

in the center of the magic circle, to re-enact the death and resurrection of their earth, the eternal pattern of the seasons. (p. 127)

The book offers good photographs, a somewhat incomplete history of the scholarship on mummers' plays, and appendices which include play texts.

A Faraway Time and Place. Lore of the Eastern Shore, by George Carey. 256 pp. Introduction, list of informants and collections, no bibliography, no index, photographs, maps. Washington and New York: Robert B. Luce, Inc., 1971. \$6.95.

Reviewed by John M. Vlach.

This is a book about the watermen who eke out a living on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Even though the sub-title suggests a larger survey, Carey is quick to mention that he has not covered the agricultural communities or the black population. Near the southern tip of that strip of land, which always looked to me like it should belong to Delaware, there is a cluster of tiny islands and finger-like peninsulas. Here in towns with names like Chance, Dames Quarter, Calvary, and Oriole, Carey met and came to know the men who fished and dredged oysters on Chesapeake Bay. During his four years of fieldwork Carey became intimately involved with the Eastern Shore: "To the untrained eye I had been accepted as a member of the group I was studying. It was time to go home and write the book. And so I did" (p. 20). A Faraway Time and Place is that book.

An introduction and two prefatory essays provide adequate background for understanding the community of the watermen. Carey's introduction is direct and refreshingly frank. He mentions the extreme paucity of folklore research in the area and portrays with vivid detail his faltering steps when first beginning his research. The two essays, "Folklife on the Eastern Shore" and "Storytellers and the Narrative Style," are both informative though brief. They tantalize rather than satisfy one's desire to know. The discussion of narrative style is perhaps the more intriguing of the two. In it several informants are described and their attitudes toward storytelling are analyzed. Also six versions of the same tale by different narrators are provided in order to clarify stylistic differences.

The bulk of the book is made up of the verbal lore which circulates on the Eastern Shore. Carey marks off chapters by subject matter: heroes, tall tales and windies, anecdotes and jests, legends, belief tales and popular belief, and minor genres (folk speech and riddles). However, most of the narratives in this book should be considered legends as they are told as true and are expected to be believed. Thus the chapter on heroes really contains legends about famous men, the section on anecdotes is really a collection of memorates, and the belief tales are legends which validate superstitions. The narratives are not presented as series of individual texts, as one comes to expect after reading the "Folktales of the World Series." Instead they are interwoven into Carey's own prose. Some tales are quoted verbatim, others are paraphrased. Carey explains: "This is not strictly speaking a book of folklore texts. When a story

defied exact transcription I have tampered with it and put it into my own words. But when a tale is given as a direct quote I have endeavored to render it in the exact words of the storyteller, though I did not feel equipped to try and catch all the subtle nuances of the regional dialect speech" (p. viii). The narratives are used as illustrations of the life of Eastern Shore watermen rather than as primary data. Thus this volume is a book about the Eastern Shore, not a catalog of Eastern Shore narratives.

A serious shortcoming of A Faraway Time and Place is its lack of notes on comparative materials. Carey mentions that: "Tales that I have found active in Crisfield, others have discovered in Rock Hall, St. Michaels, Annapolis, as well as in Europe and Asia" (p. vii). Yet none of these similar versions is mentioned. Folklorists expect to have their type and motif numbers neatly served to them in either headnotes or appendices. Such practice has become a scholarly courtesy and is not without logic. The shorthand of type and motif numbers allows scholars whose interests are peripheral to a given work, i.e. someone whose research does not involve the Eastern Shore, to quickly assess the contents of a collection and compare it to other works. It is particularly disturbing then to read through A Faraway Time and Place, to recognize a tale as hauntingly familiar, and to find that the narrative has not been identified. For this reason this book will not be immediately helpful for the cross-cultural and intra-social kinds of analyses for which it should be used.

With the exception of this one oversight, Carey's book is a fine example of erudition and the good entertaining writing that Brooks and Warren always talked about. In fact, if the book did nothing else it could serve as a model for writing interesting prose. But the book does do more. It tells the story of the Eastern Shore as it is now. That story is important because as Carey says: ". . . this book will someday stand as a memento to the way Eastern Shore folklore used to be" (p. 255).