

newsletter of The Folklore Society

O F G R E A T E R W A S H I N G T O N

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Linda Brennan, Editor

FOLKLORE SOCIETY to present papers on various folklore topics at Jan. 14 meeting

Papers read by University of Maryland folklore students on the Cinderella motif, holidays, and folklore and anthropology, will be the program for the monthly meeting of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington held Friday, January 14, at 8:30 p.m. in Pierce Hall, behind All-Souls Unitarian Church, 15th and Harvard Streets, N. W. A lighted parking lot is available east of 15th and Fuller Streets.

Admission to this and other monthly meetings is free to Folklore Society members. The public is invited and admission for non-members is \$1.00. Memberships can be obtained at any meeting.

For many years, a number of American universities and colleges have been offering academic courses in folklore, folksong, and the ballad, usually within English, Anthropology, or Music Departments. Graduate programs in folklore study have recently been established at Indiana University, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Pennsylvania, University of North Carolina, and University of California at Berkeley. To the best of our knowledge, the only course-work available in these topics at local institutions is the "Introduction to Folklore" course which has been offered for several years in the Department of English at the University of Maryland, first under the supervision of Professor Franklin D. Cooley, and now under Professors Esther K. Birdsall and Douglas J. McMillan. Additional offerings in folk narrative and the ballad are under consideration at the University of Maryland for the coming fall.

Five students currently enrolled in "Introduction to Folklore" will present reports on their folklore researches at the January 14 meeting of the FSGW. The program will be introduced by Professor Birdsall, and will include the following papers:

Mary Bryce: "Important Holidays"

J. Thomas Morley: "Folklorists vs. Anthropologists: The Role of Context"

Louise K. Grotlish: "Apples and Apple Trees in Folklore"

Carolyn Ball: "Borderline Folklore"

Cathy Ryan: "~~The Cinderella Motif in European and Oriental Tales~~"

Mary Bryce - as listed

Carolyn Ball - as listed

Cathy Ryan - "A Discussion of some of the Prominent Motifs of the Tang Folk Tale"

P. O. Box 19174

20th Street Station

Washington, D. C. 20036

Morley - as listed
Grotlish - as listed

1/14/66

Coal-Miners' Songs Featured on New LP Record
Issued for Sale by the Library of Congress

Through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Library of Congress has issued for sale a new LP record of coal-miners' songs. Produced from recordings made in the early 1940's, its title is "Songs and Ballads of the Bituminous Miners."

This latest 12-inch microgroove record is part of the series of folk music recordings that have been reproduced from the Library's Archive of Folk Song. Accompanied by a pamphlet containing explanatory notes and the words of the songs, the record may be purchased by mail from the Recording Laboratory, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540, for \$4.95 (including shipping and handling). The order number for the record is L60, and checks should be made payable to "Music Division, Library of Congress." All orders must be prepaid unless accompanied by an official institutional purchase order. Mail order forms listing the content of Record L60 will be provided upon request.

The songs for this long-playing record were selected by George Korson from his collection of field recordings which are in the Library of Congress, and he wrote the editorial notes for the accompanying pamphlet. A Fellow of the American Folklore Society, Mr. Korson is the author of seven books on folklore, five of which relate to coal mining. He recorded his folklore material in remote coal mining camps and towns, mostly in the Southern Appalachian region. These songs reflect the folkways of bituminous (soft coal) miners of a generation or two ago, before automation wrought its greatest social and economic changes in the Appalachian coal fields.

"Negroes played an outstanding role in the development of folk music in the bituminous industry," writes Mr. Korson. "Negro slaves were probably the first soft coal miners in the United States.... Negro bituminous miners showed a marked preference for country blues as models for their improvised topical songs. Blues were sung as a solo with a guitar or some other folk instrument. This was in contrast to the anthracite miners' ballads which were rarely sung with instrumental accompaniment.... The blues were worldly and sprang from everyday life, and were more suited than spirituals for the miners' purpose. The blues singer translated every occurrence into his own intimate inconvenience. After a song had been created it was taken over by the folk, Negro and white, as its unquestioned possession. Record No. L60 has six blues songs recorded by white miners.'

A catalog listing the entire series of LP records available from the Library of Congress may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, for 40 cents in coin.