

German and English versions on opposite sides of the page for easy comparison, and most readers, folklorists and non-folklorists alike, will find *Beneath the Cherry Sapling* a very accessible and attractive little volume.

W. Edson Richmond. **Ballad Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography.** New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1989. Pp. xxvii + 356, preface, introduction, author index and subject index. \$40.00 cloth.

Donald Braid  
Indiana University

*Ballad Scholarship* is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the study of ballads. It is a convenient and thorough reference to the central works on the ballad. Richmond's introduction succinctly summarizes the main problems that scholars have encountered, and still face, in studying the ballad, and he clearly details the characteristics that scholars have used in attempts to define the ballad as a genre. Richmond is explicit about the boundaries that he has imposed on the expansive field of ballad study in selecting sources to be included in the bibliography. First, he limits himself to the genre that scholars perceive as the European traditional ballad, as opposed to folksong or folkpoetry. Second, he concentrates on English language publications from 1898 to 1986 although important works published before 1898, or available only in other languages, have been included also. Finally, his bibliography is "confined" to publications dealing with the "study of, not the collecting of, ballads," yet Richmond does list 56 collections which he sees as seminal or which "make major contributions to our knowledge of the genre."

The bibliography's organization has alternately delighted and frustrated me in my search for references. This is probably unavoidable with any bibliography in printed form as formatting choices invariably facilitate some methods of searching, while they inhibit others. In this volume the citations are divided into thirteen subject categories: A) Basic Descriptions of Ballads; B) Anthologies of Ballad Articles; C) Journals Devoted to Folkmusic; D) Bibliographies and Research Tools; E) Ballad Theory; F) Ballads and Literature; G) Ballads and History; H) Ballad Language; I) Ballad Prosody and Metrics; J) Individual Ballad Types and Cycles; K) Ballad Music; L) Ballad Collectors, Editors, and Histories of Ballad Scholarship; M) Collections. Within these categories the citations are listed alphabetically by author.

Richmond includes two thorough indexes, one by author and the other by subject, which clearly lead back to the annotated citations. This organization allows the reader to browse the citations by general category, author or subject. The individual citations are followed by concise and informative annotations which present the key contents or contributions of the sources. In a few cases, where the references have adequately descriptive titles, the annotation is omitted. In spite of the limitations imposed on references I have found that *Ballad*

*Scholarship* enables easy and direct access into the extant ballad literature. I recommend it as a research aid to anyone who works with ballads.

F. Marian McNeil. *The Silver Bough*. Edinburgh: Canongate (Distributed by David and Charles, Inc. North Pomfret, Vermont 05053), 1989 (reprint of 1956 edition). Pp. xiii + 242, foreword, introduction, notes, index, bibliography. \$9.95 paper.

Donald Braid  
Indiana University

The *Silver Bough* is a reprint of the first of four volumes of Scottish folklore originally published in 1956. While the aim of the series was to provide insight into the Scottish people through an examination of their customs and festivals, this first volume focuses on the folklore, folk beliefs and behaviors which underlie and inform these customs and festivals.

The book is basically organized into subject categories (the druids, the gods, magic, fairies and witches) and broken into various subtopics by key idea. Attempts are made to contextualize the data into some sort of historical and social perspective, and in particular, to relate them to the Celtic calendar. But the book has some serious flaws. Often the sources of data are never clearly referenced, leaving open the question of whether descriptions and behaviors originated in the author's speculations or in written and oral sources. At times I was left wondering when and for whom the beliefs and behaviors were current. Ballads are often quoted as absolute sources without reference to where and from whom they were collected.

In spite of these drawbacks, I find *The Silver Bough* to be a useful resource in my research of Scottish folklore. It weaves one possible fabric of meaning out of many puzzling details. While I remain skeptical of some of the author's conclusions, I feel that McNeil has provided a starting point for further exploration.

William Ian Miller. *Bloodtaking and Peacemaking: Feud, Law, and Society in Saga Iceland*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. Pp. xii + 407, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

David E. Gay  
Indiana University

*Bloodtaking and Peacemaking* is both a social history of medieval Iceland and a guide to the intricacies of medieval Icelandic law. As readers of the sagas know, Icelandic sagas, especially the so-called "Family Sagas," are full of legal