Folklore, Women's Culture, one can't help but feel that and introductory statement on the nature of the relationship between folklore and culture would have given this collection of articles greater cohesion. The greatest disappointment in this book, however, is in the lack of a clear feminist statement.

Despite these shortcomings, Women's Folklore, Women's Culture is a welcome addition to folklore scholarship, offering a much-needed perspective on the genres, contexts, and styles in the performance of women's folklore. This volume could be used as a textbook in both graduate and undergraduate courses, and contributes not only to our understanding of women's folklore, but points also to the dynamic interrelationship between male and female cultures and worldview as expressed in folklore.


Reviewed by W. K. McNeil

This is, of course, not a folklore publication, but rather a book that contains information that may sometimes be useful to folklorists. Walter Brookfield Hendrickson has taught history for twenty eight years at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. He was born in Indianapolis, and, with the exception of one year spent at Harvard, lived in the Hoosier State until 1941. These first thirty eight years of his life are the subject of this memoir. A large section of the book is taken up with Hendrickson's college days, first at Butler, then at Purdue, Butler again, Indiana University, and finally Harvard, where he received his Ph.D. in 1941. While this section has some interesting, and even amusing events,
the first six chapters, which discuss the author's first seventeen years, are of the most significance to folklorists. Hendrickson has an excellent memory which enables him to provide a rather detailed account of the routines of life in early twentieth-century Indianapolis. Included are reminiscences of a truck farm, streetcars, ice wagons, peddlers and home deliveries, retail stores and their practices, church services, clothing, foods and food preparation, holiday celebrations, railroads, children's games and pranks, dances, vaudeville shows, and various other forms of recreation and entertainment. Hendrickson writes well; as a result, his book provides more interesting reading than most such memoirs. Moreover, to the scholar interested in urban material culture and folklife, the book is a valuable source of information.


Reviewed by Norma Ortiz.

Robert Cochran, in the tradition of folklorists at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, is by training an English professor. By avocation, however, he is a lover of delta blues, admirer of the late folksinger Emma Dusenbury, and keeper of the folklore fires at the University of Arkansas. His predecessor, founder of the Folklore Research Project, Mary Celestia Parler Randolph, was also trained in English. Having come to folklore from outside the discipline, Bob Cochran and Mary Celestia were freed, in a sense, from some of the academic constraints of the discipline, and like Vance Randolph, their attachment to the folklore