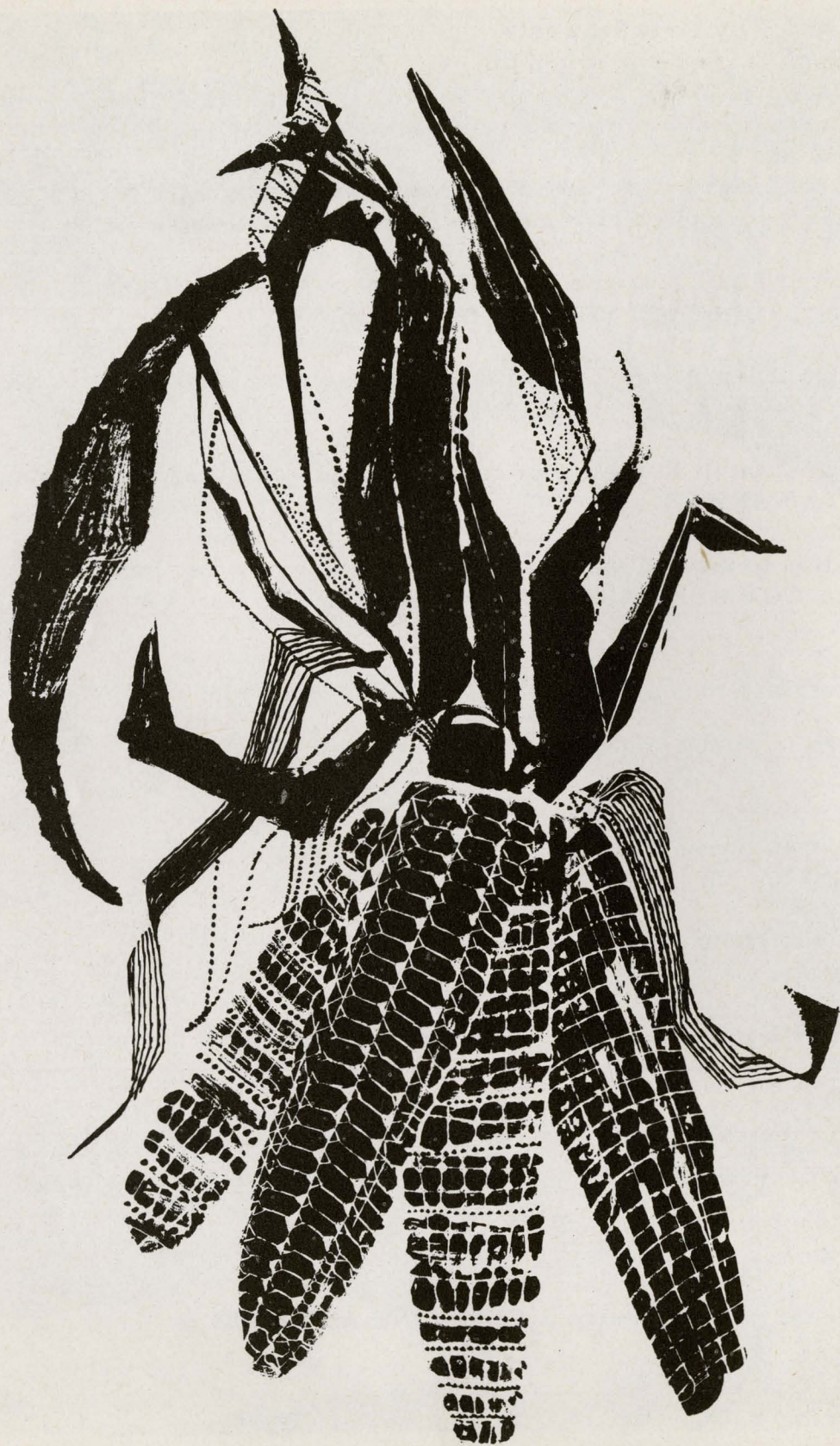
A young Haitian worker... COMMENTS AND CHANTS

BAND 7

An engineer in India... COMMENT AND SONG

BAND 8

A farmwife in New Mexico... COMMENT AND SONG



Side Two

BAND ONE

Many soldiers all over the world are becoming interested in recording as a sparetime activity.

A Private at Fort Devins Mass. ... COMMENT AND SONG

BAND 2

A tape from a Major in Germany ... COMMENT

BAND 3

And the Austrian song he sent to me... SONG

An American Corporal in Korea... COMMENT AND SONG

BAND 4

My exchange of tapes wires and records brought many beautiful recordings of all types of instruments.

A guitar from upstate New York...

BAND 5

A Greek Harmonica...

BAND 6

A Dulcimer from Kentucky...

BAND 7

A Peruvian Indian guitar...

BAND 8

A Sittar from India...

BAND 9

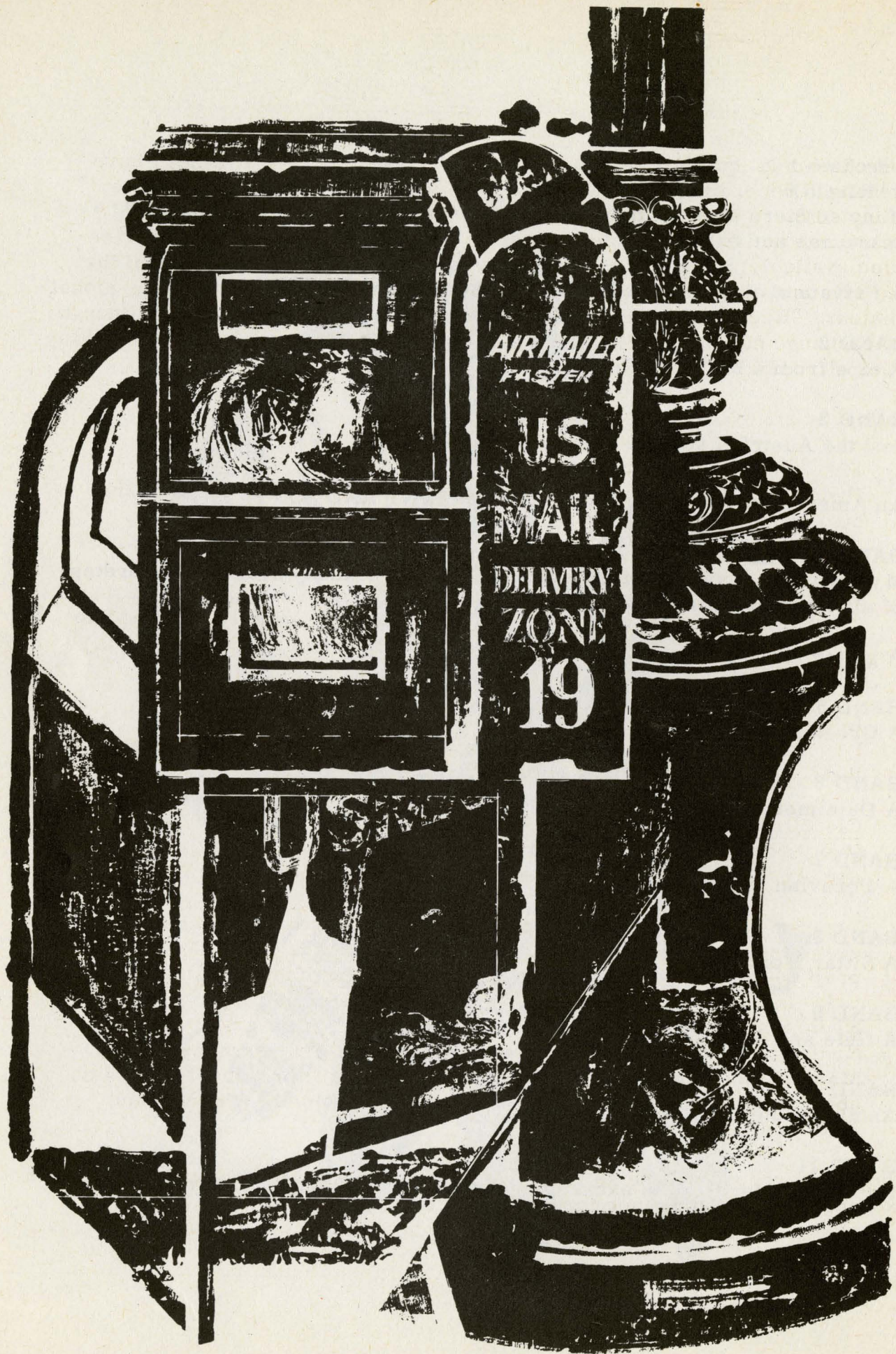
A flute and drum from Mexico...

BAND 10

Another flute and drum, this time from India...

BAND 11

I am still interested in exchanging recordings with anyone, anywhere.



I purchased an inexpensive tape recorder in 1945. Since that time, I have exchanged recordings by mail with people in over 43 countries and have collected more than ten thousand songs. Even though the exchange of recordings has been possible ever since the inexpensive disc recorder became available in the 1930's, it took the tape and wire recorder era of the late 40's and early 50's to really stir the imagination of the non-professional amateur. "Exchange" is a sample of the material I have collected. Although my exchange has been mainly musical, one can see the possibilities for many types of audible material.

Following are some of the methods I have used to contact people.

1. Personal Reference

People I came in contact with mentioned people in other parts of the city, country, and world.

2. Reading Newspapers and Magazines

Publications often mention people and institutions in their stories and articles. For instance, I established an exchange with a schoolteacher in Australia by reading of the opening of his school in the New York Times.

3. Letters to the Editor

I sent letters to the editors of many different types of publications asking their readers to exchange with me.

4. Classified Ads and Swap Columns

I've placed ads in many newspapers and magazines and technical journals, usually in the "Classified Ad" or "Swap Column" sections.

5. I produced an appeal, on record, stating my interests in exchange and examples of the material I had to exchange. At the end of 9 years I had prepared this appeal in 19 languages and sent it to more than 40 countries.

6. Radio Stations

Radio stations all over the world have broadcast my exchange appeal. Many stations and networks here and abroad have broadcast programs about my appeal and collection, including the Voice of America and U.N. Radio.

I hope this record will be an incentive for other people to establish and publish exchanges of this and other types of material.



The letters on this booklet are included to broaden the concept of how exchange can be established.

I would like to thank Nick George, Joseph Jaffee, Roger Magloire, Herman Nadler, George Pickow, Dorothy Pierce, Vivian Richman, Jean Ritchie, Amar Sanyal, Peter Seeger, and Walter Wallace for their cooperation in the making of this album.

Special thanks to Joseph Carpini for the cover and booklet drawings.

I would like to note that, if anyone contemplates starting any kind of exchange, the use of Reeves Soundcraft Plus 50 Tape answers many of the problems with which I was confronted in the early days of my exchange. Its Plus 50 or long playing characteristics give you more time in less space. The fact that it is manufactured on a Mylar Base removes all concern as to permanence or harmful effects of any climate.

Tony Schwartz

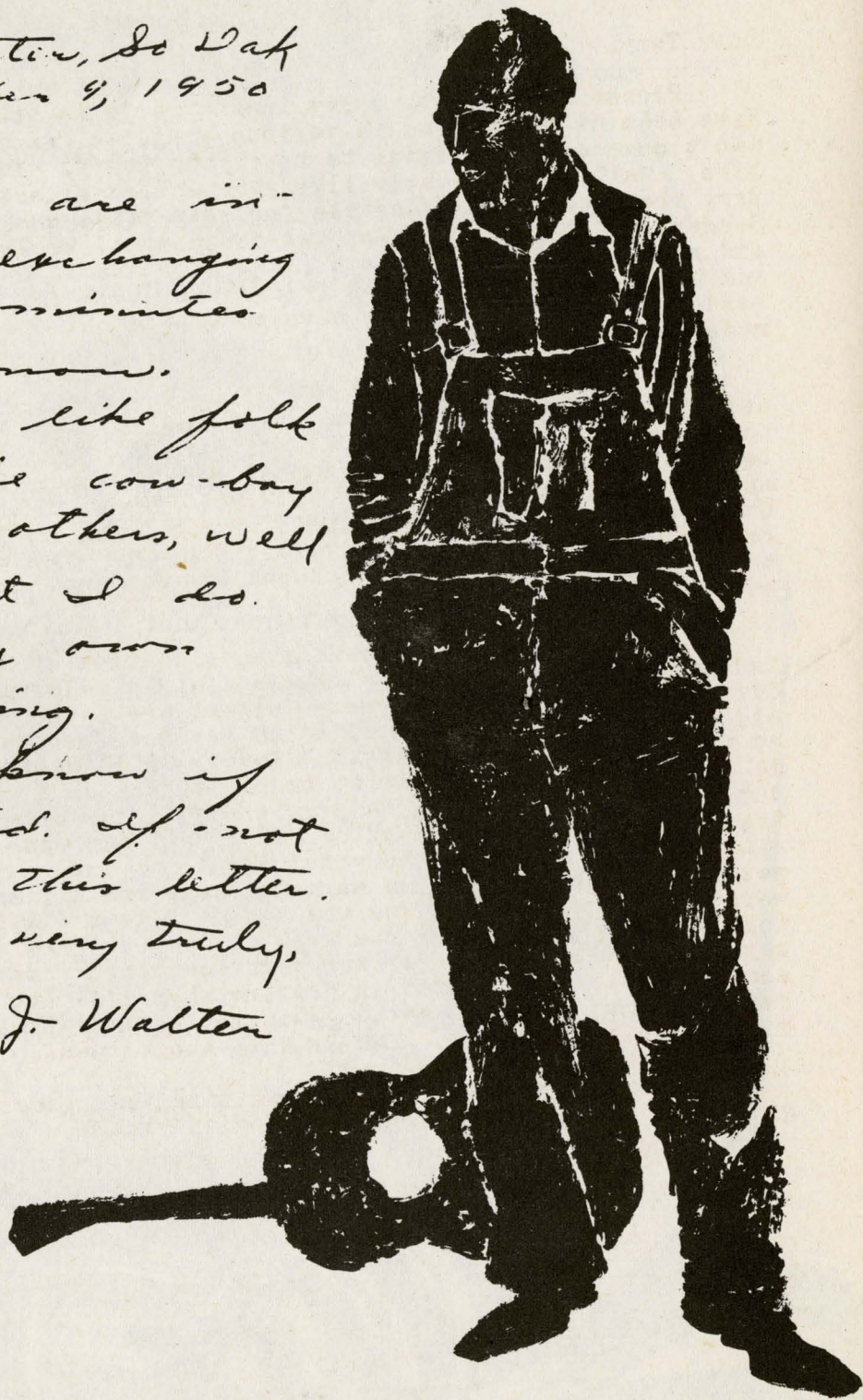
Bridgewater, So Dak
November 9, 1950

Dear Sir:

If you are interested in exchanging wires, 15 minutes let me know.

If you like folk music, like cow-boy songs, and others, well thats what I do. I play my own guitar & sing.

Let me know if you interested. If not than ignore this letter.
Yours very truly,
Ervin J. Walter



Houston
June 28

Dear Tony,

Please forgive the delay in the reply to your letter of the 14th. Have been up to my ears in various projects, most of which as usual don't come out. Am dying to hear your stuff. You ask what I would like. Well, I'd probably like your whole collection, but that isn't very practical so I'll settle for some banjo music, preferably Pete Seeger. We'd like this for two reasons: 1) we love to hear Pete sing and play, and 2) we are both (my sister and I) trying to learn the banjo and listening to records of it is invaluable for picking up ideas. Please send disc recordings, as I have no tape machine and had to have that tape made at a friend's house.

As a matter of fact, I haven't any recording equipment of any kind, and find it very difficult to make records, even of myself, so I'm afraid that I personally won't be able to do much about recording people around town for you, at least not at the present time. However, as I said in my other letter, the Houston Folklore Group, of which I'm a member, will undoubtedly be making recordings around town, we've made a few of the Houston Folk Festival already, and I'm sure when we get started we'll be able to work out an arrangement whereby you can copy whatever of our stuff you might want.

I have been recently making a collection of G.I. songs sung in the 2nd war, and have come up with some fairly colorful material, much of it dirty. Some of the songs were current about the war, and others were old folk tunes that the G.I.'s had revived for their own amusement. One of them, "Roll Me Over, In the Clover, Do it Again," had been haunting me since I used to sing it at Amarillo, but as I was not into folk music during my army career, I had ~~far~~ promptly forgotten it upon leaving basic training. I have been looking for a year for someone who knew the song without luck, and then the other day I ran into a Tune-dex card with a popular song based on this marching song one it, and although the words were different the tune was the same. I kept playing around with the tune and the first thing you know all the stanzas came back to me. I have gotten about eight or ten very good ones from one source and another, and if you are interested in hearing them I'll try to put them on tape for you first chance I get. Again let me warn that most of them are very dirtyx—but authentic. Let me know about them.

Mary and I will be eagerly awaiting your records. Thanks again for giving us the opportunity to trade with you.

love,



31 JUL 1951

M. H. NICHOLLS
78 CHAPEL ST.
PIETERMARITZBURG
NATAL
S. AFRICA

Hullo Yany,

I hope you don't mind me calling you by your christian name. This saves a lot of formalities. Anyway, thanks a lot for your interesting letter and reprint which arrived today. I certainly would like to correspond with you. I can get a lot of our folk music for you and send it on wire to you, when you then can re-transcribe it on to disc or tape. Our folk music is either in Afrikaans (a corruption, so to speak, of Dutch, English and Zulu) or Zulu - (that is our native or black man of South Africa). However, unfortunately, I cannot send the first spool of wire because these commodities are very scarce and expensive in S.A. So if you can send the first wire spool I shall be very pleased and will return it promptly (by registered or insured mail) to you with some of S. African folk music. On your first spool please send me a general idea of your music from the foreign countries you mentioned. I am very interested to hear the music of the far off countries. As it is I only know English music and American (which is about the same) Yany, I am also very fond of music and music which one cannot hear every day. So please send me something of each country or as much as you can and I'll send you some S. African folk music. So here's hoping to get the first wire from you. I have 2 recorders and I record direct and not through the mike when I record discs.

Yours. Max Nicholls

- 5 OCT 1951

M. H. NICHOLLS
78 CHAPEL ST.
PIETERMARITZBURG
NATAL
S. AFRICA

Hullo Yony,
Thanks a lot for your airtel which arrived yesterday. Although you said you sent it air-mail, the airtel did come by slow mail. I can tell you the postage by airmail on these airtels to S. Africa is very, very expensive. 'Tis me I do ^{not} think it is worth it. In fact the airmail postage is just about the same price as a airtel. A airtel doesn't take too long by surface mail - only about 5 weeks.

I haven't read the entire airtel of yours as yet, but what I have read I have found very interesting indeed. I sincerely hope the airtel will be making for you in a few days time with up to the same standard as yours. It gives you some typical South African songs in the Native language of Zulu and in Afrikaans - our secondary language in this country. I sincerely hope you like them. These foreign songs are really fascinating to listen and we again thanks.

KEEP 'EM ROLLING!

Worshipfully yours Max

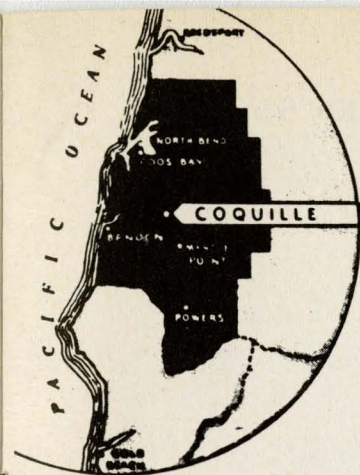
April 30, 1952

Dear Tany,

I am enclosing \$115 for the Pentron 9T-36. You can send it in the regular carton, I'm sure, and insure the contents. My Revere was mailed over that way to the PX, and someone here got a phonograph in cardboard carton, so I guess it's okay. I got a poop sheet on the Web-Cor from the company, and had already concluded myself that it was an ungainly, inefficient lemon. I still don't know what they have the nerve to charge for it since they didn't send me that piece of information. Once your machine arrives I'll really be living in style. I sent away for a batch of LP records and a turntable and that will reach me in a couple of weeks. I certainly appreciate your trouble and want to thank you for helping me out- A Poor Soldier Suffering In Korea. Well that's all for now, hoping to see you soon.

Yours,

Joe



KWRO

Coquille, Oregon

Serving Coos County and Southwestern Oregon

June 18, 1951

Dear Tony,

Received the disc and tape in good shape. Last night I listened to both of them and frankly, they knocked me out. You sure went to a lot of trouble, and that's sure terrific stuff. I'll probably play the tape three times here - and with your permission, I'll ship dubs to friends of mine in California and Hawaii. Of course I realize it's pitched for KWRO and songs of the lumbermen and fishermen, but I think people can overlook that as the fine illustrations on the tape show what you're after. I'll hold up on the dubs until I hear from you with an okay. I know that KCVN in Stockton will release it. That's an FM station owned by the College of the Pacific, my alma mater. Another alum of C.O.P. is working at KHBC in Hilo, T. H. We've exchanged tapes instead of letters. I don't know what the situation is at the station - whether he can do things on his own or not. Anyway, it's worth a try if you approve.

This station has a very small staff which means that everyone would like each day to have about twice as many hours. And so, when I mention that I would like to get some recordings to send to you, don't hold your breath. However, some day I may be able to get some Indian chants and rhythms from Southern Oregon. I'll investigate further, and as I'm a stranger in these parts, I may be on the wrong track.

I'm dubbing your tape now so that I can send it back as soon as possible. Also, we'll have a greeting to send to you. Thanks again for the fine show - and remember, if there's anything I can do in the future, be sure and let me know. When I run your tape on the air, I'll mention that we'll tape anything at KWRO for anyone who wants to send anything to you. Thanks again.

Sincerely

Jim

B U L L E T I N

DE L'ASSOCIATION SUISSE DES CHASSEURS DE SONS

(paraît en français et en allemand)

-ooOoo-

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Entre nous
Nouvelles
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Résultats du 1er concours des Chasseurs de Sons
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Retour de Paris (extraits d'un rapport de M. F. Weber,
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Variétés: Le monde des sons
Les microphones (2ème partie) par M. C. Krebsner,
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L'Interview III - J.M.D.
Petites annonces
- Liste des Chasseurs de Sons (1ère partie)
Avis, Annonces
Liste des membres (1ère partie)

ment un voyage en Amérique du Nord, il a pu constater une
tendance générale à utiliser les vitesses réduites: 7½ pouces,
3 3/4 et 1 7/8 pouces.

-ooOoo-

- Un chasseur de sons américain: M. Tony Schwartz, 457 West
57 th Street, New-York 19, N.Y. - U.S.A., collectionneur de
folklore de tous les pays cherche à faire des échanges d'en-
registrements: bandes, fils d'acier ou disques. Avis aux
amateurs!

-ooOoo-

- Depuis la première émission de Bâle intitulée: "Aus der
Beute der Tonjäger" l'association a reçu de nombreuses de-
mandes de renseignements.

Dear Sir:-

22.9.1951

I understand that you are interested in gathering folk-lore song recordings, and to exchange them with recording amateurs the world over.

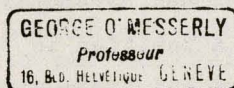
I own an "Air-King" Sound Recorder, model A - 750 - 1 (486-1) and intend to purchase the new Wilcox-Gay (tape & disc).

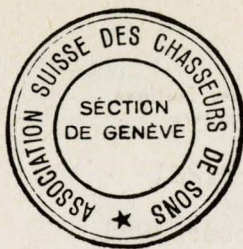
Please let me know how you contemplate arranging for such exchanges with me.

Looking forward for your reply, and hoping it may turn out to mutual benefit,

Yours faithfully,

George O'Messerly
President, Geneva Section,
Swiss Sound Hunters' Association.





Téléphone : (022) 6.80.72
16, boulevard Helvétique,
Geneva, Switzerland,
22 september 1951.

Mr. Tony Schwartz,
457 West 57th Street,
New York 19, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Sir:-

I have just read in No.5 of our Bulletin that you are interested in collecting folk-lore song recordings, and to exchange them with sound recording amateurs throughout the world.

Being the president and founder of the Geneva Section of the Association Suisse des Chasseurs de Sons (Swiss Sound Hunters' Association), and an amateur myself, I should very gladly indeed correspond with you in this connection, and beg to offer you my collaboration and that of the Section I preside.

I own an "Air-King" Sound Recorder, model A-750-1, on wire, and intend purchasing very soon one of the newly imported Wilcox-Gay, on tape and discs, which I consider as very handy for amateur work and editing.

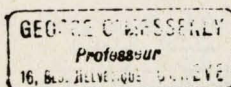
As we dispose of space in the Sottens and Beromunster Broad-casting Stations, our Association is in a position to broadcast alternatively through the Lausanne, Geneva and Basle studios, every saturday each month, some of our recordings; and I would be able to make the most of your contributions through the Swiss waves, if you sent me a few 5 to 10 minute recordings either on wire, tape or discs.

Would you please let me know how you would contemplate cooperating with me in this respect. I would suggest that we establish a sort of shuttle system between us, i.e. the reels I would send you would be re-recorded at your end and sent back to me with new recordings of your own, and/or vice-versa. This would save a considerable cost instead of supplying new reels every time.

Looking forward to receiving your reply by an early mail and hoping this may turn out to mutual benefit and interest,

Yours very faithfully,

George O. Messerly
George O. Messerly, F.I.L.,
President, Geneva Section,
Swiss Sound Hunters' Association.





Télégrammes : UNATIONS, GENEVE

Téléphone : 2 22 00

REF. No: Private

(A rappeler dans la réponse)

Palais des Nations
GENÈVE

Room C.221

16 October 1951.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:-

Thanks ever so much for your very kind letter of Oct.6, which duly reached my hands.

Your recording activities are extremely interesting and are so much in accordance with our own here at the Swiss Sound Hunters' Association, that I shall immediately suggest that you enlist as one of our Corresponding Members in the United States of America.

This will cost you nothing as you already belong to an amateur recording swapping club, such as, say the Webster Wirespondence Club, or any other which might affiliate with our own Association, the British Sound Association and the Association française des Amateurs de l'Enregistrement Sonore, to form an international federation of recording fans. I trust you will take this matter up with your friends in America and see what you do to help us in setting up quite a world net-work.

We are holding our second General Assembly on Sunday next, 21st instant, at the Hotel Beau Rivage, Neuchâtel, and I shall be most happy to make a suggestion to our Central Committee, in which I am vice-president, when the matter of international federation is to be dealt with.

In the meantime, would be kind enough to ask the Webster Wirespondence Club to send me full particulars, statutes, etc. regarding their activities, as well as an application blank.

Besides, I would appreciate your requesting the Audio Record to send me sample numbers of their publication for information and distribution amongst our English speaking members. Please attach subscription blanks.

As far as recording is concerned, we collect songs, music, interviews, noises, etc. on wire, tape and disc. Twice a month at Lausanne and once a month at Geneva, we broadcast our productions on Saturdays afternoon between 2 and 3.30 p.m., while our French friends broadcast every Saturday afternoon at 4.05 p.m. on the Chaîne Parisienne. This is extremely interesting because it gives the opportunity to edit a miscelanea of our various recordings and reference material. Our broadcasts last 20 minutes and the material is recorded or rerecorded on tape playing 78 rpm, which is the official speed in all Swiss Broadcasting Stations.

If you are in a position to make a recording for our Broadcasting Station, please use your own judgment as to the type of material; you can send either tape, discs or wire, whichever suits you best, as we can have it transferred to the proper stock.

T.Sch.

-2-

16.10.51

I don't believe in harnessing art-work; it should be entirely spontaneous; but, perhaps I may suggest that you send me a first trial recording (20 minutes) containing just ~~the~~ selection of Peruvian mountain song... American work blues... A Chinese song... etc.... with reference material in English, which I shall translate into French, when transferring for the Station.

I note your remarks regarding the "Air-King" and "Wilcox-Gay" recorders. We have just been announced that the "Webster 288" is to be launched soon on our market and will register on tape.

I have not yet heard of the "Pentron 9AT3", which has not yet been advertised in Switzerland; would you be so kind as to request the makers to send me full particulars and prices c.a.f. Geneva?

As we are projecting here in our Geneva Section to establish a private studio and install our own recording machines, you would greatly oblige us by informing us as to the desirability to purchase a "Magne recorder", which I notice you use in your own home recording studio; what is the price and who are the makers or exporters or agents in Switzerland. You must excuse me for giving you so much trouble, but what you write about this recorder has "brought water to my mouth"...

On our side, we shall be soon preparing a recording - I don't know yet what sort - to send you, but it may take a few weeks to reach you as we are now preparing our next broadcast for Nov. 24th and gathering material from all parts in Switzerland. Our broadcasts are named :

At Lausanne : En suivant les pistes sonores
(Following the sound tracks)

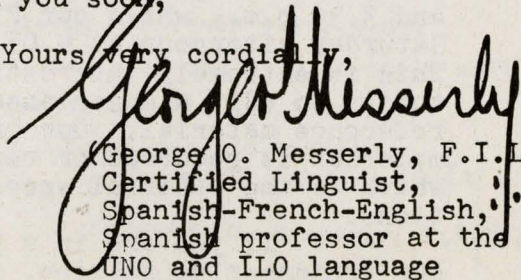
At Geneva: : Prises de son en zigzag
(Zigzag sound recordings)

I should be extremely happy to have some of your swap recordings included in one of our next broadcasts and have you partake in our endeavours in favour of better amateur recordings.

Please don't fail to send me a reply as soon as possible and address it to my home address at the back of this letter, as I shall be here at the Palais des Nations until the end of this month for the Trusteeship Council Special Committee's conference on Art. 73e of the Charter. *my*

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Yours very cordially,


(George O. Messerly, F.I.L.)
Certified Linguist,
Spanish-French-English,
Spanish professor at the
UNO and ILO language
courses.

W. Francfort

ENREGISTREMENT ET REPRODUCTION SONORE
REPORTAGES

W. FRANCFORT
7, Rue F. Berthoud
COUVET (Ntel) Suisse
Tél. (038) 9 21 72

Couvet, le 1 juillet 1952

Monsieur Tony SCHWARTZ
425 West 57 Street
New-York U.S.A.

Monsieur,

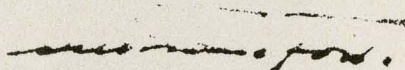
Nous avons entendu votre message dans une
émission des Chasseurs de Sons Suisses sur Radio
Sottens, Studio de Lausanne.

Nous nous intéressons vivement aux échanges
d'enregistrements sous forme de bandes sonore Scotch
vitesse 7,5 " (19 cm.)

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir nous adresser
le répertoire de vos enregistrements (bandes sonore
Scotch 7,5 " (19 cm.) et nous indiquer quels sont les
sujets qui vous intéressent, nous pouvons vous fournir
des reportages de Suisse et de France sur votre demande.

Dans l'attente du plaisir de vous lire, nous
vous présentons, Monsieur, nos sentiments distingués.

W . F r a n c f o r t



MEMBRE DES CHASSEURS DE LONGS

"PUT IT ON RECORD"

Phone 23-5620.

Mobile  Transcription Service

P.O. Box 9701

H. BARZILAY

Production Director

"First in the field in Africa"

HB/SK.

Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA

16th. June 1951.

Mr. Tony Schwartz,
457 West 57th. Street,
New York 19.
N.Y.

Dear Tony,

Under a heading-- "Musical Swap Shop" in Audio Record for 1951,--
I have read of your collection of folk music from all parts of the world.

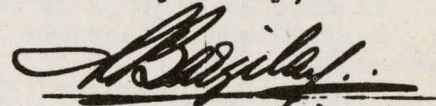
We have a collection here of all kinds of African tribal music,----
different tribes in all parts of Africa.

We record on plastic or paper tape at $7\frac{1}{2}$ or 15 inches per second,
on disc at 78 rpm and $33\frac{1}{3}$ rd., and also make pressings. Apart from your
own personal interest do you think you could market any of our stuff for
us in the States?

If you are interested drop us a line-- or tape/disc and we would
be only too pleased to see what we could do.

Wishing you all the best,

Yours Very Truly,



Henry Barzilay.
Production Director.

Christian Radio Mission
Miyakojima P.O. Box # 2
Osaka, JAPAN
22 February 1954

Mr. Tony Schwartz
457 West 57th St.,
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

Some months ago I read with interest an article in "Audio Record" about your work in recording folk music. Then this morning I heard you and some of your records on the "Dave Garroway Show." You were probably on this show many months ago but it is released out here on AFRS by transcription and sometimes it is many months later than the live show. At any rate I was very much interested.

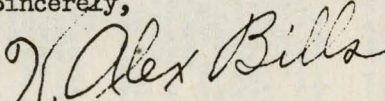
I wonder if you would be interested in obtaining materials from Japan and Korea. We are carrying on Christian Missionary Radio work in both languages and have many opportunities to record all kinds of folk music. In both countries the music is highly developed, with a theatre and everything for several centuries, yet the whole thing is strange to our ears. Even the traditional music instruments are so much different from anything we know.

If you are interested in such material we would like to work out an exchange. We are interested in Christian Hymns and other religious (Christian) music. We are especially interested in recordings of church groups in various languages. Of course equally valuable is music by special "foreign language" choirs or soloists or other groups. To some extent we want material in English from churches and lesser known choir groups. The association, i.e. nature of the groups, backgrounds and such, ~~xxx~~ is very important.

We shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience. We have a Magnecorder tape recorder, single track $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s.

With best wishes for your recording projects.

Sincerely,


V. Alex Bills

Christian Radio Mission
Miyakojima P.O. Box # 2
Osaka, Japan

こゝにも通信文を記載することができます

This space is also for correspondence.

FOLKWAYS RECORDS

★ ★ ★ The World's Leading Producer of AUTHENTIC FOLK MUSIC on Records ★ ★ ★

FOLKWAYS AMERICANA

10" 33 1/2 RPM, LIST \$4.75

- FP1 SQUARE DANCES, *Pete Seeger*
- FP3 DARLING COREY, *Pete Seeger*
- FP4 TAKE THIS HAMMER, *Lead Belly*
- FP6 WASHBOARD BAND, *Sonny Terry*
- FP9 ALL DAY SINGIN', *A. Van Wey*
- FP10 LONESOME VALLEY, *Folk Songs*
- FP11 DUST BOWL BALLADS, *Woody Guthrie*
- FP13 900 MILES (& OTHER RR SONGS), *Houston*
- FP14 ROCK INLAND LINE, *Lead Belly*
- FP19 SEA SHANTIES & LOGGERS-MEN SONGS
- FP21 SEEDS OF LOVE, *Andrew Rowan Summers*
- FP22 COWBOY BALLADS, *Cisco Houston*
- FP23 SOLOMON VALLEY BALLADS
- FP24 LEAD BELLY'S LEGACY, VOL. 3
- FP28 GET ON BOARD, *The Folkmasters*
- FP34 LEAD BELLY'S LEGACY, VOL. 4
- FP35 HARMONICA SOLOS, *Sonny Terry*
- FP36 MORMON FOLK SONGS, *L. M. Hilton*
- FP37 ANGLO-AMERICAN BALLADS, *Nye*
- FP38 SPIRITUALS, *Dock Reed, Vera Hall*
- FP39 SONGS OF JOE HILL, *Joe Glazer*
- FP40 SMOKY MT. BALLADS, *Lansford*
- FP41 "LADY GAY", *Andrew R. Summers*
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