

JACK TALES (II)

Told by
Mrs. Maud Long of Hot Springs, N.C.

Edited by DUNCAN EMRICH

LONG-PLAYING RECORD AAFS L48

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These two long-playing records of "Jack Tales," told by Mrs. Maud Long of Hot Springs, N.C., are representative of the rich folktale materials of the United States to be found in the collections of the Library of Congress. Together with the "Animal Tales Told in the Gullah Dialect" (records L44, L45, L46), they preserve an important facet of our folktale heritage for the use of students and scholars and for the enjoyment of the general listener.

The "Jack Tales" were brought into North Carolina by the first English settlers. But the exploits of young Jack, the giant killer, whose beanstalk adventure is, of course, universally known, soon became thoroughly localized in the Carolina hills. He ceased to be English, in the same way that the old ballads of the British Isles became American, sung with the accent of Kentucky and changed to suit the ridges of Missouri. A whole cycle of tales came into being. Lions, unicorns, and giants certainly remain in the tales for the delight and astonishment of children, but when Jack kills them he is paid off in understandable coin of the new realm—a hundred dollars a head for giants—and when he starts on an adventure he cooks himself a little ash cake before "going up the road a piece." This happy combination of the old and the new—a unicorn and a Carolina country road—is a delightful example of the lively continuity of folk tradition.

Mrs. Long, who tells the tales in much the same way as they were told to her by her parents, has also recorded folksongs for the collections of the Library. Certain of these have been issued on earlier records. Her mother, Mrs. Jane Gentry, had previously sung songs from her folk repertoire for the great English collector Cecil Sharp. All of Mrs. Long's material, therefore, came to her in the oral hand-me-down fashion of folklore, as Mrs. Long explains in her colorful introduction on L47.

For those who may wish to study the "Jack Tales" further, there is an excellent collection by Richard Chase, **The Jack Tales**, published in Boston in 1943 by the Houghton Mifflin Company. Those who listen to the records will find these "Jack Tales" coming alive. The recordings are a rich complement to the printed page.

TITLE

SIDE A

A1 JACK AND THE GIANTS' NEW GROUND

SIDE B

B1 JACK AND THE GIANTS' NEW GROUND (Cont.)

B2 JACK AND THE VARMINTS