

THE BALLAD HUNTER

Song Title and Singer

PART I

DREARY BLACK HILLS. Sung and recorded by Alan Lomax at Washington, D.C., 1941.

GOODBYE OLD PAINT. Sung and recorded by Alan Lomax at Washington, D.C., 1941.

JESSE JAMES. Sung by Henry E. Briggs at Medina, Texas, 1939. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

JESSE JAMES. Sung by Fields Ward, with Bogtrotters' Band, at Galax, Va., 1939. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

BRENNAN ON THE MOOR. Sung by Blaine Stubblefield at Washington, D.C., 1938. Recorded by Alan Lomax.

THE JAM ON GERRY'S ROCKS. Sung by Elmer George at East Calais, Vermont, 1939. Recorded by Alan Lomax and Helen Hartness Flanders.

SIOUX INDIANS. Sung by Alec Moore at Austin, Texas, 1934. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

BURY ME NOT ON THE LONE PRAIRIE. Sung by Alec Moore at Austin, Texas, 1934. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

PART II

RED RIVER BLUES. Sung by Frank Evans at Parchman, Mississippi, 1936. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

WASN'T I LUCKY? Sung by Irvin (Gar Mouth) Lowry, at Cumins State Farm, Gould, Arkansas, 1939. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

ANOTHER MAN DONE GONE. Sung by Vera Hall at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

I'M GWINE TO TEXAS. Sung by Richard Amerson at Livingston, Alabama, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE BLUES. Spoken by Woody Guthrie at Washington, D.C., 1941. Recorded by Alan Lomax.

The Ballad Hunter

John A. Lomax [1867-1948]

Lectures on American Folk Music

In the decade since his death John Lomax's memory has scarcely dimmed at all. He is remembered with affection by his colleagues and with respect by those who are still reading his books and studying his recordings.

John Lomax harvested much in the same manner that Johnny Appleseed planted. He devoted his life to it. For almost forty years he traveled up and down and across the United States with notebook and recording equipment—from ranch to cotton patch, from canal boat to penitentiary, from lumber camp to cane brake, in search of the spontaneous songs created by the people. He possessed a remarkable ability to meet people of all levels of society and to inspire their friendship and confidence. The people liked to sing for John Lomax and on his records there is an atmosphere of naturalness, ease, and sociability.

He found singers like Lead Belly, Clear Rock and Iron Head, Kelly Pace, Captain Nye, Alec Moore, Minta Morgan, and Vera Hall. He found songs like "Git Along Little Dogies," "Goin' Walk Around in Jordan," "Home on the Range," "Sam Bass," and "Boll Weevil." Spirituals, blues, fiddle tunes, country ballads, railroad songs, sea shanties, and ballads of the cowboys—John Lomax recorded them all.

The Archive of Folk Song owes much to the field collecting of Mr. Lomax. Virtually all of his recordings were deposited in its collections. And as the Archive's Honorary Curator from 1933 until his death, his connection with the Library of Congress was a close and felicitous one.

A pioneer in folk song, he has left a lasting heritage for the American people.

A grant from the Rockefeller Foundation provided for the establishment in 1941 of the Radio Research Project in the Library of Congress. Archibald MacLeish, then Librarian of Congress, defined the purpose of the Radio Research Project as a means "to find through experiments and research radio forms by which pertinent parts of the record of American culture maintained in the Library of Congress may be made available to the American people." Among the special radio programs prepared under the supervision of Philip H. Cohen, the Project's chief, in collaboration with Alan Lomax, were the ten broadcasts comprising John Lomax's "The Ballad Hunter." The broadcasts were distributed on transcription discs to radio stations for several years. The present reissue, made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, marks the first time that these illustrated lectures by the dean of American folk music collectors has been made more generally available on 12" discs.