

NOTES for QUERIES

Even folklore has gotten into the by now celebrated Edmund Wilson-MLA American editions controversy. In "Professional Standards and American Editions: A Response to Edmund Wilson," the MLA's pamphlet countering Wilson's New York Review of Books attacks, Gordon N. Ray had commented: "This Wilson's attack derives in part from the alarm of amateurs at seeing rigorous professional standards applied to a subject in which they have a vested interest. Here, at least, the issue is not in doubt. As the American learned world has come to full maturity since the Second World War, a similar animus has shown itself and been discredited in field after field from botany to folklore. In the long run professional standards always prevail." Asks Wilson (in a letter to the New York Review, June 5, 1969, p. 36): "What does he mean by this? Percy's Reliques in which Bishop Percy allowed himself a pretty free hand in revising the text of his old English ballads, is a more valuable and more important book than F.J. Child's enormous repository for which he took down and published so many inept and illiterate versions, so many tiresome repetitions of the same ballad."

The October, 1969, Ramparts (p. 14) reports that Zimbabwe African Peoples Union and African National Congress guerrillas operating in Rhodesia had decided that it would be politic to consult local Maswikeros (fortune tellers) on their chances of success, until one of their units was betrayed after such a consultation.

The FORUM editors were delighted to learn that their letter supporting Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill to establish an American Folklife Foundation had been read into the Congressional Record by Senator Yarborough. We hope that the attempts to establish this foundation continue.

 EDITORIAL (Cont'd from p. 118)

Russell Kirk is an influential and respected spokesman for the conservative viewpoint and his ideas generally merit careful consideration. Thus "Anti-Culture at Public Expense" is all the more disturbing. We sincerely hope that he will reassess his position. And we hope that his article will not mislead any "swinish horde"---one thing you can say for Kirk; his biases certainly aren't middle class---into misconstruing the nature of the legitimate social research that is being carried on at Bowling Green. Any concerted interference with such social scientific investigations would be anti-knowledge and anti-culture indeed.