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An annotated bibliography of children's books on American folklore published during the years 1951-1961

Juanita F. Miller

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS
ON AMERICAN FOLKLORE PUBLISHED DURING
THE YEARS 1951-1961

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
LIBRARY SERVICE

BY
JUANITA FOWLER MILLER

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
AUGUST, 1964
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is inhabited by a variety of races, nationalities and groups of people. Each has its own peculiarities and idiosyncrasies which give America a variety of cultural patterns. There is a fervent need "to understand how different cultural patterns create ways of life for people and to recognize the common concerns and needs of all people that are behind these differences."¹

Although folklore takes cognizance of many apparently trivial matters, it is an important factor in depicting a complete and vivid picture of the human race with all its strange, devious ways and beliefs, its fears and bravadoes, and its dreams. Webster defines folklore as the "customs, beliefs, and sayings handed down from generation to generation."² It is further stated,

In its narrower and more common sense, folklore applies only to the unwritten "literature" of a people. In this sense, it includes folk tales—myths, fables, legends, and fairy tales—and traditional songs, proverbs, riddles, and rhymes.³


American folklore, however, deals with riddles, rhymes, songs and folk tales that are rich in humor and wild exaggerations rather than myths, fables and fairy tales.

Before the invention of the many modern modes of entertainment, folklore was a source of enjoyment and recreation for the American people. Today the popularity of folklore is not limited to adults only, but extends to the children also. However, the value that children derive from folklore is more than enjoyment and recreation. It provides them "ethical truths, satisfaction of needs and variety."¹ This idea is further expounded in the *Anthology of Children's Literature*:

From his reading of the folktale, the child gains a yea-saying faith in the ultimate goodness of life, a recognition of the threat of evil in the world and even in himself, with magic weapons to conquer it. He gains the habit of wonder; a robust sense of humor; the ability to find enchantment in the most common day, and the power to thrust his imagination beyond himself and the limits of ignorance.²

In the preservation of folk materials, America is more fortunate than most other countries because "American folk customs grew up after the invention of printing. As a result, collectors have preserved almost every example of American folklore."³ Yet, it is assumed that not half the folk tales and customs of the American people have been unearthed and written down. Such a task would require scholars like the

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³ "Folklore," *op. cit.*, p. 283.
fames German brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, to collect, retell and make immortal the tales and customs of a nation. Nevertheless, a wealth of the human story has been tapped and there are numerous folk tales, customs and traditions in print today. The type of folk material that does exist and how much of it is written especially for children are questions that warrant answering. Therefore it was attempted to discover whether previous studies had included an annotated bibliography of children's books on American folklore published during the years 1951 through 1961. It was revealed that no such compilation existed. The only closely related studies which were found are those by Diehl,^1 Purdue,^2 and Burgess.^3 From the titles of these theses, it is assumed that they do not furnish an extensive annotated bibliography of books on American folklore for children.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this study is threefold: (1) to compile a bibliography of children's books on American folklore; (2) to annotate

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the bibliography in order to provide a general knowledge of the contents of the titles included; and, (3) to make accessible a classified bibliography which will serve as a reference for books written for children on American folklore.

The scope of this study is limited to children's books whose titles are listed in three or more of the following authoritative bibliographical sources: (1) Book List, 1 (2) Horn Book, 2 (3) School Library Journal, 3 and (4) Children's Catalog. 4 Only titles of those books whose publication dates occur during 1951 through 1961 were included.

Methodology

A thorough review of Library Literature 5 revealed that no previous studies had included an annotated bibliography of children's books on American folklore published during the years 1951 through 1961. Therefore, the classified sections of each issue of the Book List, School Library Journal, Horn Book, and Children's Catalog for the years 1951 through 1961 were consulted in order to obtain titles of children's books on American folklore. Only those books whose titles were cited in three or more of the aforementioned sources were used in this study.

As titles were secured from the sources indicated, the following information was also secured and recorded on 5 x 8 cards:

1. author
2. title
3. illustrator
4. place of publication
5. publisher
6. date
7. pagination
8. source

The books were obtained, read, and a descriptive annotation was written. Titles of books by date of publication were counted and percentages were determined. An analysis was made of each book in order to determine the nature of the contents. From this analysis a general description was given with special emphasis on the type of folk materials, nationality and occupation of the major characters and also the geographic regions associated with the major characters. Numbers and percentages were indicated by tables for titles classified by type of folk materials, nationality of major characters and geographic regions. However, some of the materials could not be identified with any particular nationality or geographic regions. Thus, in such cases, these were referred to in this study as the unclassified. In many instances titles were counted and listed more than once because they overlapped in their respective coverage fields.

Finally, the titles of books used in this study were compiled and alphabetically arranged by the following classifications: (1) nationality of major characters, (2) type of folk materials, and (3) geographic regions. With each entry, there is a descriptive annotation of the book.
In this study, type of folk materials includes; (1) folk tales, (2) rhymes, (3) riddles, and (4) games.\(^1\) The geographic regions apply to the Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, and the Western sections of the United States as well as the newly established states of Alaska and Hawaii.\(^2\)

**Significance**

This study provides a classified annotated bibliography of children's books on American folklore that were published during the period 1951 through 1961, therefore it should serve as a checklist for librarians to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of their collections in this area. It may further serve as a buying guide for books needed to balance the collection on American folklore for children. Such a list should also prove to be instrumental to librarians for readers' advisory service.

The classified list according to types of folk materials, nationality of major characters, and the geographic regions of the United States could be of intrinsic value to the individual teacher when confronted with the task of selecting supplementary reading materials for the students.

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\(^1\) "Folklore," loc. cit.

CHAPTER II

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES OF FOLK MATERIALS INCLUDED IN 27 SELECTED FOLKLORE TITLES

There were numerous books published during 1951 through 1961 on American folklore for children, but only 27 books met the criteria established for the selection of titles to be included in the bibliography. These 27 books were cited in three or more of the authoritative bibliographical sources; namely, Horn Book, Book List, Children's Catalog, and School Library Journal.

Eight of the selected books were published during the year 1957, representing the highest number of children's books on American folklore published during any one year. The fewest number of books published during any one year occurred in 1954, 1959 and 1960, with one book or four per cent each. Each of the years 1952 and 1958 had four or 15 per cent of the books published, while only two or seven per cent of the books were published during the years 1951, 1953, and 1956, respectively.

There were no books representing the year 1961 because the children's books on American folklore published during that year were not cited in three or more of the bibliographical sources used in this study (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF TITLES BY DATE OF PUBLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Books</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nature of the Contents

The 27 books used in this study included folk tales, rhymes, riddles, and games. An analysis of the contents of each book revealed 729 different titles.

Folk tales.—Of the 729 titles included in the samplings of folklore materials, 492 or 67 per cent were folk tales of four distinct types: (1) tall tales, (2) tales of the American Indians, (3) tales of American heroes, and (4) tales of bad men and desperadoes. Recurrent themes that prevailed among the folk tales were: (1) bravery, (2) trickery, (3) belief in the supernatural, and (4) the weather.

The tall tales included in the samplings totaled 389 which was 79 per cent of the titles. These tales grew out of the wild exaggerations and boasts of the frontiersmen and settlers as they made light of the many hardships and troubles they encountered during their daily occupations, personal experiences and activities. Reflected in the tall tales are the heart and stamina of the new growing nation in that there was the belief that anything could be achieved or accomplished. The weather provided the theme for many tall tales as the characters, through super human efforts, performed miraculous deeds to combat or conquer such hazardous conditions as droughts, floods, and storms. The people also delighted in tales about themselves, especially those revealing hilarious tricks played upon neighbors as well as the numerous feuds that existed among them.

There were 78 tales in which the American Indian or Indian life was reflected. This comprised 16 per cent of the folk tales. Although
the tales about the American Indians ranked second in the distribution of titles, their number was approximately one-fifth as many as compared with the tall tales. Unlike the tall tales, however, the tales about the American Indians expressed a great belief in the supernatural rather than extensive boasting and bragging about places, deeds and events. For the most part, they sought to explain the many phenomena of nature such as why the seven stars are in the sky; what causes droughts, famines, sickness, and death; and the origin of earth and man. Animals plus the good and evil spirits were major elements found in the lore of the American Indians.

Tales of American heroes found in the samplings evolved around the lives of individuals whom the people cherished and held in high esteem. Such folk tales constituted 19 or four per cent of the titles. In each tale, the hero was depicted as possessing superhuman strength, and or extraordinary wit. Occasionally, the hero's exceptional qualities were evident from birth or early childhood, as for example, the story of Pecos Bill who was reared by coyotes and Davy Crockett who killed a bear at the age of three. On the other hand, the hero's death was frequently as dramatic as he achieved immortality through the manner in which he died. This was true of John Henry who met his death in a contest with a steel drill; Casey Jones who died in a train wreck and Joe Magarac who sacrificed his body in a caldron of hot boiling steel.

The-boy-who-makes-good amid hardships and troubles was another prevailing characteristic found among the 19 tales about American heroes. Representative of this theme were such heroes as Abraham Lincoln, Davy Crockett and Andrew Jackson.
The type of folk tales occurring less often in the samplings were the tales of the badmen and desperadoes. There were only six titles, which constituted one per cent of the titles, in this category. It was revealed that these tales did not portray the bad men as being completely bad. Even though they ran afoul of the law constantly, underneath were always some good qualities such as fair play, sympathy for the poor and less fortunate, fearlessness and quick thinking encompassed by good judgment and reason.

Rhymes.—The rhymes included 143 or 30 per cent of the titles found in the samplings of folklore materials. Whereas the folk tales possessed an underlying theme, the rhymes simply reflected the surroundings and daily activities of the people. In general, there were three comprehensive elements appearing in the rhymes: (1) the physical surroundings, namely, the animals, hills, valleys, sea, and fields; (2) occupations; and (3) nonsense designed primarily to entertain.

Games.—The games represented 75 or 10 per cent of the titles of folklore materials. Among these games were found three basic types: (1) singing games which consisted of singing or chanting the lyrics while varied types of actions ensued; (2) play party games which were usually held around the fires or in the yards after the day's work had been completed; and (3) screams which actually were short narratives told by an individual but the ending of the narrative elicited a scream from the listener.

Riddles.—The type of folklore material occurring least in the samplings for this study were the riddles; only 19, which represented three per cent of the titles, were found. Riddles were usually presented
in the form of a question and a surprise or trick was concealed in the answer.

Table 2 shows the distribution of titles by the different types of folklore materials that were found in the samplings.

**Table 2**

**DISTRIBUTION OF TITLES BY TYPE FOUND IN SAMPLINGS OF FOLKLORE MATERIALS USED IN THIS STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Type</th>
<th>Specific Type</th>
<th>Number of Titles</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
<th>Total Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folk Tales</td>
<td>Tall Tales</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Tales</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heroes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bad Men and Desperadoes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>492</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhymes</td>
<td></td>
<td>143</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Singing Games</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play Party Games</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screams</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riddles</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>729</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nationality of Major Characters Treated**

American folklore is not wholly derived from the Americans. Instead it is the product of many groups and nationalities. The folk tales, rhymes, riddles, and games included in this study treated the American Negro, American whites, American Indians, Mexicans, European natives, Alaskans and Hawaiians.
The traditions, customs and beliefs of the aforementioned groups and nationalities were revealed in the 729 titles 755 times. In many instances titles were counted several times especially those that treated more than one nationality. Hence, the number of titles, according to nationality of major characters, exceeded the total number of titles included by type of folklore materials.

The Negro.---It was revealed that 246 or 32 per cent of the titles treated the Negro. Further analysis of the contents showed the Negroes depicted as field hands, simpletons or workers in some menial capacity on the master's plantation. The themes were concerned with supernatural forces, trickery and antics of the simpleton.

Tales about animals, particularly those of the Brer Rabbit cycle, occurred frequently in the lore of the Negro. Animals in the tales possessed all the physical characteristics of a human being; yet the speech was that of Negro dialect. In many of these tales there were philosophical elements which reflected the Negro as he attempted to overcome oppressions, hardships and troubles. Too, many of the animal tales were told for sheer pleasure. The predominance and survival of much of the Negro lore is attributed to the Negro's social role as storyteller to the master's children.

Appearing less frequently in the folklore materials were tales that presented the Negro as bad man or as hero. Representing the Negro as bad man were the tales about Stacklee; and representing the Negro as the hero was the John Henry legend.

The American White.---Folklore materials in which the native born American whites were treated as major characters had a numerical
representation of 201 or 27 per cent of the titles which covered the areas of folk tales, rhymes, riddles and games. A comparison of the native born American whites with other nationalities revealed that the whites, in most instances, were portrayed in a superior capacity. That is to say, in the final analysis, the whites were not depicted as inferior to other nationalities or groups. Any inferior status occurred only in those plots involving his own ethnic group.

The American Indian.—The American Indian was treated as a major character in 78 stories or 10 per cent of the folklore materials. The primitive and superstitious nature was indicated in those tales relating to the supernatural. However, in many instances, the Indian was presented as humorous and as the possessor of undaunted courage.

Mexicans.—Folklore materials in which the Mexicans were major characters comprised 23 or three per cent of the titles. The predominance of Mexican characters as compared with other nationalities and groups outside the United States was attributed to the close proximity of Mexico to the United States.

European natives.—There were 16 or two per cent of the titles that treated Europeans as major characters. Included in this group were the Dutch with a representation of five titles; the Irish, four titles; the French, three titles; and the Jews and Hungarians, two titles each.

Alaskans.—Major characters who were natives of Alaska were found in seven or one per cent of the titles. These stories portrayed the Alaskans mainly as hunters and trappers. Their heroic and courageous deeds were related to their struggle for survival under extreme cold weather conditions and their battles against the wild and ferocious animals that existed in that region.
Hawaiians.—Being relatively new as citizens of the United States, Hawaiians occurred less frequently as major characters in the folklore materials included in the samplings. Their numerical representation was five, thereby affording them one per cent of the titles according to major characters by nationalities. Hawaiian characters, in one respect, resembled the Indians because they, too, lived close to nature. Supernatural elements were used to explain all of the mysterious phenomena of nature that were incomprehensible to them. Contrary to the American whites and the Negroes, their hero, for example, was not one who could ride the wildest horse or one who could drive the most steel; rather, their conception of a hero was one who possessed miraculous abilities such as being able to see and hear in other worlds.

Unclassified.—Titles included in the unclassified category consisted primarily of rhymes, riddles and games. No definite nationality could be identified with this group of folk materials. These titles represented 179 or 24 per cent of the folklore materials according to the nationality of the major characters treated in the samplings (see Table 3).

**TABLE 3**

DISTRIBUTION OF TITLES ACCORDING TO THE NATIONALITY OF THE MAJOR CHARACTERS TREATED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number of Titles</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negroes</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Whites</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indians</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexicans</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Natives</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaskans</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiians</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>755</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Occupations Treated

The 27 samplings of folklore materials revealed that boasting and exaggerations were characteristics associated with people affiliated with various occupations where an individual, the occupational giant, was either real or created. Embodied within that particular person were all the traits, qualities, and ideals pertinent to the occupation. Tales of this nature extended further than a mere insight or knowledge of the job, but into these tales were deeply rooted feelings of the men behind them.

Symbolic of the railroad men were John Henry and Casey Jones; Pecos Bill embodied all the qualities of the cowboy; Old Stormalong was the sailor's sailor; Mike Fink possessed the image of both sailor and hunter; Joe Magarac had the ideals and virtues of the steelmen; Johnny Appleseed was the pioneer in agriculture, particularly among the apple growers; Paul Bunyan, with his superhuman strength, represented the lumberjacks; David Crockett and Daniel Boone were hunters and Indian fighters; and Abraham Lincoln and Andy Jackson symbolized the statesman and politician.

Occupations were revealed not only in the folk tales but in the rhymes, riddles and games about millers, firemen, policemen, farmers, and bakers. However, it was only from the folk tales that a vivid account of the details of an occupation could be ascertained.

Geographic Regions

Geographic regions, as specified in the methodology, refer to the Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, and
Western sections of the United States as well as the newly established states of Alaska and Hawaii. An additional classification was used in order to include those folk materials that could not be identified with any definite region. The 27 books covering the various regions included 760 titles.

Southeastern.—The mountainous areas and the plantations that are situated in the Southeastern section of the United States provided the setting for much of the folklore materials. Specifically, there were 409 or 54 per cent of the titles that dealt with this region. Customs and traditions of life on the plantation were found in the folklore materials of the Negro, while the many peculiar notions, doings, the feuds and tricks, the tall talk and sayings are reflected in the hill-billy stories from the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Some of the outstanding heroes representing the Southeastern region were found in the tales of Davy Crockett, Andy Jackson, and Daniel Boone.

Western.—There were 54 or seven per cent of the titles about the Western region. In this region, the physical surroundings, namely, the ranches, prairies, mountains, gold and great water areas were paramount features revealed in much of the folklore materials. These features were evidenced primarily from the tales about cowboys, Indians, and badmen of the West.

Northeastern.—The Northeastern region included 50 or six per cent of the titles in which the folklore materials treated the various occupations and activities of the people within that section. Further
analysis of contents indicated that in those areas bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, or areas possessing huge waterways, tales of the sailors and fishermen predominated. Similarly, in areas containing vast forests, the folk materials treating the traditions and customs of the woodsmen, loggers, and hunters were more numerous. Supernatural elements existing in this region prevailed mostly in the folklore materials from the New England states because the people were great believers in "hexes," a form of witchcraft.

**South Central.**—There were 29 or four per cent of the titles consisting of folklore materials from the South Central region. These folk materials abounded in folklore of the cattle country and the lore of the oil fields. Excessive bragging and place-name stories were also characteristic of the various folk materials about this region.

**North Central.**—Providing the setting for 26 or three per cent of the titles were those related to the North Central section of the United States. The folklore materials, like those of the South Central region dealt with the traditions and customs of the cowboys as well as those of the Indians. From the Great Plains came themes about the weather as life and conditions were depicted during terrible droughts and hail storms. Insects, such as the colossal grasshoppers and mosquitoes, were topics for many yarns, tall tales and tall talks.

**Alaska.**—Alaska provided seven or one per cent of the titles. This state is known for its extreme cold weather conditions and short days during which very little sunlight prevails. Hence, these climatic elements were found frequently in the folklore materials about Alaska.
Hawaii.—Hawaii, like Alaska, is also a newly established state. From this state came five or one per cent of the titles. The ocean surrounds Hawaii, consequently, the ocean and its many denizens occurred frequently in much of the folklore materials. Supernatural elements, similar to that of the Indian lore, existed in Hawaiian folk materials for the people held many unscientific beliefs about the origin of the earth, man, fire, about life in other worlds, et cetera.

Unclassified.—It was impossible to make accurate regional classifications for rhymes, riddles, games, and some folk tales. Therefore, such titles were grouped and labeled as the unclassified. These materials had a numerical number of 180 which constituted 24 per cent of the titles that treated the various geographic regions of the United States (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1**

DISTRIBUTION OF TITLES BY GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Number of Selections</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>760</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

Following the criteria established in the selection of children's books on American folklore, 27 books were selected, analyzed, annotated
and compiled for this bibliography. The books included were copyrighted during the years 1951 through 1961. No three or more bibliographical sources cited any children's books on American folklore for the year of 1961, hence there are no books included in the bibliography for that particular year.

The contents of the 27 books treated the folklore materials of folk tales, rhymes, riddles and games that consisted of 729 different titles. Of the 729 titles, the folk tales comprised 492 or 67 per cent. This indicates that the folk tales are the most popular of the folk materials represented in this study. There were four distinct kinds of folk tales: (1) tall tales, (2) tales of the American Indians, (3) tales of American heroes, and (4) tales of the bad men and desperadoes. Underlying these folk tales were four recurrent themes: (1) bravery, (2) trickery, (3) belief in the supernatural, and (4) the weather.

The second type of folklore material found in the samplings was the rhymes which comprised 143 or 20 per cent of the titles. These rhymes either reflected such physical surroundings as the animals, hills, valleys, and water areas or treated the various occupations performed by the people.

The third type of folklore material, games, included 75 or 10 per cent of the titles. Further analysis of the games revealed that they were of three types: (1) singing games, (2) play party games and (3) screams.

Represented the least among these types of folklore materials were the riddles. This type of folklore included only 19 or three per cent of the titles.
American folklore does not necessarily involve only American people. It was found in the analysis of the samplings that several nationalities were treated as major characters in American folklore materials. There were 755 titles representing the Negroes, native born American whites, American Indians, Mexicans, European natives, Alaskans and Hawaiians. However, the majority of the folklore materials according to nationality of major characters treated the Negro which included 246 or 32 per cent of the titles. Tales of the Brer Rabbit cycle were predominant in the lore of the Negro. The remaining titles treating major characters are as follows: native born American whites, 201 or 27 per cent; Mexicans, 23 or three per cent; European natives, composed of the Dutch, Jews, Hungarians, French, French and Irish, 16 or two per cent; Alaskans, seven or one per cent; Hawaiians, five or one per cent; and unclassified 179 or 24 per cent.

Further analysis of contents of the samplings showed that the folklore materials treated various occupations. Each occupation, in most cases, was represented by a hero who symbolized the dreams and aspirations of the individuals performing those jobs. There were found occupations of hunters, fishermen, sailors, statesmen, oil drillers, railroad men, lumberjacks, steelmen, farmers, bakers, millers, cowboys and policemen.

Providing the setting for the different folklore materials were the geographic regions of the United States; namely, Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, Western, and the newly established states of Alaska and Hawaii. There were 760 titles whose contents depicted the many customs and traditions peculiar to those
regions. However, it was necessary to list some titles as unclassified because their identity could not be accurately established with any particular region. The Southeastern region, with a numerical representation of 109 or 5.4 per cent, included the majority of the titles; whereas the fewest titles, five or one per cent, were from Hawaii. The remaining regions were represented as follows: Western region, 54 or seven per cent; the Northeastern, 50 or six per cent; the South Central, 29 or four per cent; North Central, 26 or three per cent; and Alaska, seven or one per cent. Listed among the unclassified were 180 titles which constituted 24 per cent of the titles by geographic region.

Many of the books included in the bibliography overlapped in their respective fields of coverage.
CHAPTER III

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author according to three classifications: nationality, type of folklore materials, and geographic regions. Bibliographic information for each book is listed in the following order: author, title, illustrator, place of publication, publisher, date, pagination, and symbols to indicate the source of entry. Under nationality this information is followed by a descriptive annotation of the book when the title is first listed. Therefore, no annotation is included for multiple entries of the same title.

Symbols used to indicate the source in which the entry was cited are:

- BKL = Book List
- CC = Children's Catalog
- HB = Horn Book
- SLJ = School Library Journal

Nationality

American Whites


An exciting book that tells of the many episodes of Mike Fink, a great American legendary character, as he journeys up and down the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.
Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ

The editor has compiled a number of appealing folk tales from various sections of the United States. Included are such favorites as "The Old Woman and the Bear," "The Indian's Shinny Game," and "Mister Deer's My Riding Horse."

Credle, Ellis. Tall Tales from the High Hills, and Other Stories; illus. by Richard Bennett. New York: Nelson and Sons, 1957, 156p. BKL CC HB SLJ

Twenty "tall," comical and humorous tales that reveal the customs, sayings, and beliefs of the people from the Blue Ridge Mountains. The impossible is told with such vividness that one associates the incidents with reality. The characters' ability to outwit their scheming neighbors, wild ferocious animals and even the Devil provides many wonderful moments of reading.


Bowleg Bill, an eight foot cowboy from Wyoming, goes to sea. The absurd things that happen to Bill are wonderful exaggerations and terrifying experiences.


Illustrated in black and white pictures is the new collection of tales of Pecos Bill appearing for the first time in a book for children. There are fascinating stories of how Pecos Bill outwitted the vicious and disreputable bad men who sought to do him harm. Not only does Bill fight the bad men, but the monsters of the sea as well.


This book contains a collection of folk tales from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio of which many were told directly to the author as he traveled through these parts of the country.


A collection of nonsense rhymes; riddles, tongue twisters and counting-out rhymes; play party games, and signs and predictions of the children from the mountains of Tennessee as they played in the warm summer air, or as they gathered around a comforting fire on a chilly winter's night.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tr>
<td>Against a background of big, lavishly illustrated pages is a compendium of tall tales, stories of bad men, heroes, tall talk, Indian tales, screams, and many others. Further enhancing the book is a section of state lore which gives the folklore, nickname, official bird and flower of each state. This section is extremely valuable as a reference, especially for social studies classes.</td>
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<td>In &quot;Cow Cave,&quot; which is presently Brooklyn, New York, ten little Dutch boys meet nine little Indian boys and by playing together, they gradually invent baseball. This is an amusing modern folk tale with beautiful illustrations.</td>
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<td>LeGrand, Henderson. When the Mississippi was Wild; illus. by the author.</td>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1952, 44p.</td>
<td>CC HB SLJ</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>44p</td>
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<td>A tall tale in picture book form which relates the story of Old Al, an alligator, who lived in the Mississippi River and made life exciting for everyone who attempted to keep him from whipping up storms from the Gulf of Mexico. A delightful book for boys and girls who like animal stories.</td>
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<td>A very unique tall tale of Stormalong, a cabin boy, who creates many awkward and confusing situations aboard ship because of his enormous size. The reader will enjoy the many sidecracking experiences of Stormalong and his crew.</td>
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<td>A new version, in picture book form, of an old familiar tale. As Johnny leaves home, he is given a cake as a departing present. The cake escapes his hands and in trying to recapture it, Johnny is led to many places. His new found possessions enable him to return home where the cake is renamed Journey Cake.</td>
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<td>Shapiro, Irwin. Tall Tales of America; illus. by Al Schmidt.</td>
<td>New York: Simon and Schuster Distributors; Guild Press, 1958, 124p.</td>
<td>CC BKL SLJ</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>124p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humorous yarns of Pecos Bill, Stormalong, Johnny Appleseed, Davy Crocket, Paul Bunyan, Joe Magarac and others are told with vigor and in a colorful language to delight readers of all ages.</td>
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</table>
During the frontier days, a terrible drought prevailed over Nashville. "Why it was so dry there was no point in chewing tobacco for you couldn't spit." There was plenty of water in East Tennessee, however. Therefore, Andy decided to go over and bring some back. How he brings the water to Nashville, and his encounters with the ferocious land pirates and the venomous hoopsnake will captivate the attention of the reader.

A hilarious tale filled with wild exaggerations of Davy Crockett's hunt for bears in West Tennessee. A shortage of bears to hunt, a bewitched gun, and an earthquake that causes him to lose the few furs he did have, force Davy to believe that he is the most unfortunate man alive.

Rhymes and games that were collected from cities, streets and lanes. Some are the jump-robe and bouncing ball varieties; and some are call and response. In many instances, directions are given as to how the games are played.

A collection of many colorful and charming selections of jingles, counting-out rhymes, schoolyard games, jump-robe and skipping verses that are fun to learn, chant and play. These rhymes and games grew out of the usual activities of American hunters, fishermen, cowboys, farmers, cooks and housewives.

Captured in this book are many interesting legends of the Indians. The central character is John Rattling-Gourd, who supposedly tells these legends of his people to contemporary children of the Qualla Indian Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

American Indians
For boys and girls who are interested in Indians, this book contains a collection of myths and legends of the California Indians in their attempt to explain the world of nature.


For the young reader, here are delightful and interesting tales of the Indians. In each tale, the coyote is the main character. These tales are written in a simple language that makes reading and comprehension easy.

Amusing stories that the Cheyenne Indians told around the campfires long before the White man came to America. The tales attempt to explain such phenomena as why the seven stars are in the sky; the creation of man; deaths, droughts, and famines.

American Negroes

A modern folk tale that shows the development of Sam Patch as he learns to take bigger and better jumps. Sam is finally able to defeat Kaskaskia, the snapping turtle, which had boasted that it was the greatest jumper in the world.

Into one collection are assembled for the first time all of the inimitable tales of Brer Rabbit, Brer B'er, Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and all the others which were told by Uncle Remus. The glossary is of intrinsic value because the book is rich in dialect.

Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ

Thirty-one humorous and philosophical tales that were gathered from Negro storytellers in the rural areas of Alabama, New Jersey, and Michigan. Familiar tales about the rabbit teasing the fox, the terrapin's racing contest, and the skirmishes of the Devil and the preacher are included. An unusual feature is the documented appendices in which the author relates situations and characters in the tales to the folklore of other countries.


Taylor, Margaret (comp.). *Did You Feed My Cow?* illus. by Paul Gladone. New York: Crowell, 1956, 98p. BKL HB SLJ

**Mexicans**


When Juan mistakes the word "dog" for "door," a hilarious and exciting adventure begins. After accidentally frightening off bandits, Juan achieves the status of a rich man.


Eighteen tales and legends of Mexico and Mexican people that present their religions, their moral precepts, and the historical changes that affected their lives.


**Alaskans**


A collection of folk tales from the American Islands and Alaska, depicting a rich variety of beauty, humor, and folk tradition. These tales enlighten the reader of the many beliefs, traditions and customs of the people of Hawaii and Alaska.


**Hawaiians**

Native Europeans

Cothran, Jean (ed.). *With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales*; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ


Shapiro, Irwin. *Tall Tales of America*; illus. by Al Schmidt. New York: Simon and Schuster Distributors; Guild Press, 1958, 121p. CC BKL SLJ


Types of Folklore Materials

Folk Tales


Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Many Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ


Credle, Ellis. Tall Tales from the High Hills, and Other Stories; illus. by Richard Bennett. New York: Nelson and Sons, 1957, 156p. BKL CC HB SLJ


Jagendorf, Maritz A. Sand in the Bag, and Other Folk Stories from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois; illus. by John Moment. New York: Vanguard Press, 1952, 192p. BKL CC HB

Jordan, Philip Dillon (comp.). The Burro Benedicto, and Other Folk Tales and Legends of Mexico; illus. by Richard M. Powers. New York: Coward-McCann, 1950, 92p. HB BKL SLJ


Shapiro, Irwin. *Tall Tales of America*; illus. by Al Schmidt. New York: Simon and Schuster Distributors; Guild Press, 1958, 124p. CC BKL SLJ


Rhymes


Taylor, Margaret (comp.). *Did You Feed My Cow?* illus. by Paul Galdone. New York: Crowell, 1956, 85p. BKL HB SLJ


Riddles


Games


Taylor, Margaret (comp.). *Did You Feed My Cow?* illus. by Paul Galdone. New York: Crowell, 1956, 85p. BKL HB SLJ


Regional Classification

Northeastern

Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ


Shapiro, Irwin. Tall Tales of America; illus. by Al Schmidt. New York: Simon and Schuster Distributors; Guild Press, 1958, 124p CC BKL SLJ

Taylor, Margaret (comp.). Did You Feed My Cow? illus. by Paul Galdone. New York: Crowell, 1956, 85p. BKL HB SLJ


Southeastern

Bell, Corydon. John Rattling-Gourd of Big Cave; illus. by the author. New York: MacMillan, 1953, 103p. BKL HB SLJ


Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC HB SLJ

Credle, Ellis. *Tall Tales from the High Hills, and Other Stories*; illus. by Richard Bennett. New York: Nelson and Sons, 1957, 156p. BKL CC HB SLJ


North Central

Cothran, Jean (ed.). *With a Wag, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales*; illus. by Clifford N. Geary, 1954, 95p. BKL CC SLJ


South Central


Jordon, Philip Dillon (comp.). *The Burro Benedicto, and Other Folk Tales of Mexico*; illus. by Richard M. Powers. New York: Coward-McCann, 1960, 92p. HB BKL SLJ

LeGrand, Henderson. When the Mississippi was Wild; illus. by the author. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1952. 44p. BKL HB SLJ

Western

Cothran, Jean (ed.). With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folk Tales; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. New York: McKay Co., 1954, 95p. BKL CC SLJ


Alaska


Hawaii

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Books


Periodicals


Reports