
Cultural history, regrettably, has long been one of the most neglected branches of the field, in comparison to political, military, and scientific history and biography, for instance. Hence, it is most encouraging to see a work of the compass and fine scholarship of this one, particularly dealing with that murky region, folklore.

This massive work is based on the instrumental part of a large folk song and music collection made by Bayard and a few helpers, notably Dr. Phil R. Jack, during thirty-five years of fieldwork in south-western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia, plus two collections provided by Jacob A. Evanson and Thomas J. Hoge. It must have taken up a large part of the author's time since the publication of his earlier work, Hill Country Tunes, in 1944.

It includes 651 fiddle and forty-four fife tunes, many of them in from a dozen to a score of versions. All of these are provided with information as to sources, variant titles, bibliographical material where available, and other useful data.

It is extremely doubtful if any other living man could have produced such a piece of research. Bayard's expertise in the field of general folklore, as well as fiddle and fife tunes could hardly be matched.

While not a work for the general reader, this monumental volume is a most noteworthy contribution to our knowledge of such rural entertainment in Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh

GEORGE SWETNAM

The Dreadful Month. By CARLTON JACKSON. (Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1982. Pp. 161. Foreword, preface, epilogue, index. $16.95, cloth; $7.95, paper.)

"The Dreadful Month" of December 1907 is here the subject of an intensive study by Carlton Jackson of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. In the book's first chapter, the author comprehensive-ly records the mining disasters that occurred during these thirty-one