

## Bernard Arcand's Wamonae (Cuiva) Collection

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Wamonae ('our people'), formerly known as Cuiba or Cuiva, is a language of the Guahiboan linguistic family. They currently live in the Caño Mochuelo Resguardo, in Casanare (Colombia). The Wamonae have been nomads, hunters and gatherers, who used to travel through a territory that covered a wide region of the *Llanos Orientales* (Eastern Plains) of Colombia. Like many other peoples of the Caño Mochuelo Resguardo, the Wamonae were victims of the horrendous "*cuibiadas*", hunting expeditions against indigenous people routinely practiced by non-indigenous settlers, which brought them to the brink of physical and cultural disappearance. The clashes of the Wamonae with settlers became more acute around 1966, when they settled in Mochuelo. At the end of that decade other peoples began to arrive and the process

of territorial recognition by the Colombian government took place during the following decade. In 1978 a census determined the population of Mochuelo to be 295. Today, in 2023, there are a total of 918.

From 1968 to 1970, Bernard Arcand (1945-2009), a French-Canadian anthropologist, conducted anthropological research with the Wamonae band living on the Casanare River (Caño Mochuelo), as well as with other two bands living on the Ariporo and Agua Clara Rivers, who had had no or little contact with settlers or other Colombians. During his fieldwork, Arcand made several recordings in magnetic tapes, which include flute music, several genres of men's and women's chants and mythical narratives. When he prematurely died in 2009, his wife, Ulla Hoff, together with friends and colleagues, took over the Arcand's materials, published an unfinished book about the Cuiva-Wamonae (2019), and had the tapes left behind by her late husband digitized. She wanted that these recordings were published in an open repository in the country where her husband worked and has kindly made them accessible in our Archive for the newer generations of Wamonae to listen to the voices of their forefathers, recorded more than 50 years ago.

Collection's URL: <https://repositorio.unal.edu.co/handle/unal/84858>

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This collection is under the custody of Ulla Hoff ([ucnhoff@gmail.com](mailto:ucnhoff@gmail.com)).

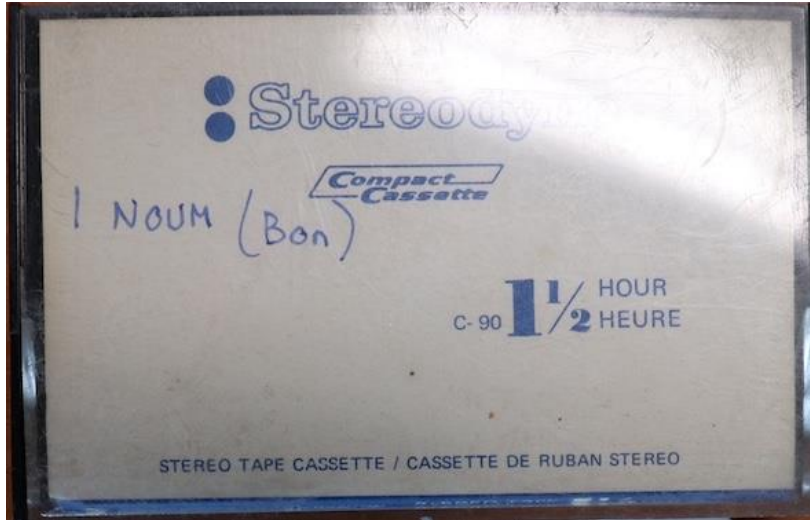
Bernard Arcand's magnetic tapes were digitized by Patrick Sirois and Cynthia Savard, Direction of administrative documents and archives, Université Laval, Québec.

The metadata comes from Arcand's handwritten annotations on the covers of the tapes.

The magnetic tapes were numbered by Arcand from Kuiva I to Kuiva XVI. Tape VII (side A) was overwritten with other material; tape VIII was not found, and there are two versions of tape XIV (which we have named XIV A, XIV B, XIV A2, XIV B2). Two cassettes were recovered (Cassette 1 and Cassette 3); there is no "Cassette 2" or subsequent cassettes. The total number of digital files obtained from these tapes is 31.

Upper image: taken from <https://www.resguardomochuelo.com/wamonae>. Lower image: Bernard Arcand, 1969 (Ulla Hoff's personal archive).

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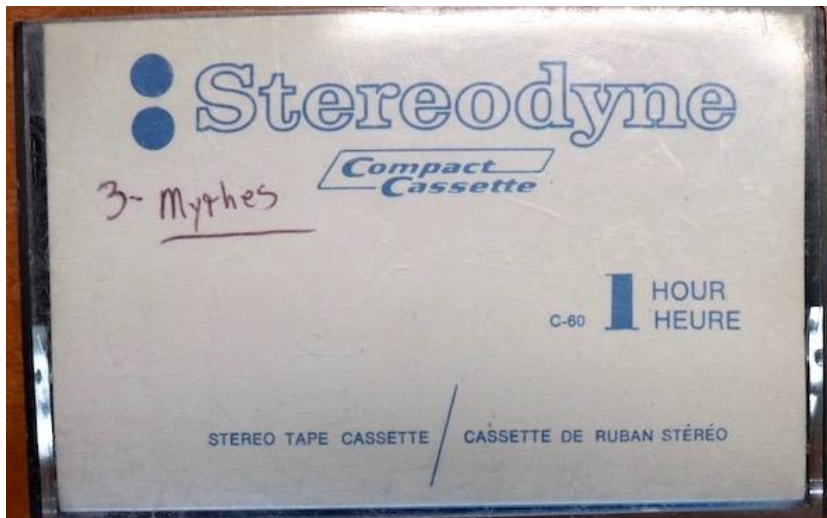


Kuiva Cassette 1 

Inum  
1968

The present recording has this note: "Inum: good."

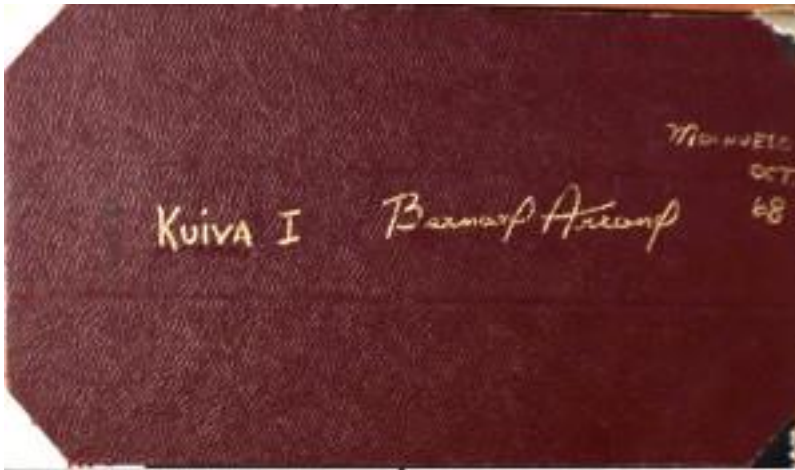
[There is no cassette 2]



Kuiva Cassette 3 

Tomale  
1968

The present recording has this note: "Side A: Information myths. Side B: Myths."

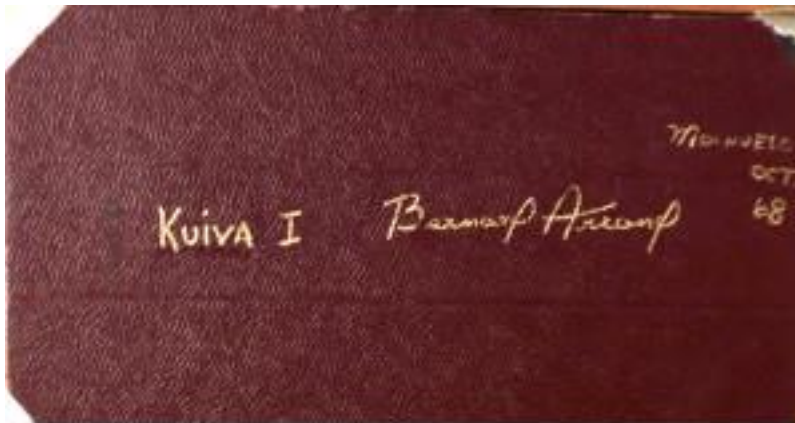


**Kuiva I A** 

Wayanna  
13/10/68

The present recording has this note: "6:30 pm. Wayanna: *uku* bone flute. at his place, lying in his hammock."

FACE I : WAYANNA :	FLÛTE EN OS D'UKU
13/10/68	
6.30 P.M. Son	boumoji, ETENDU DANS
son bou	

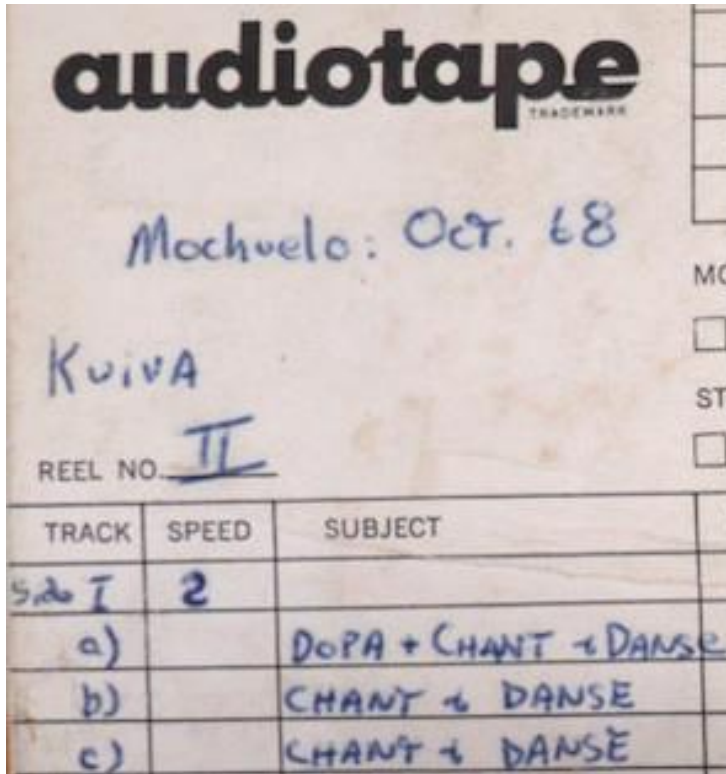


**Kuiva I B** 

Dosa  
15/10/68

The present recording has this note: "11:00 AM. Dosa: *Naweba* (women's song). at her place, in her hammock, she works a rope to hold a *koté* (basket)."

FACE II : DOSA :	NAWEBA
15/10/68	
11.00 A.M. Son	boumoji, DANS SON BOUT
Travaillant la	corde de soutènement d'un
koté	

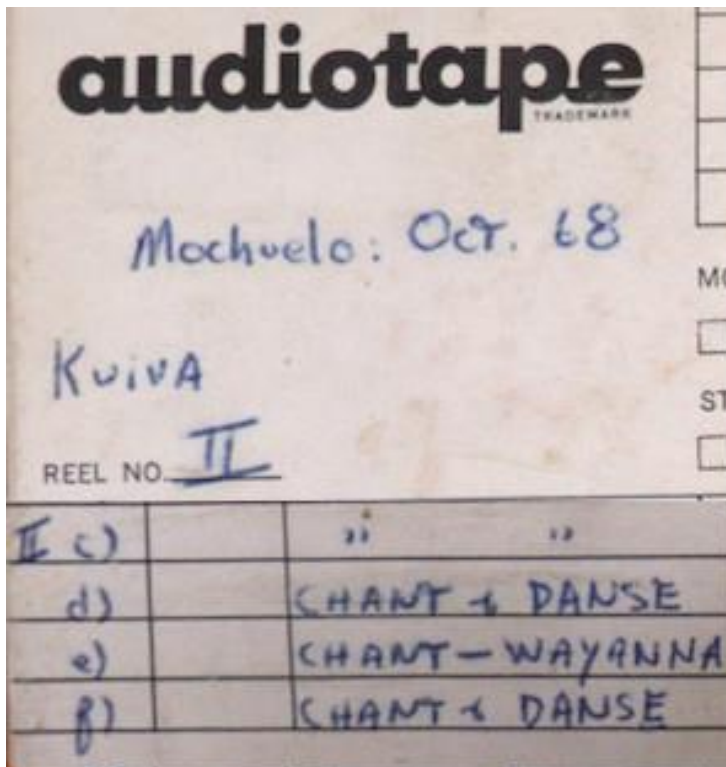


Kuiva II A 

Wayanna

Oct-68

The present recording has this note:  
"Yopo (*dopa*) + singing + dance"



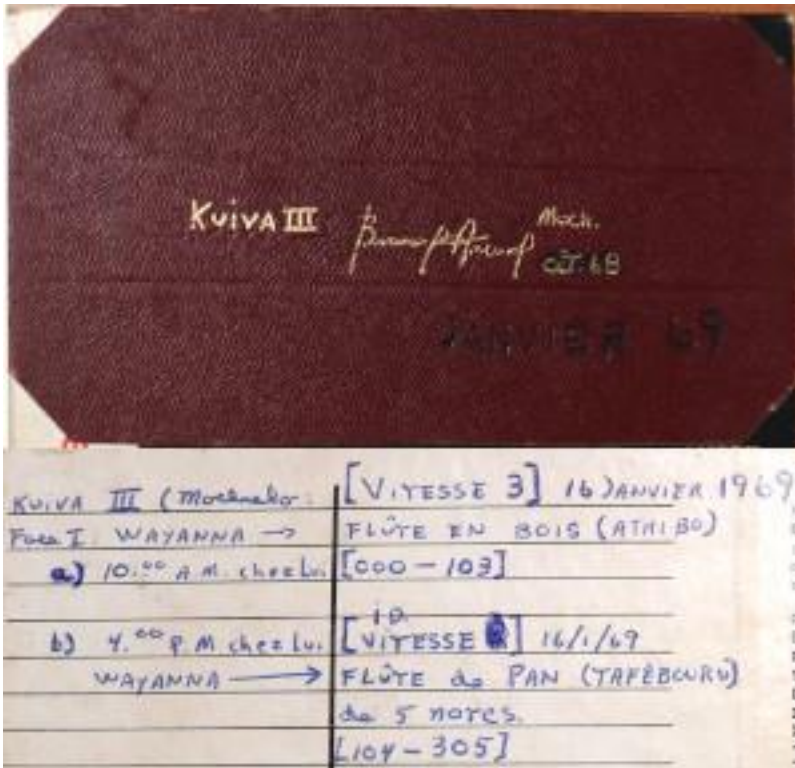
Kuiva II B 

Wayanna

Oct-68

The present recording has this note:  
"Singing and dancing. Wayanna's  
song"

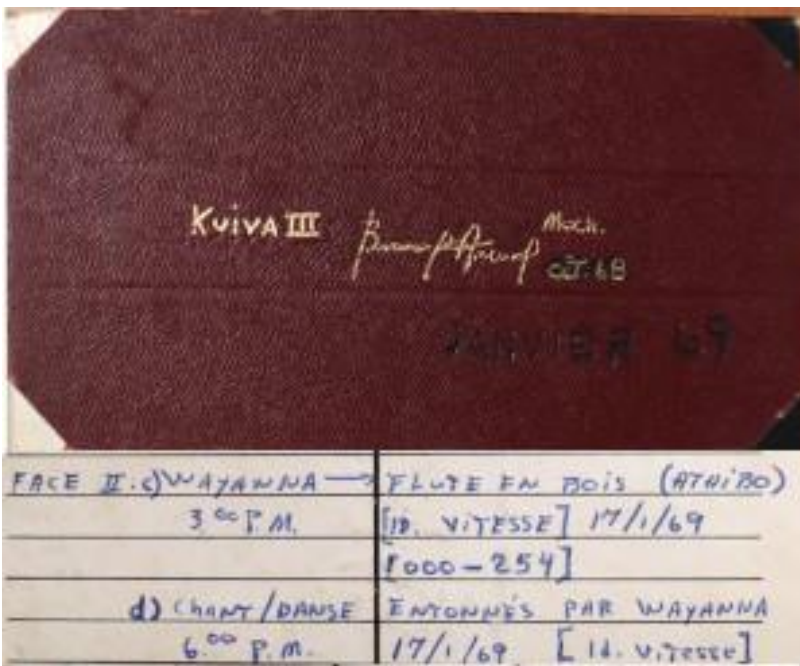




Kuiva III A 

Wayanna  
16/01/69

The present recording has this note: "a. Wayanna: 10 AM at his place. flute (*athüübo*); b. Wayanna: 4 PM at his place. Pan flute (*tafeburu*) with 5 notes."



Kuiva III B 

Wayanna  
17/01/69

The present recording has this note: "c. Wayanna: 3 PM. flute (*athüübo*); d. song/dance by Wayanna (6 PM). Not at his place, after taking yopo."



Kuiva IV A 

Wayanna

18/01/69

The present recording has this note: "Wayanna: 5pm at his place. flute (*athüübo*)."

KUIVA IV	MOCHUELO
FACE I	VITESSE 2
o) WAYANNA →	FLÛTE EN BOIS
CHEZ LUI	5.00 P.M. 18/1/69
	[000 - FIN]



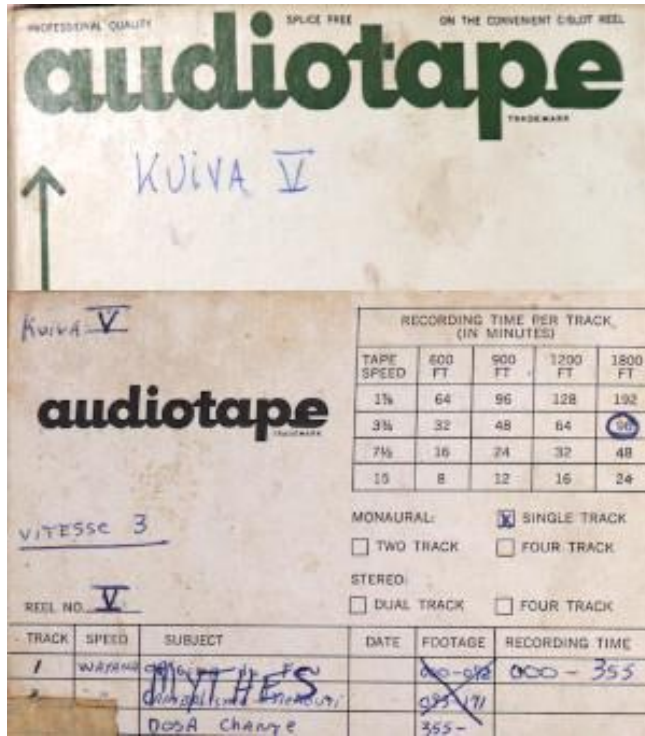
Kuiva IV B 

Wayanna

21/01/69

The present recording has this note: "Wayanna: 3:30 pm at his place. Pan flute (*tafeburu*) with 5 notes."

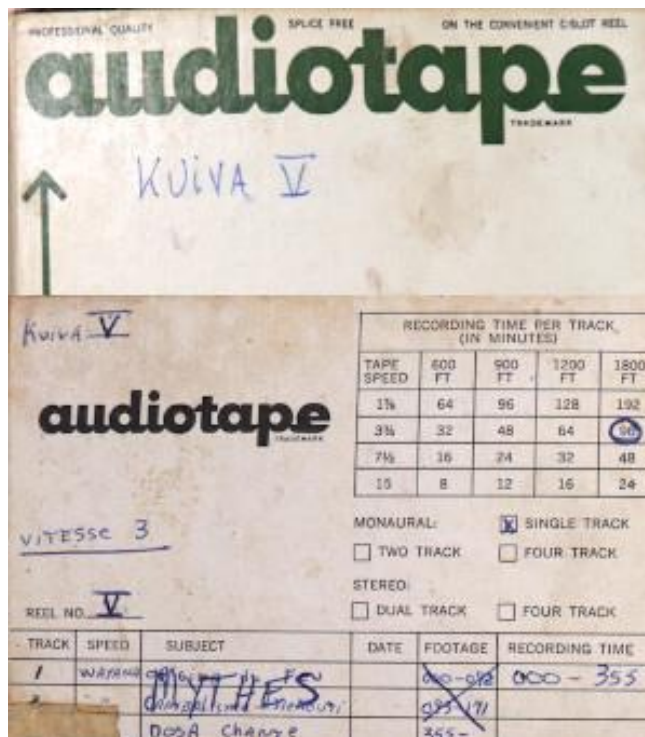
FACE II	
WAYANNA	FLÛTE DE PAN
CHEZ LUI	3.30 P.M. 21/1/69
	[000 - FIN]



Kuiva V A 

Wayanna  
1969

The present recording has this note:  
"Wayanna: myths"



Kuiva V B 

Dosa  
1969

The present recording has this note: "a.  
Linguistic lesson? Myths?; b. song by  
Dosa."





Kuiva VI A 

Wayanna; Dosa  
09/05/69

The present recording has this note: "7 PM. Wayanna and Dosa: *naweba* (women's song) with 2 voices."

VITESSE 3		KUIVA VI	
Side I			
a) Antarusia [pamora de Yonolio] <i>naweba</i> [000-100]	PARATABOURIYA	9/5/69	3.00 P.M.
b) Wayanna; Mythologie [100-FIN]		10/5/69	4.00 P.M.



Kuiva VI B 

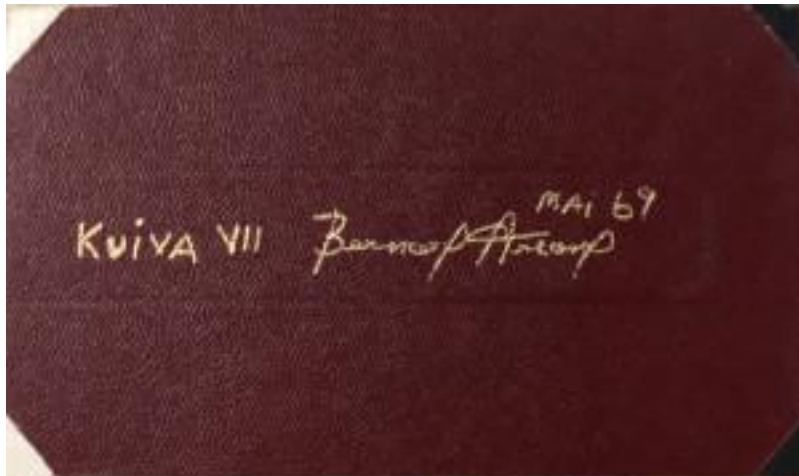
Wayanna; Antarusia  
11/05/69

The present recording has this note: "a. 3 PM: song by Antarusia (Yonolio's wife?): *naweba parataburiya* (women's song); b. May 10/69 4 PM. Wayanna: mythology."

VITESSE 3		KUIVA VI	
Side II			
-WAYANA & DOSA:	<i>naweba</i> 0.2 [000-FIN]	11/5/69	7.00 P.M.



[Kuiva VII A was overwritten with other recording.]



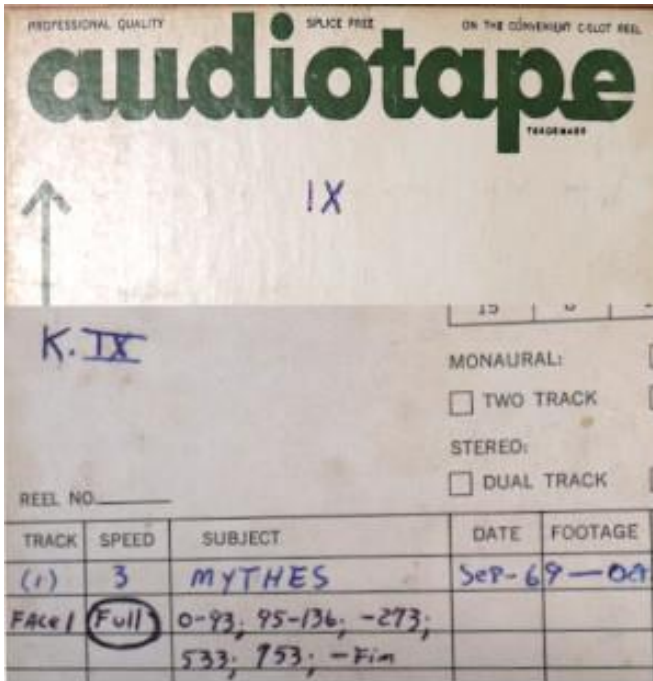
Kuiva VII B 

Wayanna; Dosa; Warafe;  
Tutchi  
11/05/69

The present recording has this note: "a. May 11/69, 9 AM. Wayanna and Dosa: *Naweba* (women's song) for two voices (17 min) - continuation of Kuiva XI A; b. June 20/69, 11 AM. Wayanna and Warafe: *Naudaba*; c. June 24/69 6 PM. Warafe, Wayanna and Tutchi: *Naudaba* (incomplete)."

VITESSE 3	KUIVA VII
FACE I	
a) Wayanna & Dosa: <i>Naweba</i> à? [000-067]	11/5/69 9. <sup>00</sup> P.M.
[suite de KUIVA S. II]	
b) NAUDABA - WAYANNA & WARAFE [070- ]	20/6/69 11. <sup>00</sup> A.M.
c) NAUDABA (INCOMPLETE)	WARAFE - WAYANNA - Tutchi [ -114]
	24/6/69 6. <sup>00</sup> P.M.

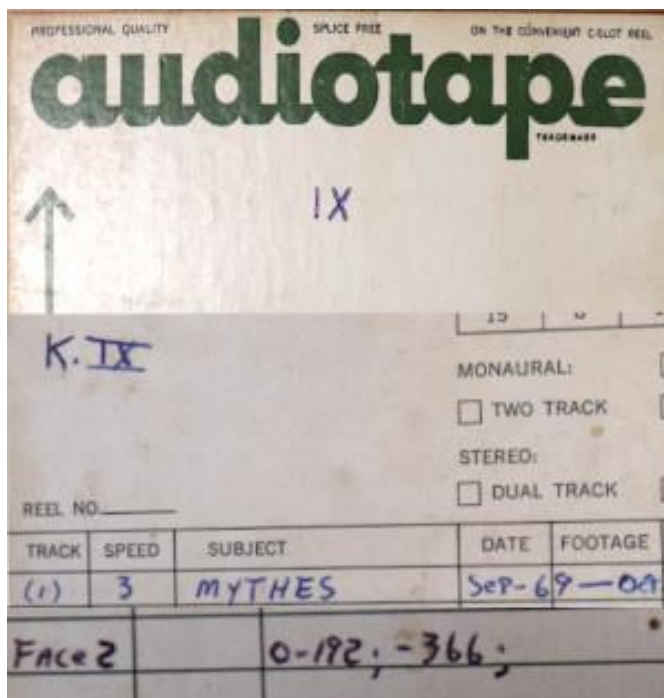
[Kuiva 8 was not found]



Kuiva IX A 

Wayanna  
Sep-69

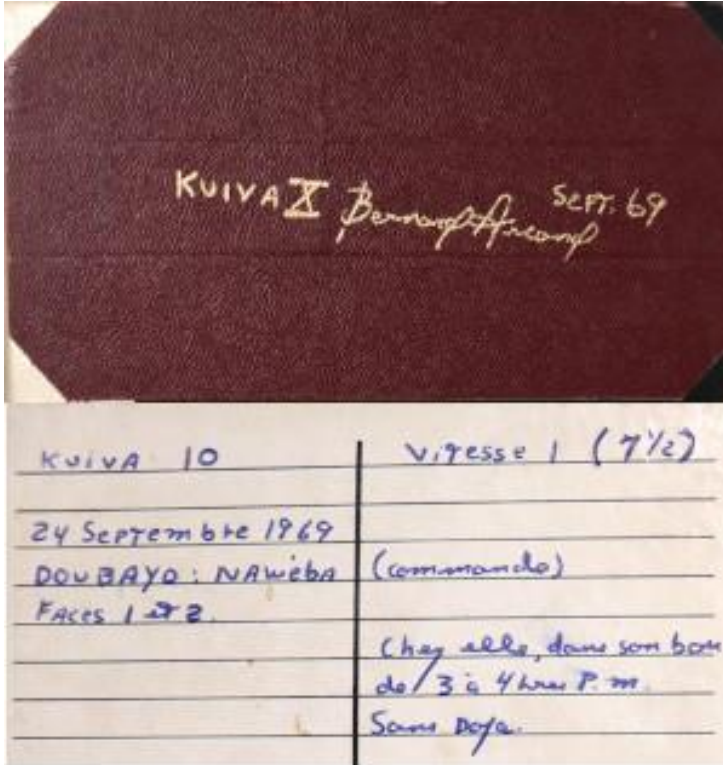
The present recording has this note:  
"Myths."



Kuiva IX B 

Wayanna  
Sep-69

The present recording has this note:  
"Myths."



Kuiva X A 

Dubayo  
24/09/69

The present recording has this note:  
"Dubayo: *Naweba* (women's song) (solicited). At her place, in her hammock from 3-4 PM. Without yopo."



Kuiva X B 

Dubayo  
24/09/69

The present recording has this note:  
"Dubayo: *Naweba* (women's song) (solicited). At hers in her hammock from 3-4 PM. Without yopo."





Kuiva XI A 

Wakwi  
25/09/69

The present recording has this note:  
"Wakwi: *naheuné* (solicited)"

KUIVA II	Vitesse 1 (7Ye)
25 Septembre 1969	
WAKwi: <i>naheuné</i>	(commando)
Foto 1 et 2	(hay leei, dans son bon de 2 à 3.00 P.m. Sans dofo

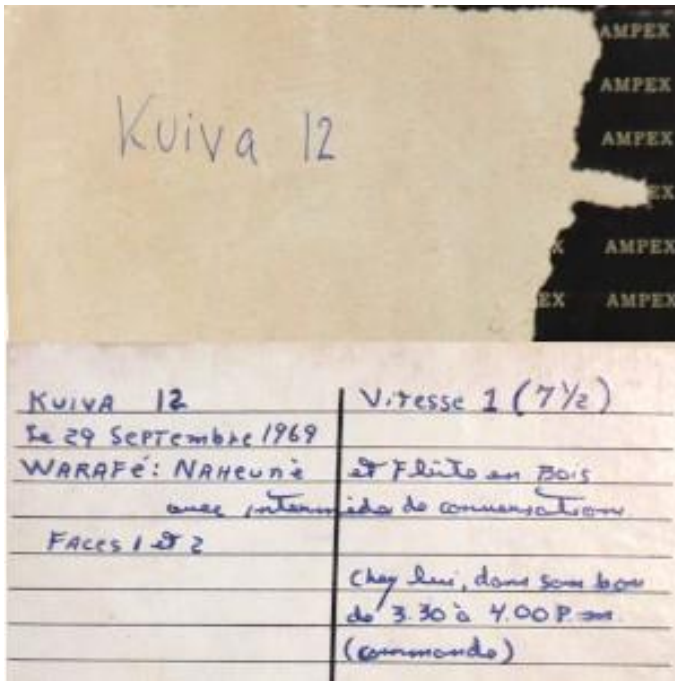


Kuiva XI B 

Wakwi  
25/09/69

The present recording has this note:  
"Wakwi: in his hammock from 2-3 PM.  
Without yopo."

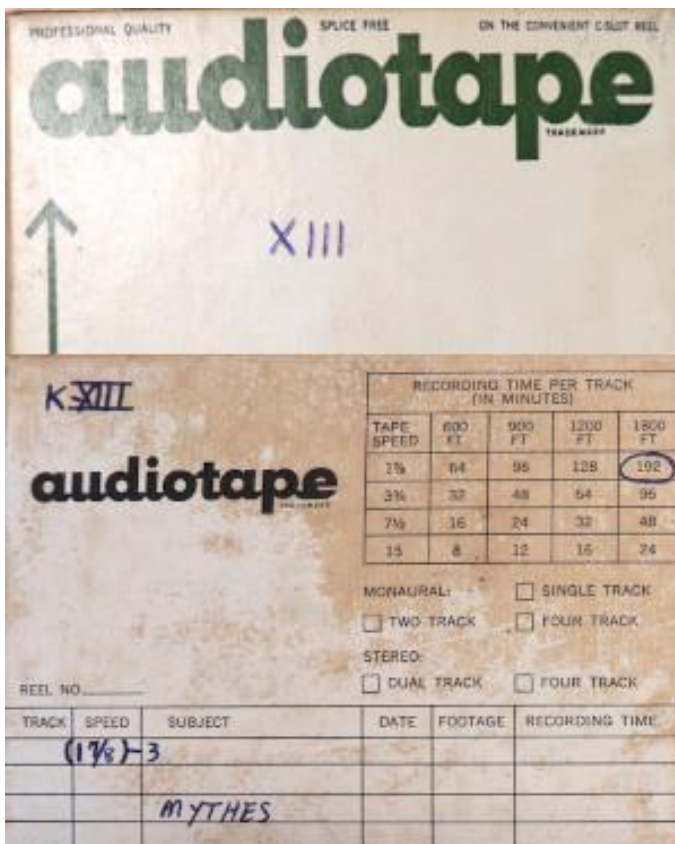
KUIVA II	Vitesse 1 (7Ye)
25 Septembre 1969	
WAKwi: <i>naheuné</i>	(commando)
Foto 1 et 2	(hay leei, dans son bon de 2 à 3.00 P.m. Sans dofo



Kuiva XII A-B 

Warafe  
29/09/69

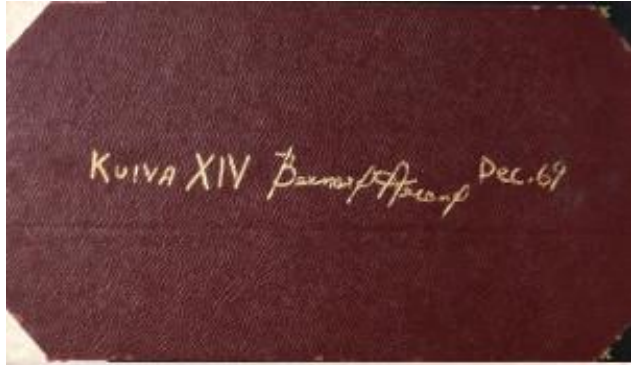
The present recording has this note:  
"Warafe: *naheuné* and wooden flute, with pauses for communication. At his place, in his hammock from 3:30 to 4:00 pm."



Kuiva XIII A-B 

Wayanna  
1969

The present recording has this note:  
"Myths"

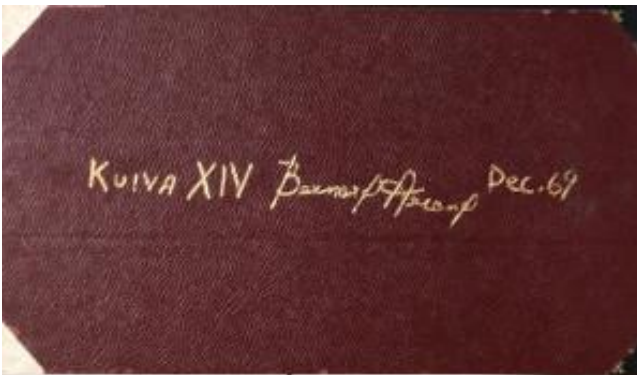


Kuiva XIV A 

Poraté  
07/12/69

The present recording has this note: "5:30 PM, after yopo. Poraté: *Naudaba*. Few people in the camp."

KUIVA XIV	
FACE 1	
NAUDABA 7-12-69	à 5,30 p.m. après Doya
Poraté. Peu de gens	au camp.



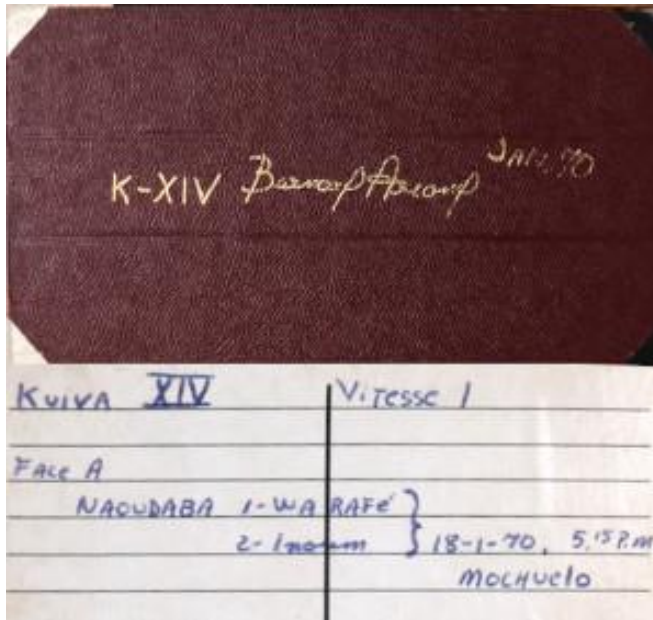
Kuiva XIV B 

Metamayo  
08/12/69

The present recording has this note: "1 PM. Metamayo: *Naweba* (women's song). In her place; she talks about the death of her two children, a long time ago."

FACE 2	
NAWEBA - METAMAYO	8-12-69. Chy Elle. Vers. 198.
Elle parle de la mort	de ses 2 enfants, autrefois



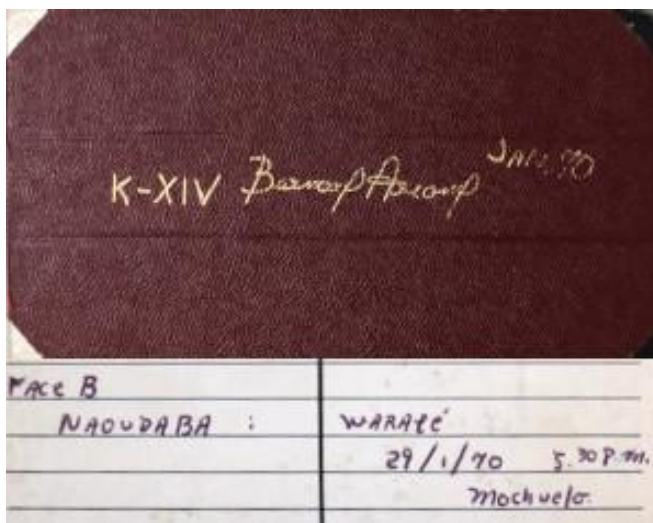


Kuiva XIV A2 

Warafe; Inum

18/01/70

The present recording has this note: "5:15 PM. In Mochuelo. Warafe: *Naudaba*. Inum: *Naudaba*."

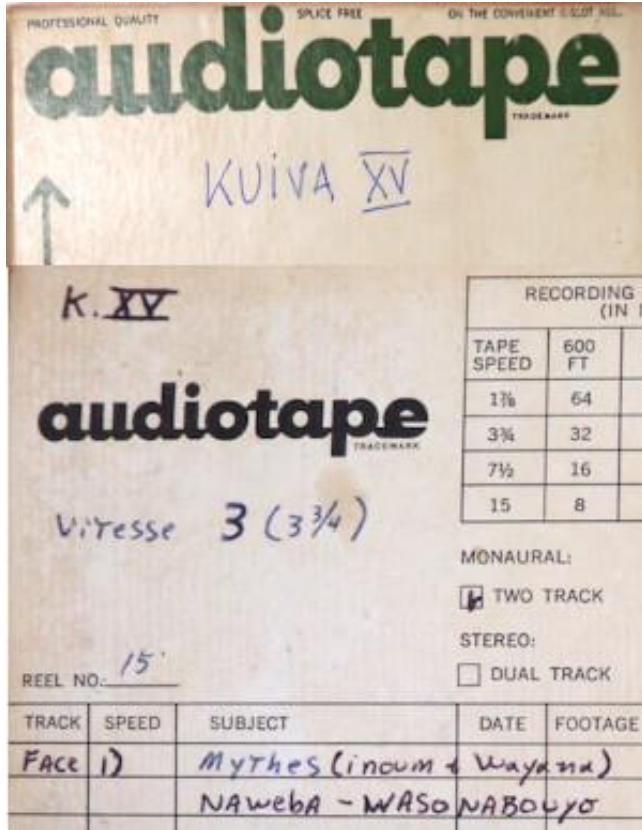


Kuiva XIV B2 

Warafe

29/01/70

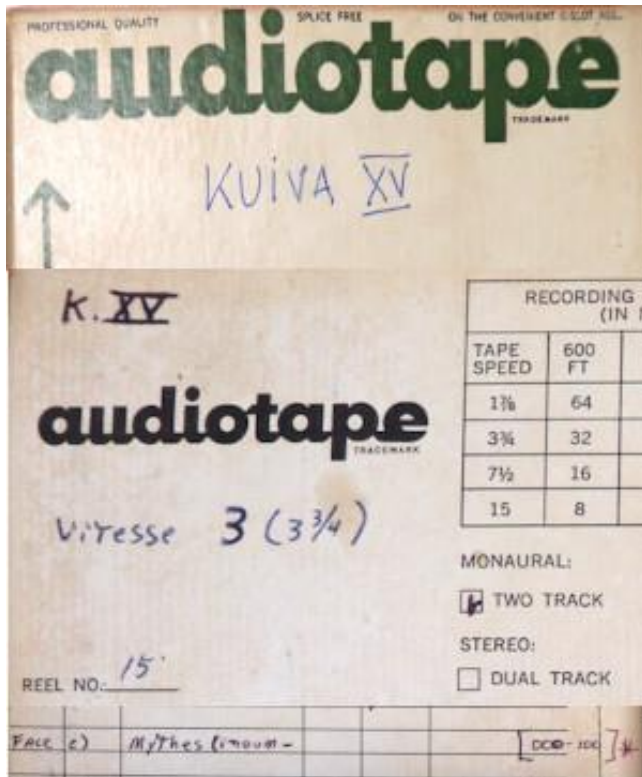
The present recording has this note: "5:30 PM. In Mochuelo. Warafe: *Naudaba*."



Kuiva XV A 

Wayanna; Inum; Wasonabuyo  
1970

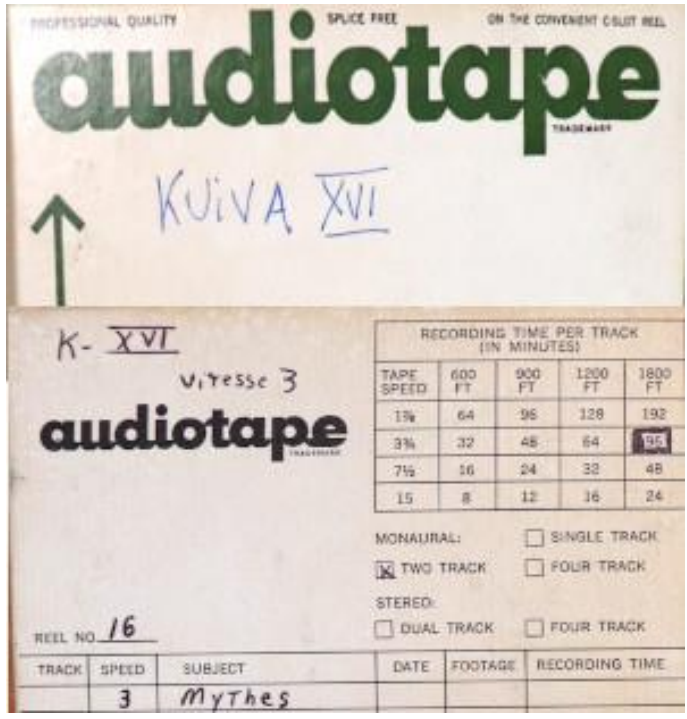
The present recording has this note:  
"Myths: Inum and Wayanna: myths;  
Wasonabuyo: *naweba* (women's song)."



Kuiva XV B 

Inum  
1970

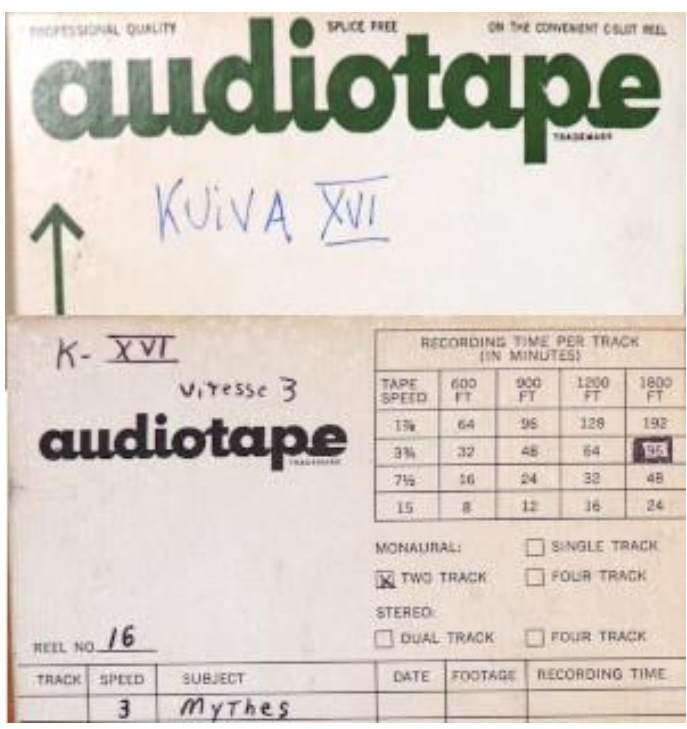
The present recording has this note: "Inum: myths"



Kuiva XVI A 

Inum (?)  
1970

The present recording has this note:  
"Myths"



Kuiva XVI B 

Inum (?)  
1970

The present recording has this note:  
"Myths"



## References about the Wamonae

- The British filmmaker Brian Moser made a documentary among the Wamonae in 1970, with the collaboration and participation of Bernard Arcand: *The Last of the Cuiva*. <https://youtu.be/cjve7Il6mRU?si=i6B8HxUNOJNE4Hyb>
- Bernard Arcand's PhD dissertation: A Contribution to Cuiva Ethnography. PhD Thesis, University of Cambridge, 1972.
- Bernard Arcand's posthumous ethnography about the Wamonae-Cuiva: *Les Cuivas. Une ethnographie où il sera question de hamacs et de gentillesse, de Namoun, Colombe et Pic, de manguiers, de capybaras et de yopo, d'eau sèche et de pêche à l'arc, de meurtres et de pétrole, de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes* [The Cuivas. An ethnography about hammocks and kindness, Namoun, Colombe and Pic, mango trees, capybaras and yopo, dry water and bow fishing, murder and oil, equality between men and women]. Montréal : Lux Éditeur, 2019.
- Webpage about the Caño Mochuelo Resguardo: "Wámonae. Resguardo Indígena Caño Mochuelo: 14 comunidades de 10 pueblos de la Orinoquía" [Caño Mochuelo Indigenous Resguardo: 14 communities of 10 peoples of the Orinoco region]. <https://www.resguardomochuelo.com/wamonae>