

BOOK REVIEWS

Analytical Index to Publications of the Texas Folklore Society,
Volumes 1-36. By James T. Bratcher.
 Pp. xxi + 322. Illustrations.
 Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1973. \$12.50 cloth.

Reviewed by Sylvia Ann Grider.

The Texas Folklore Society was founded in 1909 at the suggestion of George Lyman Kittredge as a branch of the American Folklore Society and is thus the second oldest folklore organization in the United States. But in 1924, J. Frank Dobie, acting in his capacity as secretary-editor of the T. F. S., "...cut the cord that had bound the Texas group to what he considered to be the academic pedantry of the American Folklore Society" (p. xvi). This break reflected Dobie's whole renegade philosophy toward the study of folklore. Throughout his long writing and collecting career he scorned the use of the rigid scholarly apparatus which has become standard technique for specialists in folklore today. The late Mody C. Boatright, eminent scholar and folklorist, and successor to Dobie as secretary-editor of the T. F. S., never used the type and motif system created by the first editor of the Society, Stith Thompson. In fact, it was not until 1951, under the editorship of Wilson M. Hudson, that the type and motif numbers were employed in the Society publications. It is this very problem which the present index, at the suggestion and with the support of both Boatright and Hudson, resolves. For, as Hudson himself states in his foreword to the index, "The Society is like a man who has been making regular deposits in a savings account for more than half a century and at last discovers that he has gotten rich little by little. Mr. Bratcher's index will reveal a kind of total which even long-time members of the society are not aware of. To make it easier for students of folklore, and others as well, to find and use our materials is the goal of this index" (p. xii).

Preceded by Wilson M. Hudson's "Foreword," as well as an author's "Preface," "Historical Note on the Texas Folklore Society" by Francis E. Abernethy, and "List of Society Publications," the index is then divided into three major sections. The first two deal almost exclusively with the approximately two thousand "tales" contained in the Publications. Of the scope of these "tales" Wilson Hudson remarked, "The Publications reflect the view that the study of folklore has to do not only with the imaginative side of folk life but also with traditional ways of making and doing things. Moreover, the Society has long recognized that history and folklore overlap, and its editors have been friendly to contributors from this twilight zone" (p. xi). All of the narrative selections from this marginal "twilight zone" have been indexed as "tales."

Part I, Specialized Indexes, is intended for the use of the professional folklorist because it deals with the listing of the numbers of the standard tale types, motifs, and ballads (both Child and Laws listings). Only the

numbers, minus the brief synopses, are listed, followed by the volume(s) and page numbers where the item is to be found in the PTFS. For the use of non-specialists, there is a brief explanatory/bibliographic headnote for each sub-section explaining the numerical references and how to use them. The type and motif listings are specially important to the folklorist because they make available at a glance comparanda that could formerly be gleaned only by a careful reading of the whole corpus of the Publications each time the researcher sought a particular item, such as Ernest Baughman had to do when compiling his Type and Motif Index of the Folktales of England and North America, which draws heavily on the PTFS material for establishing the categories of the tall tale.

Part II, Tale Synopses, functions as a supplement to Part I to locate tales of interest which do not fit into the standard Aarne-Thompson system. The tale synopses, each numbered consecutively for the index, are divided into sections for easy reference. These sections have been set up according to their content and reflect the specialized and regional nature of the TFS material. The categories, each preceded by a topical "Guide to the Section," are: 1) Myths and Explanatory Tales, 2) Animal Tales, 3) Tales with a Pointed Moral, 4) Formula Tales, 5) Tales of Magic, Marvels, Adventure, Intrigue, 6) Realistic-Minded Tales of Humor, 7) Tales of the Supernatural, 8) Legends, and 9) Tall Tales. It is a tribute to Bratcher's thoroughness that there is no "Miscellaneous" category.

Each synopsis runs from three to eight lines and indicates the volume(s) and page numbers where the full text can be located. Provenience -- (I) for Indian, (N) for Negro and (M) for Mexican or Mexican-American -- is also indicated. These synopses, as well as providing handy reference, make delightful reading. Following are some typical entries from the section of "Realistic-Minded Tales of Humor": 6.17 -- "An old maid, praying for a man, answers an owl's hoot with 'Anybody, O Lord.'" 13:97-98; 6.64 -- (N) "A slave, discovered in his attempted clubbing of a sheep for food, pretends that he is carrying the club for protection. 'Ah ain't gonna let no daw-gone sheep butt me to death.'" 10:19-20, 21:85; and 6.109 -- (M) "drunk man is tricked into disposing of the bodies of three murdered priests under the impression that there is only one body." 12:57-60. Part II also includes a one page "Note on Procedure" which explains the rationale of the classification system and the other features of each entry, such as the consecutive numbering and provenience abbreviations.

Part III, the Alphabetical Index, fills almost half of the total pages of the book and, when used in conjunction with Parts I and II, enables the researcher to find any item, idea, or proper noun contained anywhere in the first thirty-six volumes of the PTFS. This acts as a double check against overlooking any item of importance that might have been missed or not included in the first two parts of the index. The Alphabetical Index is elaborate and extensive enough to require a "Note on Procedure" to insure the fullest utilization of all the information it contains. Bratcher's opening statement in this note explains, "The Alphabetical Index aims at a generous coverage within reasonable limits. It includes: 1) Personal names and place names,

2) The names of ethnic groups, of food, of plants and animals..., of diseases and disabilities and the methods and substances used in their folk treatment, 3) Titles or first lines of songs, games rhymes, refrains, 4) Proverbs and proverbial expressions, folk diction, 5) Subjects of a folkloric or historical bearing..., 6) "... the names of organizations and titles of books and periodicals that are referred to in the articles indexed" (p. 155). This Alphabetical Index is so well done that it alone would justify the publication of this volume and with Parts I and II it makes this as complete and near perfect as a reference work can be.

A final note must be in praise of the beautiful design and layout of the book. It is lavishly illustrated throughout with the distinctive drawings of the El Paso artist, Jose Cisneros, who also drew the delightful map of the "Folklore of the Southwest" for the endpapers. There are some drawings by other Texas artists as well as some interesting photographs, all dealing with some aspect of Texana. The monotony of the extensive two-columned indexes is broken by small line drawings and photographs. The calligraphy of the letter headings in the Alphabetical Index also provides nice aesthetic balance to the pages.

In summary, then, we have in this latest publication of the venerable Texas Folklore Society a work of which Bratcher himself as well as the Society and S. M. U. Press and the Moody Foundation of Galveston can be justifiably proud. The high professional quality of the research and attention to detail make it a beautiful and exciting addition to folklore scholarship which other journals would do well to emulate. This index is destined to become a permanent and indispensable volume on any serious folklorist's shelf, especially one interested in regional narrative and folksong.

The Amateur Wind Instrument Maker. By Trevor Robinson.
Pp. xiii + 115, appendices, bibliography, diagrams, illustrations.
Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1973. \$8.95 cloth.

Reviewed by Larry McCullough.

This is a significant and sorely-needed addition to the corpus of do-it-yourself instrument construction handbooks in that it treats a species of musical instruments -- the wind families of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods -- heretofore largely neglected in the extant literature on amateur instrument making. Details of construction are discussed for nine types of winds including flute and fife, recorders, clarinet, shawm and oboe, krumphorns, racketts, cornetti, trumpets, and horns, with special sections on general methods and material used in working with wood and brass.

The craftsman interested chiefly in the mechanics of instrument building will find concise and comprehensible instructions accompanied by numerous