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General remarks about Santali Recordings.

For the Santali singing and dancing is inseparable, as with most tribes. Actual "life" recordings were the only possible way, since making them sit down in front of a microphone was useless. The microphone was kept in one place in the open, since the dancers are moving about from place to place there is a swelling and diminishing observable. There are also occasional voices from the villagers, a child weeping or a dog barking. Such noises cannot be avoided in life recordings.

Since some of the pieces were not in the right order in the original recording, the portions were cut and put into the right sequence.

If pieces were very long and repetitive, only parts have been recorded. This is the case with most of the dances, which last for hours during the night.

The villagers were very friendly and cooperative but of course had absolutely no sense of a microphone, they however liked their own recordings.

Some of these portions can be used for records, others may be of purely ethnomusicological interest, however they give a fair picture. According to anthropological information there is one more type of dance called Chimri. I have not been able to find this dance yet but hope to come across it during future visits to India. In the meantime this may give a picture of Santali music. Interesting is the use of the flutes in the funeral song, its wailing sound is really quite astonishing.

A lot of photographs have been taken in black and white and colour. In dance it is always a matter of chance, good ones can be selected. In order to save time the code of the photographs has only been entered on the fiche d'ensemble, it will be easy in each case to select a suitable picture of a flutist for instance.

In case of a selection for a record we can choose the most appealing pieces. Perhaps it is better to ask a number of people about their reactions. My own likings go to the Jiling Dahar, the flute solo, the Dautha Dance, the Karam Puja, the Dasain, the Dahar Anej and the Dhanged.