

shown to reaffirm community ties. Silvesterklausen is also an expression of Urnäsch worldview; Bendix's analysis reveals a village which has become disillusioned with technological progress and turned instead to a nostalgic version of the "traditional old way of life."

All in all, the book is written in a clear and readable style which is enhanced by the liberal use of quotations from the performers. Their voices emphasize the vitality of Silvesterklausen as more than memory culture or a pagan survival. By restricting most of the purely theoretical and scholarly issues to the notes, Bendix has further increased the book's accessibility. Some readers may find the proliferation of Swiss words confusing, but a detailed glossary helps overcome this drawback. The photographs are appealing--Silvesterklausen is undeniably a very photogenic custom--but they could be integrated more fully into the text, particularly the description of the various types of costume. I would recommend this book to anyone who seeks a thorough study of a living folk custom, based on good fieldwork, and raising thought-provoking issues for further study.

**Gesamtregister 1949-1980.** By Peter Niederhauser.  
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Volkskunde.  
Basel: Verlag G. Krebs, 1985. Pp. vii + 183.  
Ca. \$60.00 (SFr. 92.00).

Reviewed by Regina Bendix.

Locating sources on a given topic in the hundreds of folklore journals printed worldwide can be one of the most time-consuming tasks in research. One should be thankful to Peter Niederhauser (and by extension to a Swiss pharmaceutical firm which sponsored him--maybe this will enhance their recently damaged

profile, at least in folklorists' eyes?... ) who compiled this index for the three Swiss folklore journals, the *Schweizerisches Archiv für Volkskunde*, *Schweizer Volkskunde*, and *Folklore suisse/folclore svizzero*. The index lists 1358 articles (omitting reviews and notes) alphabetically by author. Subject and place indices demonstrate the journals' international orientation, though Swiss materials dominate, naturally.

Foreign researchers will particularly appreciate this handy access to a wealth of material, although some linguistic versatility is required: titles and subject listings appear in German, French, and Italian, while the foreword, which contains the key to the economical numbering system, is unfortunately printed only in German. Together with Robert Wildhaber's index for 1897-1948, this new index brings our overview of Swiss journals almost up-to-date.

**Handbook of American Folklore.** Edited by Richard M. Dorson. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983. Pp. xix + 568, bibliography, index. Cloth \$35.00, paperback \$15.00.

Reviewed by Eric Montenyohl.

This handbook for American Folklore is unique in the field. The volume contains four large sections: Topics of Research, Interpretation of Research, Methods of Research, and Presentation of Research. Each part then contains a number of essays investigating that area. These individual essays tend to be relatively short--four to fourteen pages in smallish type. Most essays adhere to a format in which the topic is surveyed historically (what research has been done in this area?) and theoretically (how has it been approached and why? How should it be