

Folk Songs and Singing Games of the Illinois Ozarks. By David S. McIntosh, ed. by Dale R. Whiteside.

Pp. xi + 119, bibliography, index, sample record.

Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1974. \$9.95 cloth.

Review note by Joe Goodwin

Here is another collection of folk songs. Little more needs to be said. The book consists of two sections, "Local Songs and Ballads" and "Play-Party Games." "Play-Party Games" includes games for adults, games for children, and jump rope rhymes. Most writers dealing with play-party games do not consider jump rope rhymes to fall into that category.

Chapter 1 is entitled "Songs of Local Significance." Some of the songs included in this chapter are probably not as locally significant as McIntosh would like to think. For example, the song "Turnip Greens" has been reported from the Arkansas Ozarks in almost identically the same form (Four & Twenty, French and McSpadden). McIntosh implies that it is indigenous to southern Illinois, since "Salem" (a town in southern Illinois) is mentioned in the text. The Arkansas version mentions "Mountain View" (located in the Arkansas Ozarks). Is it, therefore, indigenous to Arkansas? These place-names simply illustrate the localization process which frequently occurs with traditional songs, just as it does with legends.

Most of the songs in Section I are accompanied by notes giving sources for numerous variants. This generally holds true for chapters 3-5 (in Section II) as well. However, for the children's singing games and jump rope rhymes contained in chapters 6 and 7 of Section II, there is a paucity of information concerning variants. This cannot be attributed to a lack of previous research in the area of singing games, jump rope rhymes and the like. There are numerous works dealing with these areas, such as Gomme's Children's Singing Games and The Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland, Newell's Games and Songs of American Children, and the Opies' Lore and Language of School Children. It appears that McIntosh has failed to do his homework for Section II.

What McIntosh as partially attempted to do (with little success) is to show how the folksongs and singing games of the Illinois Ozarks "mirror the culture" and history of that area. The book offers no earth-shaking revelations or new theories; it is simply another regional collection of folk songs. Therefore, it seems reasonable to state that this book is no major addition to the field of folk song scholarship.