

10-6-65
November 12,

~~November 12,~~ 1965, PROGRAM of the FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Folk music on commercial "Race" and "Hillbilly" records of 1920-1940;
Presented, with original recordings, by Guthrie T. Meade and Richard K.
Spottswood. 8:30 PM. Pierce Hall (All-Souls Unitarian Church),
15th and Harvard Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Several years before the beginning of widespread field recording and archiving of folk music in the United States, a number of record companies began to record the White and Negro folk music of the Southern, Appalachian, and Midwestern states for specifically local radio use and sales. Through their efforts, a wealth of authentic American folk music was "preserved" and issued on shellac 78 rpm discs, well over 100,000 different recordings in all. Long out-of-print, these Columbia, Victor, Okeh, Bluebird, Brunswick, Gennet, Paramount, etc. recordings of the '20's and '30's are now extremely rare, and only through the efforts of devoted collectors and discographers have many of them been brought to light. Two such collectors, Richard K. Spottswood and Guthrie T. Meade, both living in the Washington area, will discuss and present a number of these rare items, drawing from their own personal collections of more than 10,000 recordings. Such currently well-known performers (some long dead) as Mississippi John Hurt, Skip James, Uncle Dave Macon, The Carter Family, ~~Uncle Dave Macon~~ The Monroe Brothers, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Willie McTell, Gid Tanner and his Skillet Lickers, and Josh White, will be heard on their original recordings of 40 years ago. Meade and Spottswood, who through their researches have aided in the "re"discovery of several of these old folk musicians, including Hurt and Doc Boggs, will discuss the impact of these commercial "Race" and "Hillbilly" recordings on the later Rhythm & Blues, Country & Western, Bluegrass, and Pop Music, and on the Folksong Revival.