

The Klabautermann of the Northern Seas. An Analysis of the Protective Spirit of Ships and Sailors in the Context of Popular Belief, Christian Legend, and Indo-European Mythology. By Reinhard J. Buss.

Pp. x + 139, bibliography, index.

Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oxford: University of California Publications, Folklore Studies: 25. \$5.00 paper.

Review note by Josephine Lombardo.

This work, because it manifests both the strengths and weaknesses of such an approach, is an excellent example of the use which can be made of material long stored in archives. Because the tradition of the ship spirit is no longer vital in northern Europe the author's stance is of necessity part-oriented. The items (memorates, legends, statements) which form the basis of Buss's study were collected between 1830 and 1940 with some literary sources predating the legend collections by a decade. The work has three parts: the first deals with the names and sources of the ship spirit; the second is a typology of "Klabautermann" lore covering the origin, appearance, attributes, nature, and activities of the spirit; in the third the "Klabautermann" is compared with kindred spirits found in northern European folklore.

The method employed by the author is essentially the historic-geographic enriched by functionalism. Buss succeeds in improving over the sterile listing of variants and motifs of many of the FFC volumes by taking note of recent legend scholarship and incorporating the ideas, for example, of Lauri Honko, Gunnar Granberg, and Barbara Woods into the work. The difficulties inherent in the approach have not, however, been overcome. This is not a criticism of the author as he himself admits the shortcomings of the investigation (p. 21): the texts are lacking for the most part in contextual data; the material was geographically unevenly distributed; the researcher himself was limited since all his work was done at U.C.L.A. Nonetheless, the work is one of painstaking, careful scholarship. The treatment of literary analogues and the discussion of the name "Klabautermann" are very well done. Buss handles his topic with a great deal of precision and seriousness, but since he makes little contribution to legend theory in general, I feel he will find few readers who approach the subject with the same degree of intensity.

African Art In Cultural Perspective: An Introduction. By William Bascom. Pp. xii + 196, bibliography, index, 135 illustrations, maps. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1973. \$2.95 paper (also in cloth).

Reviewed by Theodore Celenko, Jr.

For a variety of reasons this book seems to have been published with the