SECTION MEETING

The Children's Folklore Section will meet for a business session and breakfast from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., Friday, October 23rd, during the American Folklore Society meeting in Albuquerque.

PANELS AT AFS

According to the Preliminary Program published in the *AFS Newsletter,* summer 1987, there will be several panels and paper sessions at this year's annual meeting in Albuquerque dealing with children's and adolescents' folklore.

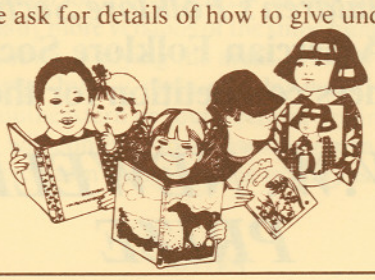
- Panel: Children's Lore in a Mixed Cultural Setting
  October 23 8:30-10:15 a.m.
  Carole H. Carpenter, Chair
- Paper Session: Folklore of Adolescence
  October 23 10:30-12:15 a.m.
  Paul Douglas, Chair
- Paper and Video Session: Children's Folklore
  October 23 3:45-5:45 p.m.
  Elizabeth Tucker, Chair

THE OPIE APPEAL

The Opie Appeal aims to secure for the Bodleian Library, the library of Oxford University, the magnificent collection of children's books and periodicals owned by Iona Opie and built up over forty years by her and her late husband, Peter. The collection has been professionally valued at £1 million. Mrs. Opie will, very generously, give £500,000, provided this Appeal can raise the balance of £500,000. A good start has been made. Several institutions of Oxford University have given donations. But the Appeal needs support from all over Britain and indeed from overseas.

Unless the Appeal is successful the collection will be broken up or exported. Please help to keep this very special part of the British heritage in being — in Britain.

If you would like to give to the Opie Appeal, please send your contribution to the Friends of the Bodleian Opie Appeal, The Bodleian Library, Oxford OX1 3BG. Alternatively, please ask for details of how to give under covenant.



THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY CHILDREN'S FOLKLORE GROUP

The Folklore Society in Great Britain has recently established a Children's Folklore Group aimed at developing and co-ordinating the study of all aspects of children's expressive culture. The Group will be open to members and non-members of the Society.

The Folklore Society has a long history of research in children's cultural traditions and creativity — Lady Gomme, author of the first British scientific study of children's games, *Children's Games of England, Scotland and Ireland,* published in 1898 was a founder-member of the Society. Whilst Iona and Peter Opie, whose contributions to the field include standard works such as *The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* and its successors on playground and singing-games, works on children's stories and the *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes* have served both on the Committee and Council of the Society. More recent research within the Society has focussed on the role of tradition in language acquisition and children as organisers and performers in traditional customs — particularly those involving dance and drama. The formation of the Children's Folklore Group, therefore represents a formalising of long-standing commitment on the part of The Folklore Society to the value and relevance of this area of culture as an academic study.

Informal, traditional culture plays a significant role in children's development. In terms of speech, for example, having acquired communicative competence in language during the primary school years, the unofficial syllabus of the playground offered children a means of exploring its possibilities for expression and enjoyment through re-creating traditional forms such as game rhymes, riddles, puns, jokes and a wide range of narrative long before the arrival of "Creative Writing" in the curriculum.

The range and diversity of genres, topics and applications within Children's folklore are enormous. Furthermore, as in other cross-disciplinary fields, individuals and institutions are frequently unaware of the broader interest and possibilities in their work for researchers outside their specialisation. The Children's Folklore Group, therefore, is intended to provide a channel for communication between researchers and a source of information on projects, archives and publications dealing with children's expressive culture.

For further details, please contact:

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