LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and a publisher. I've had no link with the Clarendon Press and at present the MS is being con-the Holland; meanwhile I keep my fingers crossed. The galling thing is that I cannot possibly the deniled evidence in lectures — the only way to present it is in book form. In book has about 200 pages of foolscap double-spread typescript and 66 pictures and a map.

in African Munic, III, 1; 1962

# DA. JOHN CARBINGTON.

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contendence brought considerable troubles to us in the Oriental Province. We had to evacuate orient and children and, as reports of the mutiny of the Congolese army down-river began to the British Vice-Consul in Stanleyville advised all the men to leave as well. I went to Leopoldthe British Vice-Consul in Stanleyville advised all the men to leave as well. I went to Leopold-time weeks to get information from our headquarters in Congo and was able to get back to before the end of August and managed to live there — alone for some of the time and then later some medical colleagues — though deprived of my usual missionary jobs which had been taken African colleagues. Because of the pronounced anti-white feeling engendered by political in the Stanleyville area, we had to be careful and try to stay in the background. You will realise an attitude on the part of Africans is not conducive to research in musicology! Indeed, I was d by our pastor in Stanleyville that a legal complaint was being made by some government equinst me because they said I had been responsible for stirring up strife between two villages matory messages on my personal talking-gong! Nothing came of this, fortunately. The moment the young Congolese seem to want to pursue everything European, and show their is attempts to encourage Congolese art and language. There used to be at least one period a the secondary school devoted to African Language and Culture. This has been banished from table. I hope it is only a passing phase and that our educational leaders will begin to see the othis. But just now, as you will realise, it is not easy to make observations and encourage interest the "Talking-whistle" used by the Topoke people, some of whom we have in school here the "Talking-whistle" used by the Topoke people, some of whom we have in school here

### GERHARD KUBIK, Missao S. Jose de Mitucue, Mocambique.

Invited in Portuguese East Africa on the 4th October and immediately started recording. Looking through my new field cards I see that it was only on the 6th that I could not record anything; I withing for a lift in a car but on all the other five days since the 4th I have recorded traditional

At the moment I am at a Catholic Mission about 20 kms. north of Nova-Freixo. The Lomwe As the moment I am at a Catholic Mission about 20 kms. north of Nova-Freixo. The Lomwe epople here, a sub-tribe of the Makua Amakus have very interesting music for the log-xylophone the mbira. Even the vocal music in this part of Mocambique is very original and not influenced in the music as I so often found in Nyasaland. The log-xylophone, called *Mangualo* by the Lomwe Alomue people, usually has 11 keys (other music asy 16), and is constructed in almost exactly the same way as the *Amadinda* of Buganda, the sticks separating the keys, which are pressed into the two banana stalks, are rather shorter here. In music, however, has its own peculiar construction, and does not resemble any Uganda xylo-tiowing.

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made a discovery some thirty miles along the road to Mecanhelas from Milange, the Portuguese post. People in a shop where I was waiting many hours for a lift, told me there were xylophone living nearby, only three kilometers from the road. So I left my luggage in the shop and with tape-recorder and camera to that place. What I found was surprising — a trough xylophone called Mambira. It was a 17-key heptatonic xylophone. In German we call such a type of Trapsylophon. Trapsylophon. Trapsylophon. Trapsylophon. The name of it). It would be interesting to hear whether a "trogxylophon" has been seen

The in Africa, as I know it is also found in Indonesia. In as I can judge from only one week's work, I find the region very interesting and the inter of Nova Freiro, in particular, is very helpful to me as we both speak French. A prest problem for me when doing research in North Mocambique is the language, since I do not

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know Portuguese. At some places it is almost impossible to collect information about the music if you get an interpreter, because the interpreter can only translate into Portuguese. If I ever com to Mocambique it will be very essential first to learn this language.

On the other hand I have at last met some Africans who speak a little Kiswahili, and on them of my information relies. The Kiswahili-speaking people in North Mocambique are mostly Moha

and usually very friendly to me. Among Europeans I find more who know French than English: Concerning interpretation Mission where I stay at present is the best place so far. The Superior, an Italian father, is very and is doing real work with me. I owe it to him that the field cards of my recordings yesterday are complete, and more than that. The name of this father is Father P. Ferrero Domenico, and translated all titles, etc., for me into French.

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10th October, 1962.

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### From GERHARD KUBIK, Karonga, Nyasaland.

I have received your letter from the 19th October, which you had sent to Vila Cabral and I am happy about the discussion on music of North Mocambique, which you have started. Meanwhile, as you see from the top of this letter, I am now at the Northern end of Nyasan Karonga on the Lake, after having left Mocambique on the 9th of this month. In the five weeks during which I could do research in Northern Mocambique, much has have about which I am extremely happy. With the letter of the Portuguese Consul, your letter, the first and all possible facilities from the Portuguese authorities, including transport I ti s due to this hep in the five weeks a comparatively large area, and not only make recordings along the

I could cover in the five weeks a comparatively large area, and not only make recordings along the model of t is on the top of the Mitucue Mountain range, which I climbed with my rucksack on my back and

tape-recording machine in my hand-bag. In the mountain villages they use log xylophones, the music of which (although much and than the xylophone music of the South) was of enough interest for me to make a film of it in motion, from which I will transcribe.

There is also some very fine vocal music on this mountain, sung by women. Since the people of there are Muslims their music has, so far, not been disturbed by any songs of the neaby Catholic Line I shall be sending you from Vienna plenty of information about music in North Mocambi together with tapes but for now I just would like to mention some general characteristics: The music of the following three sub-tribes of the large Makua tribe: the Alomue, the Annue to the Ameter about tapes there in Arabic

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East. You will know that this is the only place in East Africa where one can find a rich sculpture. already highly commercialised, with nothing genuine anymore.) And the music surprised me. different from anything I have heard in East Africa. If I had heard the recordings without know from where it came, I would have said it was the C o n g o. You find typical rhythmic combinand and even tunes which I remember from recordings of the Congo I have heard. And moreover, adapted I have filed such a dance and L colu hore the the file will be already and even tunes which I remember from recordings of the Congo I have heard. And moreover, and and even tunes which I remember from recordings of the Congo I have heard. And moreover, and the set of the file of the dance and L colu hore the file will be already to the densert head in the set of the set of the set of the set of the file will be already to the densert head in the set of the file will be already to the set of the set of the densert head in the set of the densert head in the set of the densert head in the set of the set o dances. I have filmed such a dance and I only hope that the film will be alright. The dancers had m showing the heads of animals.

There are many more features in the music and culture of the Wamakonde and more even Wandonde, which reminds one extremely of the Southern Congolese. I think I shall be talking you about this from Vienna, when all the photographs are developed and the recordings ready sent to you. Then there will be a very good basis for discussion. I only wish to emphasize here what I have said in the above two paragraphs are statements from observations. I have not said Wamakonde and Wandonde have migrated from Congo or West Africa. This I better leave to other

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On the other hand I have at last met some Africans who speak a little Kiswahili, and on them of my information relies. The Kiswahili-speaking people in North Mocambique are mostly Mohammed and usually very friendly to me.

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In the five weeks during which I could do research in Northern Mocambique, much has happened about which I am extremely happy. With the letter of the Portuguese Consul, your letter, the letter ( the Witerwatersrand University, and a letter by my own Embassy in Nairobi, I found the greatest here and all possible facilities from the Portuguese authorities, including transport I It is due to this help the I could cover in the five weeks a comparatively large area, and not only make recordings along the road, where even in Northern Mocambique little can be found.

I thought it would be good for anybody who intends to do further research there, to draw a man markir 1' all the places where I have recorded and studied the music and the people. And such a mark you will find in this letter. You will see that places are marked from the South-western end of territory to Rovuma river in the North East. Those marked with stronger crosses are places where found music of special importance. One of them is where I found the trough xylophone. Another is on the top of the Mitucue Mountain range, which I climbed with my rucksack on my back and tape-recording machine in my hand-bag.

In the mountain villages they use log xylophones, the music of which (although much simulation than the xylophone music of the South) was of enough interest for me to make a film of it in state motion, from which I will transcribe.

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Quite different from Makua music is the music of the Wamakonde and Wandonde in the East. You will know that this is the only place in East Africa where one can find a rich sculpture. already highly commercialised, with nothing genuine anymore.) And the music surprised me. It is different from anything I have heard in East Africa. If I had heard the recordings without knowing from where it came, I would have said it was the Congo. You find typical rhythmic combinations and even tunes which I remember from recordings of the Congo I have heard. And moreover, mass dances. I have filmed such a dance and I only hope that the film will be alright. The dancers had masses showing the heads of animals.

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African Thinic III, 1 (1962): 114.

You ask in your letter about a generic name for the little Mbira in Northern Mocambique. I have a number of recordings on that instrument there, which at all places except *Chitambo*, near Milange, a constructed in the Rhodesian way, only simpler. The instrument was attached on a gourd resonator a had usually 7 or 8 reeds made of the ribs of an umbrella (a material used commonly for the Mbira a southern Tanganyika). The players had "Sections" to play, that means the different fingers were a ricted to a definite range. And unlike Tanganyika they played with the thumb of the left hand, the dt ab of the right hand and the right index which plucked the metal prongs in an upward movement. () the gourd there was usually attached a rattling material from Cowrie shells, metal pieces, fruit is do or other materials. (I shall send you drawings and photographs.)

It seems that the name generally understood in the areas of North Mocambique where I recorded Beliata or Chitiatia. This is a short list, giving you the names of the Mbira in North Mocambique.

e of Instrument		Place (where recorded)	TRIBE
CHITIATIA CHITATA	···· ···· ···	Namaua, near Mueda Mitúcue-Mountains, near Nova Freixo Nachomba, near Mocimboa do Rovuma Murmela (10 km southwest of Nova Freixo) Chitambo, near Milange	Wamakonde Alomue and Ashirima Wamakonde Ashirima Cuabo

You can see from this list that the names used in Northern Mocambique are similar over a wide area, outforent from Tanganyika (Malimba), Southern Africa (Mbira) and Congo (Likembe).

It is very interesting that the name Bangwe which is usually applied for the board zither (Nyasaland) applied to the Mbira near Milange by a Cuabo man. And his trough xylophone he called *Mambira*! The Wandonde call the board zither *Bango*).

It is interesting that you found a xylophone over a box in Northern Rhodesia. The film of "my" sch xylophone is already developed and I will be glad to send you a good print from Vienna, where Hillegeist, whom I introduced to you, will print them all for me (as well as his own from British Africa and Mocambique).

l'ann now in a hurry to go north, because I am not feeling very well. I had malaria again in Northern N combique and it was the most terrible one I had so far. For a couple of days I was absolutely consisted.

One year and four months doing very hard research in Africa is perhaps just the time limit. It add be bad if I would fall sick seriously, which might even have consequences for other trips in the coming years.

I wish to stop in Tabora, where there is a blind school. It is possible that I find traditional musicians

Next stop will be Kampala and then north in a straight line. I very much would like to be at home by Christmas.

Perhaps this short report will give you at least some impression of my travelling north so far and I really look forward with great pleasure for the coming months in Vienna, where I can work very well in the collected material. I will write to you again from Sudan.

20th November, 1962.

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# Fr . GERHARD KUBIK.

I am happy that just before leaving Uganda, I could make some new recordings of a great Musoga a cer, WAISWA LUBOGO, who is blind, and whom I brought hitch-hiking from the Foundation for the Blind to his parents. (His mother had not seen him for a year, and I very much thought that it was a unlar case to minel). After having reached Waiswa's home, where I was received with great friendliness, I writed to record in the region. (It is near Kaliro, south of Lake Kyoga). And I made even a short why of EMBAIRE-xylophone playing; because there were two Embaire-bands in the village. All was then encouraging to me and about Basoga music particularly for Budongo I know quite something . One thing I definitely found about the tuning: it is always pentatonic but in the intervals from day or the of the starting to play, used a slightly different tuning on different days. The tuning of Waiswa's mument I have recorded three times and it always was "a little different". But I am also sure that the laway abong players (at least all those whom I have recorded in the past three years, and they were with many from many regions) do *not* like to tune the octaves *completely pure*. They love a slightly womant effect in the tuning of the octave. I intend to write an article about Basoga music soon and re, I will then give all the references.

From Busoga I hitch-hiked north and stayed a day in Dokolo Catholic Mission, near Lira. There I actorded two KUMAN-musicians playing the Mbira as well, which they, like the Lango, call Okembe. There, again, I could note the great mental and musical difference between Nilotic and Southern Uganda (1910) Mbira playing.