

Report of the Executive Board for the period June, 1955 to June, 1956.

(i) MEMBERSHIP.

The total membership at December 31st 1955 was 583. This figure includes 61 (out of a total of 189) Correspondents whose subscriptions are outstanding. The total number of subscribers was therefore 522, an increase of 15 on the previous year. During the year 1955, 69 new subscribers were enrolled and 54 subscriptions lapsed. The total membership of the Council at June 1st, 1956 was , of whom are subscribers.

Once again the Executive Board stresses the urgency of increasing the membership so that the many important tasks that confront the Council may be accomplished.

The deaths of Fausto Torrefranca and Ernst Baumann (President of the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Volkskunde) are recorded with deep regret.

(ii) FINANCE.

The credit balance stood at £393 on December 31st, 1955, which represents an increase of £61 on last year.

(iii) CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL.

The Eighth Annual Conference and Third International Festival were held from June 29th to July 5th, 1955, at Oslo, Norway. The Conference was attended by 130 members from 21 countries, whilst groups of dancers, singers and musicians from 14 countries participated in the Festival performances.

A report of the Conference and Festival has appeared in *Bulletin* No. 9 and in the *Journal*, vol. VIII, but the present report would be incomplete without a record of our indebtedness and gratitude to our hosts, Norsk Folkemusikklag and Noregs Ungdomslag, and to Norsk Rikskringkasting (the Norwegian Broadcasting Organization).

(iv) EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Meetings of the Executive Board were held at Oslo on June 28th and July 3rd, 1955. They were attended by Professor Cherbuliez, Miss Karpeles, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kraus, Mademoiselle Marcel-Dubois, Dr. Marinus, Dr. Michaelides, Dr. Sandvik, Dr. Wachsmann and Mademoiselle Witzig.

(v) RADIO COMMITTEE.

A report of the Radio Commission held in Oslo during the course of the annual Conference appears in the *Journal*, vol. VIII.

The third International Broadcast Programme will have as its subject: Songs and Instrumental Music connected with Marriage Ceremonies. The programme is being edited and organized by Dr. H. J. Dahmen of the Süddeutscher Rundfunk, to whom thanks are due.

The Board acknowledges with gratitude the continued support of radio organizations, of which 18 are corporate subscribers.

A five-page Memorandum on Cataloguing and Classification of Sound Recordings of Folk Music (in English and French) has been issued by the Council to radio organizations and other institutions possessing archives of sound recordings.

(vi) PUBLICATIONS.

(a) JOURNAL.

Volume VIII (115 pages) has been published with the generous assistance of the International Music Council under the editorship of Maud Karpeles. The production of the *Journal* is an increasing liability, owing to the continuous rise in the cost of printing and postage, and the Board appeals to members to assist in the promotion of its sale.

(b) INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF RECORDED FOLK MUSIC.

Work on the preparation of supplements to the Catalogue has been started and questionnaires are being widely circulated. It is proposed to issue a revised edition of Part 2, viz., Recordings held by Institutions, and to publish additional lists of "commercial" records from time to time in the *Journal* or elsewhere as information becomes available.

(c) INTERNATIONAL FOLK SONG BOOKS.

The publication of *Folk Songs of Europe* was unfortunately delayed owing to a dispute in the printing trade but it will shortly be available. It is edited by Maud Karpeles and published by Messrs. Novello & Co., 160 Wardour Street, London, from whom it is available. The published price is 10/6.

Mr. Charles Seegar is editing *Folk Songs of the Americas* with the assistance of the Organization of American States (Pan American Union) and Señor L. P. Ramon y Rivera and Isabel Aretz (Señora y Rivera). The Board gratefully records its thanks to the International Music Council for its financial assistance.

(vii) RECORDS AND FILMS.

The Westminster Recording Company have agreed to issue a 12-inch long-playing record consisting of selections from the music performed at the Oslo Festival. The record is being compiled and edited by Miss Marie Slocombe and Mr. Edward Nicol from recordings made by Norsk Rikskringkasting, copies of which were presented to the Council by the Radio Division of Unesco.

A 16 mm. sound film of the Festival was made by Norsk Film A/s and a copy has been presented to the Council.

(viii) OSLO RESOLUTION.

The Oslo Resolution concerning the preservation of folk music was sent to Unesco and to all national governments. The following reply was received from the Director-General of Unesco:

"While our Organization has always been interested in the protection of traditional cultures, its current programme does not include any resolution which would permit of direct action to ensure the recording and filming of folk music. However, I was authorized by the General Conference, at its Eighth Session, 'to provide aid to Member States, at their request, in the field of education through the arts and crafts in relation to community development' (Resolution 8C/IV.1.4.323). As far as folk music is related to education—it being known that in many countries the current trends in teaching methods take account of the need to assure continuity of traditional arts—projects submitted by Member States dealing with research on the subject of authentic folk music may receive consideration.

Your Council could, through the appropriate channels, draw the attention of the competent authorities in the various countries to the possibility of submitting to Unesco specific requests for aid and assistance in this field."

This reply together with the resolution was communicated to all National Commissions of Unesco with the suggestion that they request Unesco to place on the Agenda of its next General Assembly

- (1) Confirmation of its approval of the Oslo resolution.
- (2) Assistance to the International Folk Music Council in carrying out a world-wide survey of folk music in order
 - (a) to find out which regions are in most urgent need of technical or other expert assistance in the collection of material;
 - (b) to pool information with regard to existing material;
 - (c) to facilitate the exchange of such material.

National Music Committees were also asked to support the resolution.

It is too soon to report developments but it is hoped that several governments will eventually avail themselves of the facilities that have been offered by Unesco. A number of interesting reports have been received of research that is being undertaken or planned by national bodies

(ix) SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF FOLK MUSIC.

A small commission has been appointed to consider problems relating to the scientific study of folk music, and the first meeting will be held at the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv under the direction of Herr Professor Dr. Walter Wiora.

(x) COPYRIGHT IN FOLK MUSIC.

A commission consisting of Mr. Gwynn Williams, Dr. Donal O'Sullivan and Miss Maud Karpeles has been making a preliminary investigation into the problems concerned with copyright in folk music.

(xi) THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

Miss Karpeles paid a three months' visit to the United States and Canada. During her stay she participated in a Conference on Folk Music organized by Professor Bronson on behalf of the Harvard Summer School, and lectured at a number of Universities and other centres. She discussed with the editors the preparation of the second volume of the Folk Song Anthologies and undertook some preliminary negotiations towards the setting up of affiliated national committees in the two countries.