[poems about Collins] were very poor quality doggerel and were passed along by word of mouth rather than being printed" (p. 251) are likely to make folklorists' hackles rise. Finally, the writing style and bibliographic references leave something to be desired--the former can be somewhat repetitive, especially when the various actors are characterized, and the form of the latter makes it hard to find who said what when.

Trapped! is the sort of book where one wishes that the authors knew just a little bit more about folklore, because they have a wealth of good and interesting material. Their analyses are tentative, scattered and skimpy, however, and do little to allay one's suspicions that books with exclamation marks in their titles (such as Piers Paul Reed's Alive!) are perhaps best left for leisurely summer reading.

International Proverb Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography.

Reviewed by Sandra Dolby-Stahl.

Wolfgang Mieder has given us an excellent bibliography on international proverb scholarship. The book reflects most positively to the credit of the author, the Garland bibliography series, and the discipline of folklore studies. The preparation of bibliographies would seem to require simply a plodding expenditure of effort and routine organizational skills. Not so Professor Mieder's impressive amassing and annotating of sources in paremiology. This bibliography is not merely a competently prepared research tool; it is a model for bibliographic methodology and an interesting, well-written study in its own right. As the author explains briefly in his Introduction, careful thought went into decisions on the ordering of entries, the selection and annotation of research, and the indexing of entries according to Names, Subjects, and actual Proverbs involved. As a result, with little effort we can draw from the work a clear sense of who the primary researchers in
proverb study are and how their ideas have developed (the
entries are in chronological order for each author). We
can discover through the very readable annotations what
notions in proverb study have predominated over the past
century or so, what new directions have been suggested and/
or followed, what methodologies have been most useful.
And, especially with reference to the separate Subject
Index, we can learn the important terminology, concepts,
and subject matter of proverb research.

The Bibliography is large (2142 entries) though it
covers only proverb scholarship, excluding the massive
body of proverb collections. (Otto Moll's Sprichworterbib-
liographie 1958, surveys the international proverb col-
clections, as the author points out). Professor Mieder's
own prolific research (seventy of the entries represent
his own works) includes a number of other bibliographies
dealing with proverbs in art, in literature, names in pro-
verbs, and studies of individual proverbs. It is not sur-
prising, then, that he was encouraged by paremiologists
world-wide to undertake this larger, annotated bibliography
to meet the need for a complement to Moll's collection bib-
liography and for a truly international critical survey
of major proverb scholarship over the last two centuries.
Professor Mieder has responded to this need by compiling
a bibliography reflecting an exceptionally wide range of
sources (not simply Proverbia or the Journal of American
Folklore but also numerous journals outside the discipline,
edited collections of essays, dissertations, and random
Festschriften).

His annotations are especially effective, often
conveying such bargain information as the scholarly status
of the work's author (e.g., V.P. Aniken he identifies as
"one of the leading folklorists of the Soviet Union") or
perhaps an Anglo-American analogue for a proverbial ex-
pression that cannot be literally translated and still make
sense. The "Introduction" is good, though I resent a bit
being teased with the suggestion that the author could (if
he would) "present the reader with a detailed review of
the status of proverb research at this time"—then perforce
accepting his assertion that, after all, the "entries, the
annotations and the indices ought to speak for themselves."
Nevertheless, the work does speak for itself. The Subject
Index in particular represents a wealth of information on even such problematic issues as "meaning" in proverb study. Perhaps most clearly in that Index Professor Mieder's own conceptual grasp of important issues in paremiology is indicated. He is justly proud—like Stith Thompson and his Motif-Index—of having created the Index manually, with his own intuition for key words as a guide. He closes his introductory statements with an invitation to any and all who are engaged in proverb research to send him notices or reprints of current research or items that have escaped his sleuthing efforts. By chance, I have an article of my own on proverbs and fables that he missed. Admittedly, it was obscurely placed, so I have sent him a copy. Aside from that grave oversight, I can think of nothing bad to say about the Bibliography. Folklorists, bibliographers, librarians, students of speech, literature, or values owe themselves the pleasure of looking into—and using—this fine bibliography.


Reviewed by Guy H. Haskell.

Robert A. Georges and Stephen Stern have provided the student of American and Canadian immigrant and ethnic folklore and ethnography with a tool which will prove of tremendous value in research. They have compiled a bibliography of one thousand nine hundred entries covering fifty-six different ethnic groups, including one section on general theoretical concerns of the field. The bibliography spans ninety-two years of research; the first entry was published in 1880, the last in 1980. Georges and Stern employed two main methods in compiling their list of entries: bibliographies requested from specialists working with specific ethnic groups or fields of study, and the page by page perusal of forty-three different journals related to the field. The compilers