

REVIEWS

Fernando Peñalosa, trans. **Los Tipos del Cuento Folklórico: Una Clasificación.** By Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson. Helsinki: Academia Scientiarum Fennica, 1995. FF Communications No. 258. Pp. 359, translator's preface, analytic index.

William Hansen

The present volume is a translation into Spanish of Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson's *The Types of the Folktale*, known familiarly to folklorists as "Aarne-Thompson" or the "tale-type index." It is really the second translation of the index, since Aarne's original publication appeared in German and was rendered into English by Stith Thompson.

Thompson both translated Aarne's work and enlarged it. Aarne's original monograph, *Verzeichnis der Märchentypen* (1910, FF Communications No. 3), was essentially a classified list of tale types, each entry consisting merely of a number, a descriptive title, and sometimes a few additional words in order to identify more clearly the tale in question. In his translation and revision, *The Types of the Folk-Tale: A Classification and Bibliography* (1929, FF Communications No. 74), Thompson not only increased the number of entries but also expanded the descriptions of individual tales and added bibliographical references as well as indications of geographical distribution. His second revision (1961, FF Communications No. 184) elaborated these same changes.

Peñalosa's book is a translation of Thompson's second edition of 1961, our familiar "Aarne-Thompson," but with some modifications, mostly omissions. Whereas he retains the original numbers, titles, and descriptions of content, including motific breakdown, he replaces Thompson's Preface to the Second Edition with a Translator's Preface (in Spanish), and he drops the bibliographical references as well as the analyses of ethnic distribution. According to the preface, the purpose of the translation is to aid in the *classification* of folktales from the Hispanic world and in the study of the classification of folktales generally; consequently, readers who are interested in the *study* of particular tales found in the index are instructed to use Peñalosa's translation in conjunction with the original English edition. The omissions give the entries in the Spanish edition a quality somewhat like that of Platonic ideas, as in Aarne's original index, and one realizes how much Thompson's references to scholarship, geographical distribution, and literary treatments have the down-to-earth effect of anchoring the tale traditions in time and space.

Peñalosa silently takes the opportunity to correct some errors in the original edition both in the body of the text and in the analytic index at the end. For example, in the English edition the animal tale *The Frog's Names* appears twice, once as Type 278B* and shortly thereafter also as Type 278D*. Peñalosa lists it as Type 278B*, and at Type 278D* refers the reader back to the earlier entry. In the case of *Men and Animals Readjust Span of Life*, which in the English original appears both as Type 173 and Type 828 (that is, once as an animal tale and once as an ordinary folktale), the translator adds cross-references. He also introduces a few errors of his own, perhaps inevitably in so complex a work (the original work contains many small errors), but so far as I have noticed they are minor.

So the present edition is a translation with some omissions and corrections, not a translation and revision in the way that Thompson's reworkings were. Since works of reference such as this are not brought up to date with much frequency, it would of course have been a splendid boon to folk-narrative scholars if a new translation had been accompanied by a revision and enlargement, as in the past. But Peñalosa's aim, if modest, is also clear, his translation is well-executed, and his volume will surely be welcome to the Spanish-speaking users for whom it is intended.

George W. Stocking, ed. ***Volksgeist as Method and Ethic: Essays on Boasian Ethnography and the German Anthropological Tradition.*** Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1996. The History of Anthropology 8. Pp. viii + 349, notes, bibliographies, illustrations, index. \$27.50 cloth.

David E. Gay

This newest volume in the *The History of Anthropology* series is an excellent contribution to the study of the history of the discipline. Its focus is the role of the idea of *Volksgeist* in the anthropology of Franz Boas and his students. While the contributions are, on the whole, useful analyses of Boasian anthropology and its background, two essays are of special importance: Judith Berman's "The Culture as It Appears to the Indian Himself: Boas, George Hunt, and the Methods of Ethnography," and Thomas Buckley's "'The Little History of Pitiful Events': The Epistemological and Moral Contexts of Kroeber's California Ethnography." Boas has often been criticized for not spending enough time among the Northwest peoples and for not producing a definitive monograph about them, but as Judith Berman writes, "to criticize [Boas], as some have done, for his failure to spend a prolonged period of his life