

GKA
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L51

Record No. AFS L51

THE BALLAD HUNTER

Song Title and Singer

PART V

OLD WOMAN UNDER THE HILL. (Child 278) Sung by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

HAUL AWAY MY ROSY. Sung by John M. (Sailor Dad) at Whitetop, Va., 1935. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

WHEN JONES'S ALE WAS NEW. Discussed and sung by John M. (Sailor Dad) Hunt at Whitetop, Va., 1935. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

TRIP ON THE CANAL. Sung by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by Alan and Elizabeth Lomax.

DISCUSSION OF YOUTH ON THE CANAL. Spoken by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

DARK-EYED CANALER. Sung by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

BARBARA ALLEN. (Child 84) Sung by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

OLD WOMAN UNDER THE HILL. (Child 278) Sung by Capt. Pearl R. Nye at Akron, Ohio, 1937. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

PART VI

BOLL WEEVIL SONG. Sung by Woody Guthrie at Washington, D.C., 1940. Recorded by Alan and Elizabeth Lomax.

BOLL WEEVIL. Sung and recorded by John A. Lomax at Washington, D.C., 1941.

BOLL WEEVIL. Sung by Finous (Flatfoot) Rockmore at Lufkin, Texas, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

BOLL WEEVIL. Sung by Willie George King at Winnfield, La., 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

BOLL WEEVIL. Sung by Huddie (Lead Belly) Ledbetter at Shreveport, La., 1941. Recorded by John A. and Alan Lomax.

BOLL WEEVIL BLUES. Sung by Vera Hall at Livingston, Ala., 1934. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. 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.