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Record No. AFS L 53

THE BALLAD HUNTER

Song Title and Singer

PART IX

THE BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME. Sung by Enoch Brown at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

SOON ONE MORNING. Sung by Dock Reed and Vera Hall at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

GOING WALK AROUND IN JORDAN, TELL THE NEWS. Sung by Clabe and Mary Amerson, Mattie Belland Mardy Tartt at Boyd, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

JUBILEE. Sung by Rev. B. D. Hall, Joe and Johnny Hall at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

STEAMBOAT LOADING. Explanation and holler by Richard Amerson at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

DOG CAUGHT A HOG. Played on mouth harp by Richard Amerson at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

SERMON ON JOB. Spoken by Richard Amerson, with moaning by Hettie Godfrey and Lillie Polk at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

JOB, JOB. Sung by Dock Reed and Vera Hall at Livingston, Alabama, 1940. Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax.

PART X

PICK A BALE O'COTTON. Sung by James (Iron Head) Baker, Will Crosby, R. D. Allen, and Mose (Clear Rock) Platt at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas, 1933. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

DAT'S ALRIGHT, HONEY. Sung by Mose (Clear Rock) Platt at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas, 1933. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

THE GEESE AND THE GOAT. (Dtory) Spoken by Mose (Clear Rock) Platt at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas, 1933. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

THE GRAY GOOSE. Sung by James (Iron Head) Baker at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas. John and Alan Lomax, 1934.

LITTLE JOHN HENRY. Sung by James (Iron Head) Baker at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas, 1934. Recorded by John A. Lomax.

SHORTY GEORGE. Sung by James (Iron Head) Baker at Central State Farm, Sugarland, Texas, 1934. Recorded by John A. 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.