

from old broadsides, garlands, manuscripts, etc. Only a smaller portion of songs in the second part is taken from oral tradition. Sometimes no source is given.

One wonders what the relatively large number of rather lengthy seventeenth and eighteenth century poems has to do in such a collection. Maybe they were indispensable in these earlier collections. There are no tunes to the texts. On the other side, Bell displays more modern tendencies when he acknowledges that at least with the peasant songs their social context and their function is relevant and that the songs reflect peasant life as it really is. "Whatever these songs describe is true to life," he says in the introduction to the second part. He takes pain to give the reader all information he has at hand about songs like the "Sword Dancers' Song" (pp. 392ff) of the "Cornish Midsummer Bonfire Song" (p. 389) and certain others. His collection also includes quite a number of humorous songs, some of them of a "freer" nature.

For the reasons given in the beginning and for the virtues of the book itself (and despite its deficiencies), I would maintain that Bell's collection was worth reprinting. The only thing that puts me off is the price.

--Klaus Roth  
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#### IN BRIEF

Peter Eric Adotey Addo has published a collection of Ga folktales (Ghana Folk Tales: Ananse Stories from Africa; New York, Exposition Press, 1968; pp. 51; \$3.00) which is pleasant if unremarkable. Rev. Addo, a native of Ghana but currently on the faculty of Bennett College, North Carolina, apparently has rewritten them from memory (or did he collect them? the exact nature of his source is not clear and his publisher refers to him as "translator-editor"). He has included a short introduction which is in some respects naive, at least to the folklorist (he seems unaware of the international type index or Motif Index and overstresses the possibility of learning about a living culture simply from its tales), but which also has a few interesting things to say about the process of narration. The book is, of course, meant for the general reading public and the tales are, of course, enjoyable.

We were surprised and interested to learn that, on the thirtieth anniversary of its publication, Richard M. Dorson's Davy Crockett: American Comic Legend continues in print (New York, Rockland Editions, 1939; pp. xxvi + 171; \$5.00; original stock purchased by E. Weyhe, Ind., 794 Lexington Avenue, New York 10021, from whom it is available). The texts are taken from the otherwise virtually inaccessible Crockett almanacs which appeared between 1835 and 1856. A liberal selection of the delightfully grotesque woodcuts which originally accompanied the tales are included. These, plus excellent typography on fine paper and a good binding, combine to make a very handsome volume and in fact the book was voted one of the "fifty best" of 1939 (an award presented for format and design. Professor Dorson has contributed an Introduction in which he discusses frontier humor. Foreword by Howard Mumford Jones.