

SIDE No.1

1. LUBA TRIBE. KATANGA Province. Belgian Congo.

Luba Drum Rhythms.

Mambala dance with five drums, double bell, rattle and whistle, by 5 Luba drummers and dancers.

Recorded at the Cité Indigène, Jadotville. Belgian Congo.

The Luba tribe is the most widely spread of all the southern Congo peoples. Complex drum rhythms are a feature of their music. In this recording, each of the drums and the double bell are introduced in turn. At several parts in the performance, one of the drummers hurls his drum high in the air, catches it again between his knees and continues to play - fitting his timing into the general pattern of the rhythm.

2. LUBA/SONGE TRIBE. KATANGA Province. Belgian Congo.

"Masenga wa Bena Nomba."

Topical song with guitars, bottle, small rattle and whistle, by Ngoi Nono & Kabongo Anastase with friends.

Recorded at the Cité Indigène, Musonoi, Kolwezi Copper Mine. Katanga. Belgian Congo

This is an attractive song in which the idiom, both of melody and accompaniment follows the folk tradition. The guitar, being a relatively recent foreign innovation, is often inclined to destroy the effect of an African composition - not so in this case, where the players have contrived an excellent accompaniment in cross-rhythm with the melody of the lyric.

3. LUBA/SONGE TRIBE. KATANGA Province. Belgian Congo.

"Muleka Mwene Yombwe."

Topical song with guitars, bottle and small rattle, by Ngoi Nono & Kabongo Anastase with friends.

Recorded at the Cité Indigène Musonoi, Kolwezi Copper Mine. Katanga. Belgian Congo.

The song is about a man called Muleka Mwene Yombwe who refused to allow his wife to go down to the river to fish. All the songs sung by this group of performers, were Luba songs they had learnt in their own villages and had now set to the guitar, this being an excellent example.

4. LUBA/HEMBA TRIBE. KATANGA Province. Belgian Congo.

"Mamwana kufiki munda."

Topical song with guitars and bottle, by Ilunga Patrice and Misomba Victor with friends.

Recorded at the Cité Indigène Musonoi, Kolwezi Copper Mine. Katanga. Belgian Congo

The words of the song are partly in Swahili, as well as in their local Hemba dialect of Luba. The length of melodic line is notable, and the tone of voice which at first may appear somewhat harsh to western ears, is typical of their tribe where bel canto is not appreciated.

To be continued.....