

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN FOLKSONG: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC REPORT

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Introduction

This report is based on the author's preparation for a tutorial in folklore. The course was requested by a former student, a music major, and the following course contract was developed: 1) introductory readings in folklore and folksong, 2) readings on the German-American folksong, and 3) preparation of a collection plan and questionnaire for field work on German-American folksong material among the Old Order Amish in the Lansing, Michigan area.

The bibliography was compiled from the author's personal bibliographic collection, Tolzmann (1975), Lomax and Robertson (1942), and Haywood (1951a-c). The vast majority of titles, including the only research report, Yoder (1971), pertain to speakers of the Pennsylvania German dialect. The only regularly scheduled coursework in the area seems to be "Pennsylvania Dutch Music," which is offered by William T. Parsons, director of the Pennsylvania Dutch Studies Program at Ursinus College.

A preliminary list of research needs would be the following: 1) field collection of folksongs, using methodological guides such as Leach and Glassie (1968) or Goldstein (1964), 2) collection and organization of printed or recorded material mentioned or included in more ephemeral sources, 3) preparation of a comprehensive research report, and 4) development of material suitable for inclusion in academic coursework and surveys of German-Americana.

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