

NOTES for QUERIES

ESQUIRE's thirty-fifth anniversary issue (September, 1968: "Salvaging the Twentieth Century" number) clearly offers the reason why the Library of Congress Archive of Folksong is chronically underfunded. Questionnaires were sent to every member of Congress asking about, among other things, their musical tastes. Out of 174 replies only three indicated a preference for folk music (Rep. Edward D. Patten [D-N.J.]: "American folk songs and ballads"; Rep. George A. Goodling [R-Penn.]: "folk and semi-classical"; Rep. Robert C. Eckhard [D-Texas]: "folk"; Congressman Eckhard, perhaps in keeping with his musical likes, noted that Robert Burns is his favorite poet). Four more Representatives (Congressmen Edwards [D-La.], Fisher [D-Texas], Mathias [R-Cal.], and Steiger [R-Ariz.]) claim "country and western," however. Rep. Fred Schwengel (R-Iowa) likes "western" and Rep. William L. Hungate likes Jimmie Rogers. In the Senate, Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii) favors "Hawaiian" music (??) and A.S. (Mike) Monroney "ballads," though he doesn't specify what kind. By a slim margin, the Democrats appear to be the party of folklore. Maybe the American Folklore Society should vote citations to all of them.

TIME, as usual a year or two late in its perceptions of cultural phenomena, has taken note of the resurgence of interest in the occult ("That New Black Magic," September 27, 1968, p. 42). They conclude: "For all his faith in scientific reason, Western man is so baffled by complex social and economic problems that he is increasingly attracted to irrational solutions," and note renewed faith in tarot cards, horoscopes, witchcraft and a variety of superstitions. One interesting modern superstition they report as prevalent: that airline hostesses won't get pregnant because cross-country flights confuse menstrual cycles ("Not so," says TIME).

The Hoosier Folklore Society has launched a new journal, INDIANA FOLKLORE; the first issue is now available and contains a collection of Indiana legends. Individual membership \$3.00 per year. Students: \$1.50.

The Indiana University Folklore Archives has initiated a correspondence with folklorists of note around the country, with the purpose of receiving suggestions concerning archives procedures and of determining the possibilities for exchange of materials between archives. In response to inquiries about the I.U. system and to fill a general need, the Archives personnel have prepared a stencilled set of instructions for the accessioning system devised by Bill Ivey for the I.U. Archives. Copies of this have been sent to those persons from whom replies to earlier letters have been received. Those who are interested in information about this system or who are interested in possible exchange of materials can write Wm. Clements, Archivist, I.U. Folklore Archives, 714 E. 8th St., Bloomington.

Another article of interest to folklorists: TIME reports on the collecting activities of New School anthropology instructor Robert Reisner, "Curriculum: Handwriting on the Wall," November 15, 1968, p. 56. Reisner teaches Anthropology 2675-2, "Graffiti: Past and Present."

Archer Taylor and Jan Brunvand have both noted in letters to the FORUM that we gave little information about the bibliographies available at

I.U. These are lists of books and articles, in some cases annotated. Each contains an essay introducing and evaluating the literature available in the area of concentration. We shall correspond shortly with those persons who have requested bibliographies or who have asked about the number of pages for certain items.

NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL STRIKE

The propaganda hysteria surrounding the recent public school strike in New York seems to have generated a certain amount of folklore. For example, Jason Epstein, writing in the NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, mentions "accounts of teachers, presumably black, who teach children that 'policemen are pigs who kill little children or [who] lock teachers [presumably Jewish] in an auditorium and yell 'We'll take you out in a pine box.'" Such stories have become fairly current throughout the city during the last few weeks and in trying to find their origins I have been led repeatedly back to handbills issued by the UFT and to a semi-literate weekly newspaper known as the JEWISH PRESS...." Such tales raise the question as to when rumour becomes legend; William B. Edgerton discusses a similar phenomenon in nineteenth century Russia in "The Ghost in Search of Help for a Dying Man," in the forthcoming JOURNAL OF THE FOLKLORE INSTITUTE, V, 1. The following "poems" were apparently also part of the recent New York propaganda war and were supposedly placed in the mail boxes of teachers at P.S. 144. We don't know if they are among the "scurrilous" leaflets widely referred to by the press. They were sent to us by a New York correspondent and, so far as we are aware, have not been published elsewhere. We print them because they seem to owe something to the style of the oral form of the toasty.

Education in N* Man's Land

We the people are all hip and wide awake
 We hope the following are for their own sake
 Education
 Teachers you had better begin to earn your pay
 The parents, not the UFT decide if you go or stay
 We're not speaking of the teachers as a whole
 But those that wor't teach get the hell off the bowl
 Some supervisors and we know who you are
 Plotting and scheming, well you've gone too far
 We didn't ask you here and we don't want your kind
 So take your funky C.S.A. union and blow your mind
 Governing board and staff come off your ivory tower
 This community rules you and has the real power
 Don't shut your door to us and play Board of Ed
 Without our support sweetheart the project is dead

Action Centers

None of you poverty pimps will run the game
 Of using us as pawns to gain money or fame
 Try helping not conning the people that come to you for aid
 We know you're all pimps but earn some of the bread you're
 paid
 Two and three digits and your palms still stick out

To be greased with more money when there's any about
 One thing we learned and we learned it from you
 And it's screw the next man before he can screw you
 So here Judas pimps we'll give you a clue
 It takes exactly one dime to call the "Internal Revenue"
 All big sisters and big brothers too
 Are keeping their eyes on all of you
 Shape up or ship out before this "Fall"
 Or all you mothers "against the wall"

FOLKLORE IN THE NEWS?

The following item is reprinted from the INDIANA DAILY STUDENT, October 11, 1968:

DIXON'S MURDER PREDICTION QUASHED AS FALSE RUMOR

A rumor reportedly rampant on campus that seer Jeanne Dixon has predicted the axe murder of 10 coeds on a midwestern university campus has been quashed by her New York publishing syndicate office. Robert Gillespie, who handles Miss Dixon's material for Newsday syndicate, said she has never made a prediction of that nature.

Gillespie said the rumor started about six months ago in Oklahoma and has spread throughout the Midwest. In various forms, the rumor depicts an axe slaying on either a Midwestern or Big Ten campus.

"I didn't know it had gotten this far," he said.

Officials at the I.U. safety department had received only one call in connection with the rumor: from an anonymous coed who asked for verification of the rumor. Robert Dillon, assistant director for the safety division, said the telephone call from the coed was the first and only indication that such a rumor was being spread on campus.

NEW POPULAR ANTIQUITIES?:

The Polack Strikes Back!..:

A student at the Folklore Institute reports that this variant of Aa-Th 1356A*(?) is currently circulating: A Polack and an Italian go out on their lunch break. The Polack says, "IF you can guess how many sandwiches in my lunch pail, I'll give you both of them." The Italian says, "Three?"

Jackie Onassis Jokes

Do you know what Aristotle Onassis gave Jackie as a
 wedding present?

An antique organ.

Do you know why Jackie got ptomaine poisoning at her
 wedding?

She ate a piece of old meat.