

but I suspect that he learned about hurdles and the twivil| twibil from some book on English crafts. Should a folklife researcher list hurdle making as a traditional American craft because it is described in this book, no terrible harm would result, it is true, but that is the type of mistake that could occur.

The Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey. By David Steven Cohen. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1983. Pp. xviii + 251. Foreword (Herbert Halpert), map, illustrations, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth and paper, no price.

Reviewed by Hugo A. Freund

This is a carefully crafted book. There is something good about not just the thoughtful content but the feel of the whole book. The thoughtfulness translates into simple, clear definitions of such terms as 'folklore' and 'folklife.' In addition, this volume is sensitively illustrated with photographs and drawings that are well integrated into the text. This clarity is in part possible because Cohen has a definite purpose which he states clearly in the introduction:

New Jersey is viewed in terms of the derogatory stereotypes of decaying cities, polluting industries, and sprawling suburbs...A more complete survey of the folklore and folklife of New Jersey reveals a more complex and more interesting image. This book purports to use folklore to fight folklore. It attempts to refute the derogatory stereotype and correct the identity problems by showing the richness and diversity of New Jersey's folk heritage (p.1).

Cohen admirably presents a vast array of material that provides a taste of the folklore and folklife in New Jersey. The large number of genres are subsumed under two large headings. The first part deals with "New Jersey Folklore." Cohen is careful to define exactly what he means before he begins. "Folklore may be defined simply as oral tradition. For a story or song to be 'folk' it must have been communicated by word of mouth" (p.2). Part one of his book then deals with such oral material as the Jersey

Joke, Lenape Indian myths, local place names, folk speech, legends, tall tales, ghost stories, folk heroes, folk belief, powwowing among the Lenape, witchcraft, weather lore, the evil eye, folk medicine such as the use of healing herbs, midwifery narratives, folk music such as fiddle tunes, folk songs such as sea shanties, and folk dance.

Typically this is where state folklore volumes stop (1). But in part two of this book, Cohen opens up a world of material that is not ordinarily found in such volumes:

Not all folk traditions are spoken or sung. They can include a traditional way of doing or making something. Folklorists use the term "folklife" to refer to these nonspoken folk traditions. The term encompasses gestures, customs, art, tools, utensils, crafts, foodways, costume, rituals, festivals, and architecture (p.4).

Part two is entitled "New Jersey Folklife" and takes up perhaps sixty percent of the text. Included are discussions on such topics as folk painters (for example, Micah Williams and Henry Thomas Gullick); folk sculpture as seen in traditional tombstones and the duck decoy carving of Harry V. Shourds of the Barnegut Bay; traditional boats such as the Delaware Bay oyster schooner and the Barnegut Bay sneakbox; folk architecture such as the Dutch farmstead, the Pennsylvania barn, and the fisherman's shanty; folk furniture such as the South Jersey ladder-back chair; quilts, coverlets, and samplers; glass, basketry such as those made in the Pinelands, and pottery; foodways among a variety of ethnic groups; games and recreation; and finally festivals such as the Italian-American Feast of Lights, ceremonies and rituals.

I list this variety of topics that Cohen examines purposefully. This book should provide something of a benchmark for folklorists: a state folklore volume that is comprehensive and well-written. Cohen has found a way to address two audiences: the general reading public and the more serious researcher. Cohen provides the scholar with an entrée into the source material that will allow a person to further explore a particular topic. In addition to a general bibliography, there is a useful set of notes unobtrusively linked to the text. The index is also important because through judicious use it can serve as a valuable cross-index to the chapter headings.

There is only one theoretical area that I think deserves further discussion: how does local folklore|folk-life connect up with the landscape? In other words, in what way does the human environment interrelate with geography--the mountains and marshes, seacoast and river streams? I think a description of the lay of the land--rural and urban, built and natural--would be an important companion to the map that faces page 1. The conclusion of the book appropriately discusses how the distribution of speech dialect and artifacts break the state into folk cultural regions. New Jersey is unique according to Cohen because of its set of folk regional boundaries. But this is as far as Cohen goes in making the connection between culture and the landscape. Suzi Jones' **Oregon Folklore** is probably the only other state folklore volume to seriously consider these theoretical issues.

This volume together with David Cohen's **Folklife in New Jersey** (2) covers the important available information about the state. It is apparent that only a handful of researchers besides Cohen have studied New Jersey in depth. Much of the interview material that Cohen quotes is either his own or that of his students. Scholars and students now need to be encouraged to go out in the field and work. Let us hope that this exemplary state folklore volume will provide renewed impetus for the careful study of folklore and folklife of New Jersey, as well as the establishment of a research archive to preserve findings and make them available to the public. This too would help to establish a positive image for New Jersey.

NOTES

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(1) For a review of some twenty-four state folklore books see Hugo A. Freund, "Published State Folklore," **Western Folklore** 42(1983):215-227.

(2) David Stephen Cohen, **Folklife in New Jersey: An Annotated Bibliography** (Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1982).