THE GHANA LANGUAGE
PREPARED BY IVAN ANNAN
FOLKWAYS RECORDS FL 9189
"So This Is Ghana"

...BY IVAN ANNAN.

VOL. 2.

Many people in the recording business have for a very long time been mostly concerned with music that will sell rather than the value of the materials being sold. Among the few whose have devoted much of their time, finance and efforts to record the art, music and folklore of many lands, Folkway Records stands up to date with the many existing peoples of the world. I am grateful for this opportunity in presenting on Folkway records, a cross section of music played by traditional groups in their traditional manner without any western influence, and to record for the first time an African dialect translated into English for the tourist as well as the child or the interested person who wishes to learn an African dialect.

The interest of many people in recent years have been focused on the newly independent states of Africa, and the tremendous treasures of art, music and culture that is unique in all its forms which the rest of the world have for many years taken for granted. Children of many races attending primary schools in Africa today, are already speaking many languages which are foreign to their parents and guardians, but a common medium among them who will be the keepers of this universe when we are gone tomorrow. It is never late to learn how to save one's life especially this age of living side by side with fear and hate, this may not be the solution to the problem, yet the harmony that exist between the little children that does not exist among the older people of today is due to suspicion and non communication between peoples of the world. Let us not under estimate the values of our neighbour's language, but learn few of the most important words that will form the basis of the our contact and the eventual elimination of suspicion and distrust, for more difficult and proverbial languages among the people of the earth. On the west coast of Africa are nations and tribes who have their distinct language and cultures, among them is the controversial nation of Ghana.

Ghana is bounded on the north by Upper Volta, on the east by Togo, and the West by Ivory Coast. Accra is the capital city and the seat of government. In recent years Accra has turn out to be a cosmopolitan city, and the many inhabitants have been influenced by the tonal language of the Ga people, the aboriginal people of the Ga state, which lies between the beautiful shores of the Awutus on the West, the green and fascinating cool hills of the Akwapim and the fabulous rocks of the Shai hills which spreads into the sea, at the point where the dialects fades into a near Ewe (Ev Eh).

The Ga language can not be learn thoroughly by this medium since like many other languages have certain word that do not have meaning in English, visa visa, like Joo, and Aboloe. But it hoped that these fundamental words will help the beginner to start and progress to the more advance and new creations of our time.

Writing in Ga is another problem, since the alphabet are slightly different from the regular English alphabet, I have therefore devised this form of pronunciation to make it easier.

**PRONOUNS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Ga</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>ME or MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOU singular</td>
<td>BO</td>
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<tr>
<td>HE OR SHE</td>
<td>LEH,</td>
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<tr>
<td>WE</td>
<td>WOH</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOU plural</td>
<td>NYE OR GNEH,</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEY</td>
<td>AMEH</td>
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**OBJECTIVES**

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<tr>
<th>ME</th>
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<tr>
<td>YOU</td>
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<td>HIM</td>
<td>LEH</td>
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<tr>
<td>HER (IT)</td>
<td>LEH</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>WOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOU</td>
<td>NYE GNEH</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEM</td>
<td>AMEH</td>
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**DAYS OF THE WEEK**

<p>| SUNDAY | HORGBAH JU |
| MONDAY  | DZU JU DZUFOH |
| TUESDAY | SHOH |
| WEDNESDAY | SOW |
| THURSDAY | SOW-HAA |
| FRIDAY  | HOH |
| SATURDAY |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREETINGS AND RESPONSES</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>MME JI KPAAG SHONG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOOD MORNING</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>MME JI NEH SHONG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD AFTERNOON</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>MME JI KPAAGSHONG,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD EVENING</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>KE ENYOH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOOD BYE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HOW ARE YOU</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I AM FINE</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I AM NOT FEELING WELL</td>
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<td>TODAY IS SUNDAY</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOMORROW IS MONDAY</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I SHALL GO TO KUMASI ON TUESDAY</td>
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<td>I SHALL ARRIVE ON WEDNESDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>I SHALL ARRIVE IN THE MORNING</td>
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<tr>
<td>WE SHALL GO TO THE MARKET IN THE AFTERNOON.</td>
<td>WOHBAAG YAE DZAA LE NOH SHWANEY.</td>
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<td>TIME</td>
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<td>TODAY</td>
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<td>TOMORROW</td>
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<td>YESTERDAY</td>
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<td>THIS YEAR</td>
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<td>LAST YEAR</td>
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<td>MORNING</td>
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<td>AFTERNOON</td>
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<td>EVENING</td>
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<td>1 O'CLOCK</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>MME JI KPAAGSHONG,</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>KE ENYOH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>WE SHALL REST IN THE HOUSE IN THE EVENING</td>
<td>WOHBAAG JOH WOH HE YE SHIA LEH GBEKEH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I SHALL GO TO BED EARLY</td>
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<td>I HAD GOOD (SOUND) SLEEP</td>
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<td>I WOKE UP AT 7 O'CLOCK</td>
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<td>NUMERALS</td>
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<td>ONE</td>
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<td>TWO</td>
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<td>THREE</td>
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<td>FOUR</td>
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<td>AND...</td>
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<td>CURRENCY</td>
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<td>PENNY</td>
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<td>HALF PENNY</td>
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<td>TWO PENCE</td>
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<td>THREE PENCE</td>
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<td>SIXPENCE</td>
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<td>ONE SHILLING</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWO SHILLING</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE POUND</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| MME JI KPAAG SHONG   |
| MME JI NEH SHONG     |
| MME JI KPAAGSHONG,   |
| KE ENYOH.            |
| WOHBAAG YAE DZAA LE NOH SHWANEY. |
| MA WOH MLA           |
| MI WOH JO GBANNG     |
| MI TEY SHI MMEH JI KPAWO |

| EKOMEY                |
| E GNOH                |
| E TEH                 |
| E JWEH                |
| E NUMOH               |
| E KPAAG               |
| KPA WO                |
| KPAAG GNOH            |
| GNOH GMAH             |
| KEH                   |

| KPAAG EJWEH            |
| KPAAG E GNOH           |
| KPAAG KPAAGGNOH        |
| TROH                  |
| MEO                   |
| YI KOME               |
| YI E GNOH             |
| PAUN KOMEY, ETC. ETC.  |
THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE USEFUL WORDS IN THE HOME:

WHAT IS THIS MENI NEH
WHAT IS YOUR NAME TE A CHE OR BO TEHNG
MY NAME IS JOHN A CHE OR MI, JOHN.
HOW OLD ARE YOU? AFI E GNI EH OYE?
HAVE YOU BROTHERS? OYEH GNEHMI ME HII?
" " SISTERS?
WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BROTHER? TE A CHE OR O GNEHMI NUU LEH TEHNG
HOW OLD IS YOUR BROTHER? AFI E GNEH O GNEHMI NUU LEH E YE
HOW OLD IS YOUR SISTER? AFI E GNEH O GNEHMI YOO LEH E YE
IS THIS MY ROOM? MI CHU NEH LO?
THANK YOU OYI WALA DONG
PLEASE GIVE ME ME A GLASS OF WATER, GLASS OF WATER OFAI NEH, HAMI NU KEH GLASSEY
OFAI NEH, YEH NU KE GLASSEY O HAMI.
PLEASE I DON'T UNDERSTAND OFAI NEH, MI NOO
SAY IT AGAIN WI EY MO E KONG
SAY IT SLOWLY WI E MO GNA
I WILL TRY NOT TO FORGET MA BOH MOH DENG NI IHI EH A KA KPA NOH
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS TE A CHE OR E NEH TEH EH
A SPOON AWA LEY
A FORK FAKA
A GLASS NU KPU LU (GLASSEY)
KNIFE KA KLA
TABLE OKPOH LOH
A CHAIR SEH I
I LIKE THIS GROUND NUT SOUP VERY MUCH MI SUMOH N'KATI EH WONU NEH JOGBANG
IT TASTES VERY NICE E N'GOH JO GBANG
I WANT TO GO OUT PLEASE DFAI NEH MING TAO MA JE KPO
CAN YOU ARRANGE TAXI FOR ME? O ONGHE O CHEH TAXI O HAMI?
VERY WELL THANK YOU O JO GBANG, O YI WALA DONG

DOMESTIC ANIMALS
CAT ALON TE'
HEN WU OH YOE
SHEEP GWANG TENG
GOAT A BOTIA
BIRD LO FLOH
MONKEY A DUNG
PARROT A KOE
TURKEY KRA KOONG
DUCK DOH KOH DOH KOH
COW CHI NA
HORSE O KPONGNOH
PIG KPLO TOE

PARTS OF THE BODY
HEAD YI CHO
HAIR YI CH WEH
EYE HI N'GMEI
NOSE GU GOH
MOUTH NAA BU
TEETH GNAH GNONG
LIP NAABU
CHEEKS KPAI
FACE HI EH
EARS TOH
NECK KE EH
CHEST CHI CHI
THE LITTLE BIRDS ALSO SANG

NIGHTS AT BLEKUSO WERE SOMBER AND SWEET,
SOME TIME POWERFUL GREAT. THE HEAVY
THREATENING VOICES OF THE BIGGER BIRDS
VIBRATE AND SHOOK THE PEACEFUL NIGHT. I
COULD SEE THE SMOLDERING FIRE ACROSS A
FACE WITH EYES THAT BLINK WITH FEAR, IT
WILL BE MORNING SOON, AND AS WE SLEEP
PEACEFULLY IN THE MORNING BREEZE, THE
THREATENING VOICES OF THE BIGGER BIRDS WILL
LOST, AND FORGOTTEN, AS THE SWINGLE VOICES
OF THE LITTLE BIRDS ALSO SANG.

THE FARMERS LITTLE SON

UPON HIS FATHERS SHOULDERS HE SAT
THROUGH THE JOURNEY HOME, AND
WATCHED THE MANY BIRDS SANG,

WITH THE CROPS OF MY FATHERS TOIL
UPON MY MOTHERS HEAD,
WE FOLLOWED, AS THE LITTLE GIRL SLEPT
BEHIND HER BACK,
AROUND THEM, THE BARK OF THE TREE
WHICH MY FATHER MADE FOR THEM,
FLOAT IN THE BREEZE.

SOME DAY, I WILL GROW UP TOO, BUT I
WILL FISH BY THE
RIVER THAT FLOW BETWEEN THE TOWN
AND THE MOUNTAIN
NOT ONLY FOR THE GOLDEN FISH, BUT THE
PRECIOUS STONE WITHIN ITS HEAD,
THE TOWN FOLKS WILL COME TO PAY
HOMAGE TO A GREAT MAN,
WHO ONCE SAT UPON HIS FATHERS SHOULDERS
WITH A DREAM, AND PRECIOUS STONE.

YOU AND I HAVE WALKED THIS PATH A
MANY TIME,
YET NEVER HAVE YOU NOR I HAVE TURNED
TO LOOK AT THE LONELY FLOWER BY
THE ROADSIDE.
WE HAVE NEVER BOTHERED TO KNOW THE
VALUE OF THE LITTLE LONELY FLOWER,
NOW THAT WE SEE IT AS WE PASS BYE.
WHO EVER PLANTED THE LONELY FLOWER BY
THE ROADSIDE?
YOU NOR I WILL NOT KNOW.
A DAY WILL COME WHEN SOME LONELY PERSON
WILL PLUCK THIS LONELY FROM THE ROADSIDE,
TO KEEP EACH OTHERS COMPANY, AND AS WE
WALK OUR USUAL PATH, WE SHALL LOOK I'M
AFRAID AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE LONELY
FLOWERS, BUT YOU AND I.
THE LONELY FLOWER BY THE ROADSIDE.

PARTS OF THE BODY

HEAD     YI CHOE
HAIR     YI CHO EH I
EYE     HI NM EH I
NOSE     GU GOH
FINGER     WAO
STOMACH     MU SU
FINGER NAILS     WAO NAA
NAVEL     LANG NMOH
WAIST     HEH
LEGS     NA JII
KNEE     NAKU CHOE
ANKLE     NANE TA LOHG
TOES     NANE WAA BIA NA
FEET     NA JII

FAMILY RELATIONS

FATHER     CHEH
MOTHER     GNEH
BROTHER     GNEH MI NU
SISTER     GNEH MI YOE
MATERNAL UNCLE     CHEH QUEH (KU EH)
AUNT     GNEH
Cousin     YEI E GNOH BII
GRANDFATHER     NII
GRANDMOTHER     NAA
NEPHEW     GNEH MIBI NU
NIECE     GNEMI BI YOE
HUSBAND  WU
WIFE     GNAAH
CHILDREN GBE KEH BII

IN THE MARKET
BANANA   A QUA DU
ORANGE   A KU TU
PEAR     PEH YA
TOMATO   A MEY O
PLANTAIN AMA DAA
YAMS (S) YEH LEH (JI)
EGGS     WU OH WOH JII
CHICKEN  WU OH BII

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS MARKET? TEY A CHEH OH JRA NE TEHNG?
IT SEEMS A BIT CROWDED E TAMOH E WO SAANG FIOO
WHERE DO THEY SELL FRUITS? NING GBEH AHOH A DUA WAI YEH?
WHERE CAN I BUY NING GBEH MA NA MA HEY YEH
THES ARE BEAUTIFUL E NEH I MEH YE FEH O
WHAT IS THE PRICE OF THIS? E N'YIEH NE? (CHOH MOH MI E NEH NA)
HOW MUCH DO YOU SELL THIS? E N'YIEH A HOH E NEH?
I WANT TO BUY SIX PENCE M MA HE SIX PENCE.
WHAT IS THE PRICE OF THIS E N'YIEH A HOH E NE
THE PRICE IS TWO SHILLINGS E JRA JI SLEY LEY E GNOH
IT IS TOO DEAR E JRA WA CHOH
I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE MI SU MOH E NEH
PLEASE GIVE ME THIS ONE HA MI E NEH
GIVE ME MY BALANCE PLEASE O FAI NEH DAN MOH MI SEH
ARE THESE FOR SALE? A NI AA HOH LO
PLEASE SHOW ME THE ROAD TO O FAI NEH CHOH MOH MI GBEH KEH YAA
I AM A STRANGER GBÖH JI MI
I DO NOT KNOW THIS AREA MI LEY AKUCHO NEH MLI
TAKE THIS ROAD ON YOUR LEFT CHOH GBE NI KA O BEH KU
TAKE THIS ROAD ON YOUR RIGHT CHOH GBE NI KA O NI NEY JROH
GO STRAIGHT AHEAD YAA O HI EH TEH EH
YOU HAVE MISSED THE ROAD O LAA JEF GBEH
TURN BACK KU U O SEI
ASK ANYBODY HI MOH FE EH MO
IS IT LONG TO THE POST OFFICE? A NI POST OFFICE GBE JEH KEH?
NO IT IS NOT DAA BI E JEH KEH EH
THANK YOU O YI WALA DONNG
I AM LOST MI LAA JEF
I AM LOOKING FOR WHERE I LIVE MI N'TAO MI SHI A GBEH
I LIVE AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL MI YEH AMBASSADOR HOTEL
AT MR. OR MRS. HOUSE MI YE ...SHIA LEH
IT IS NOT FAR FROM HERE E KEH BI EH JEH KE-EH
IT IS NEAR (SO & SO) E BENKEH (SO & SO)
CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE? O ON'YIEH O KE MIA YA JEHNG
THIS IS THE HOUSE NA A SHI A LEH
THANK YOU VERY MUCH MING DA BO SHI JO GBANG (OYI WALA DONNG)
GOOD BYE YAÀ BA
I LOST MY WAY
MI LA A JEY
GBEH (MI DU GBEH)

IS THAT SO
NAKAI LO

YES....
NAKAI (HEH EHH)

A KIND FRIEND SHOWED
ME THE WAY
NAA N’YO MIN JOLEH
KO CHOH MI GBEH

A KIND FRIEND BROUGHT
ME HERE
NAA N’YO MIN JOLEH
KO, KE MI BAIHEH

I DON’T THINK YOU
WOULD MISS YOUR WAY
E FEE MI AKEH O
BAADUGBEH

WHY DIDN’T YOU TAKE
A TAXI?
MEHBA O WOE TAXI?

YOU DON’T SEE ENOUGH
FROM A TAXI
O NAA CHOHE KE JEH
TAXI MLI

I WANT TO SEE THE
SHOPS
MIN TAO A NA SHWA
PO LEH AMIN

I AM GLAD TO BE BACK
HOME
E N’GOH MI NAA AKEH
MI SHEH SHIAH

AT THE AIRPORT
I AM LEAVING GHANA
TODAY
MIN SHI GHANA N’MEH
NEH

I AM GOING TO KUMASI
BY AIR
MIN YA KUMASI KEKOR
YOHING LEHEH

THANK YOU FOR SEEING
ME OFF
O YI WALA DONG NI ORA
QUEH N’YISHEH

WHEN DOES THE PLANE
ARRIVE
MEH BEY KOHYOHNG
LEHEH LEH SHEH OH
SH

WILL YOU ARRIVE
TODAY?
ANI OBAA SHEH SHI
N’MENEH?

THIS PLANE IS VERY
FAST
KOHYONG LEHEH
NEH JO OH’FOI WAA

ATHEMA
WHERE IS THE HARBOUR?
NEN’GBEH MELEY
DAAMO HE LEH YOR

WHEN WAS IT BUILT?
MEH BEY A FEY

WHERE IS THE OLD
VILLAGE?
NIN’GBEH AKLOWA
MOMO LEH YOH?

WHERE ARE THE OLD
BUILDINGS?
NIN’GBEH SHIAI
MEYMEY JII LEHYOH?

THE OLD HOUSES HAVE
BEEN PULLED DOWN
AKU MOH SHIAI
MEYMEY JII LEH

WHAT IS THE WORK
OF THE PEOPLE?
MEH NI MEINI YOH
BI EH LEH CHU OH.
(OR)

AT THE LORRY PARK
WHERE IS THE LORRY
PARK?
NIN’GBEH CHONEY
AMAAMOH HEY YOH?

I WANT A LORRY
MINTAO CHONEY

WHAT IS THE FARE TO
(SO)
E N’YI EH A HEY
OH KE YAA (SO)

I HAVE SOME LUGGAGE
MI YEH JA CHUI KO MEH

HOW MUCH FOR MY
LUGGAGE?
E N’YI EH A BAA HE
MI JA CHU LEH?

HELP ME TO CARRY
MY LUGGAGE
WA MI KEH TEY
LEY MI JA CHU LEH

I HAVE ONLY A SMALL
BAG
JA CHU FIO OKO
MI HIE

GET ME A TAXI
PLEASE
O FAI NEH CHEH
TAXI O HAMI

AT THE SHOP
WHERE IS KINGSWAY?
NEN’GBEH KINGSWAY
YOH?

WHERE IS U. T. C. ?
NEN’GBEH U. T. C.
YOH

WHERE IS LEVENTIS OR
GHANA HOUSE
NEN’GBEH LEVENTIS,
LO GHANA HOUSE YOH

COMMON EXPRESSIONS
COME... BA.
CQME HERE
BA BI EH NEH
GO...YAA. CAN I SEND YOU... BUY ME SOME ORANGES CALL HIM FOR ME FIND ME MR. (SO)

I AM GOING TO (SO) CAN YOU SHOW ME WHERE I CAN GET (SO) WHERE CAN I SEE (SO) IT IS VERY BEAUTIFUL I LIKE YOU WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?

MIN YA (SO) OOH N'YEH O CHOH MI HEY NI MANA.... YEH? NEN'GBEH MA'NA ...YEH? E YEH FEO WAA MIN' SU' MOH BO

OOSUMOH NI WOBOH N'YAA N'YO LO?

WHERE IS THIS BUILDING WHERE CAN I FIND (SO) THE POST OFFICE BLANK OF WEST AFRICA (SAME)

MAN' SHIA LEH WOLO MAJE MOH HEY

BANK OF GHANA (SAME)

BARCLAYS BANK

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT MLA WOE KPEE HE LEH

COMMON EXPRESSIONS

DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL? ANI O YAA SCHOOL?

YES I GO TO SCHOOL HEH EH MI YAA SCHOOL

NO, I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL DAA BI, MI YAA SCHOOL

I AM VERY HAPPY MI MIN EY SHEH MI HEY JO GBANG

I AM VERY HUNGRY HOH MOH N' YEH MI JO GBANG

GIVE ME SOME WATER PLEASE OFAI NEH YEH NU O HAMI

I DO NOT KNOW MI LEY

WHAT IS THIS MENI NEH

I THINK SO E FEOMI NAKAI

I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE BEFORE MI BA KO BI EH DA

WHERE CAN I CHANGE MY MONEY NEN'GBEH MA CHA KEY SHIKA YEH

I COME FROM (SO) N'JEH (SO)

WHERE ARE YOU GOING NEN'GBEH O YAA

Folkway records have provided the world with a cross-section of music, literature and poetry etc., etc., and today its the first African language on disc. You will not regret anything from Folkway Records, because while others rejected things for quick returns, Folkways preserved them, and you will not be disappointed also if you ask for a very rare recording of any part of this world. You don't only build a record library, you also learn many things the easier way. Check now with Folkway Records.