

## NOTES AND QUERIES

We would appreciate contributions from folklorists to the following project. Under the sponsorship of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore and Language Archive, Professor Herbert Halpert is assembling for publication North American and British Isles' metaphorical sayings (dites) that describe or purport to explain two weather phenomena: SNOW and THUNDER. In addition to such sayings we should also like to secure any children's rhymes, chants, or songs used for either snow or thunder. Full credit will, of course, be given to all contributors in any publication.

The proposed studies will be modelled after the important comparative monograph on "rain while the sun shines" by Professor Matti Kuusi, Regen bei Sonnenschein (FFC, 171; Helsinki, 1957). Unlike Professor Kuusi's world-wide examination, these studies will be limited to Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and perhaps Ireland. At present the bulk of the materials are in English; but we hope to receive a representative selection of French-Canadian, Franco-American and Spanish-American versions, as well as examples from other language groups in North America. We would also welcome Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Manx, and Irish versions.

Processing of the following materials is now well advanced: a substantial group of Newfoundland reports from field tapes and student manuscript collections; a few items from the Maritimes, secured in 1964; a widely distributed group of texts recorded by Professor Halpert on a trip across the United States in 1958; some student contributions from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois; a small number of texts Halpert collected in England, Scotland, and Ireland in 1960, 1974 and 1976. We are also incorporating an extensive file of versions excerpted from American and British dialect, proverb, and folklore books and journals; Notes and Queries; and from a fairly representative selection of regional books from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and Ireland.

For those interested in pursuing the topic further, the most accessible American grouping of such dites is in Wayland D. Hand, ed., "Popular Beliefs and Superstitions from North Carolina" in The Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore (Durham, N.C., 1964), VII, p. 193, no. 5969 [snow]; p. 194, no. 5971 [thunder]. For children's chants on snow and thunder, see G. F. Northall, English Folk-Rhymes (London, 1892), pp. 333-34. (A common American thunder chant begins: It's raining, it's pouring;/ The Old Man is snoring/ .... This has many variants.)

Although the studies will be geographically limited, the intention is to annotate the texts by reference to American Indian and Eskimo versions, and to such standard European collections as:

Feilberg, H. F. Bidrag til en Ordbog over Jyske Almuesmal (Copenhagen, 1904-08), III, 427b-428a [sne]; III, 823b-825a [torden]; Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglaubens, ed. E. von Hoffmann-Krayer and Hanns Bachtold-Staubli (Berlin and Leipzig, 1927-42), VII, 1273-74 [Schnee]; II, 312-314 [Donner]; II, 782-783 [Elias]; Sebillot, Paul. Le Folk-Lore de France (Paris, 1904), I, 85-87 [la neige]; I, 72-75 [le tonnerre].

We would welcome individual texts as well as references to published sources. Ideally, items should contain specific data about the social context in which they occurred, with some suggestion as to why they were used; even texts with minimum documentation, however, would be useful for a study of geographical distribution. Please send items to:

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