The University of Arizona Folklore Archive was set up in 1945 to take care of the state-wide collection being sponsored by the newly appointed Interdepartmental Faculty Folklore Committee. Nearly all the material is from Arizona, with some recent extension to Sonora, Mexico, in the hope that the University of Sonora will become interested in cooperation with the University of Arizona in recording Mexican folk culture of interest to folklorists on both sides of the border.

The Mexican border folklore is already strongly represented in the Archive with corridos and other songs, tales, remedies, and interviews concerning old customs. Representation of Mormon folklore is also strong, particularly in songs. American Indian material includes two tapes of an interview concerning Apache medicine practices, and five 45-minute tapes of Seri social songs sung during the four nights of the puberty ceremony. Much of the material is the product of collections by schools, clubs, and university folklore classes. Occasional bulletins have been published by the University utilizing this material—two, for instance, from the Patagonia high school collections in Santa Cruz County. Other avenues of publication are suggested and encouraged where appropriate.

The manuscript material, once kept in a special room in the Library, has under present-day crowded conditions been moved to the office of the Chairman of the Folklore Committee. It is filed in four copies under type, place, collector, and informant, and is cross-indexed on cards. Type headings include such large divisions (not yet subdivided) as tales, songs, riddles, rhymes, proverbs, recipes, history, medicine, games, festivals, drama, dances, customs, and place names.

The disk collection, dubbed from the original tape recordings to facilitate finding and playing specific items, includes 140 disks. For many, but not all, of these recordings corresponding texts are found in the manuscript file. The disks are numbered in chronological order as added to the collection and a list is kept for ready reference giving the title of the song, the names of the singer and collector, and the place of collection. The disks are kept in the Visual Aids Bureau where playing equipment is available.

At the beginning tapes were erased and re-used after the disk copies were made from them. Now the Archive is accumulating tapes without transferring them to disks. To date there are forty such tapes in the Archive.

In years when special equipment has been needed—a tape recorder, filing cabinets, tapes or disks—the Folklore Committee has turned in budget requests up to $300 and these requests have always been generously granted. In other years the Committee has turned in no requests other than for mimeographing the irregular news letter to collectors. The Chairman of the Committee has had her academic load lightened by one course to enable her to carry on the folklore work. The Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts has been generous in providing secretarial help for copying and filing. Visual Aids has taken care of the disks and allowed use of its playing equipment. The Radio and Television Bureau has generously helped with transfer from tape to disks, payment being made by the Folklore Committee to the student engineers for the Sunday and night work which goes into this extra service.

The Committee is glad to have all parts of the Archive used, but since there are no duplicate copies of either records or tapes, the archived material is not available on loan. No funds are provided for duplication, but copies will be gladly made of material, except in a few cases where restrictions have been put upon it by a collector, providing that necessary expenses are covered.

The Anthropology Department, represented on the Interdepartmental Folklore Committee, has a separate archive which contains a complete representation of Yaqui music from aboriginal deer and coyote songs through modified Spanish materials (Pascola and Matachín). The Yaqui material is found on 33 master 16 inch records cut at 33 1/3 RPM. Included is a one-hour Yaqui sermon which has been published. The archive also has a wide selection of Papago medicine songs, creation myth songs, bat songs, and popular solo and chorus songs. There are also Papago speeches and some Seri materials. Good ethnological field notes are available for the Yaqui materials. Full texts, the translations checked with many informants, exist for the forty Yaqui deer songs. The Papago field notes are not as complete. Duplicates will be gladly made of materials in the archive in the Department of Anthropology upon payment of necessary expense.

Contributors to This Issue

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RAE KORSON is Head of the Archive of Folk Song, Music Division, The Library of Congress.
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FOLKLORE ARCHIVE

Frances Gillmor

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