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Regional Folk Beliefs

Edward D. Ives

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Cp80: American Folklore
Spring Semester, 1965

Text: Dorson, Richard M., Buying the Wind (Chicago, 1963).

On reserve: Dorson, Richard M., American Folklore.
Thompson, Stith, The Folktale.

In the reference room: Thompson, Stith, Motif-Index of Folk Literature
R398.012/T377
Thompson, Stith, The Types of the Folktale
R016.398/Aa74a.

- I. Feb. ²~~3~~: Aims of the Course
Feb. ⁴~~6~~: Some Definitions. Collecting Folklore.
Reading: BW 1-20; T 3-10, 406-412.
- II. Feb. 9: Indices and Archives.
Reading: T 406-427
Feb. 11: Belief and Superstition.
Reading: BW 27-39, 333-340.
- ✓ III. Feb. 16: Birth and Infancy.
Feb. 18: Death and Forerunners
Reading: BW 63-64.
- IV. Feb. 23: Luck
Feb. 25: Water-Witching
Reading: BW 319-323.
- V. Mar. 2: Plants and Animals
Reading: BW 118-128
Mar. 4: Folk Medicine
Reading: BW 323-332.
DECISION: COLLECTION OR PAPER.
- VI. Mar. 9: Healers and Second Sight.
Reading: BW 261-269, 455-459.
Mar. 11: Witches and Wonder Workers.
Reading: BW 55-62, 111-117, 314-319.
- VII. Mar. 16: Legend: A Definition.
Reading: BW 62-63, 435-441; ~~2~~(recommended) T 234-271
Mar. 18: The Devil in Belief and Legend
- VIII. Mar. 23: MIDTERM PRELIM
Mar. 25: Ghosts and Haunted Houses. PROGRESS REPORT
Reading: BW 191-192, 300-313.

SPRING VACATION

- IX. Apr. 6: Guest Lecturer: Ellen Stekert, Wayne State Univ.
Apr. 8: Legends: Conclusion
Reading: BW 295-299.

- X. Apr.13: Jokes and Anecdotes
Reading: BW 78-94, 129-135, 181-189, 351-358, 442-454
- Apr.15: Jokes and Anecdotes.
- XI. Apr.20: The Tall Tale
Reading: BW 347-351; AF 199-243
- Apr.22: Tall Tale Heroes
Reading: *BW 21-161
- XII. Apr.27: Characters and Folk-Heroes.
Reading: BW 40-54, 65-77, 512-522.
- Apr.29: Characters and Folk-Heroes.
Reading: *BW 163-288
- XIII. May 4: The Märchen . . .
PAPER DUE.
- May 6: The Märchen.
Reading: BW 168-180, 203-212, 246-260, 341-346
423-435.
- XIV. May 11: The Märchen.
Reading: Northeast Folklore IV(1963), 1-70
- May 13: North American Indian Folklore
Reading: *BW 289-414.
- XV. May 18: North American Indian Folklore.
- May 20: North American Indian Folklore.
Reading: *BW 415-535.

Quizzes: You should expect a quiz on any day for which reading has been assigned. Missed quizzes count as zero; in order to have the zero removed, you must give me a written excuse within a week of the cut.

Readings: Assignments that are starred and underlined follow Dorson's regional plan for the book. You will already have read much of the material in each of these sections when we took up the particular genres along the way. Nevertheless, you should either re-read or (at the least) review this material, and of course you should read carefully Dorson's introductions and the material not previously assigned.

Paper: The paper for this course may be either a first-hand collection of tales and legends or a study based on other people's first-hand collections. Let's consider these separately:

1. A Collection: Turn in a collection of about two dozen items (not counting beliefs and superstitions) of folklore interest, following carefully the mimeographed "Guide for Collecting Folklore and Writing the Report for Cp30: American Folklore." There is only one additional instruction: a third to a half (though it could be more) of your collection must be on some special topic. For example, you might include a dozen variants of ~~the~~ one joke or legend. Or it might be a collection of tales about one specific type of person ("athlete" or "professor" stories). You should have settled on a "special topic" by the March 25

progress report. If there is any aspect of this assignment that you do not understand, please come talk to me about it at your earliest convenience.

2. A Study: Usually a study will involve working with material to be found in the Northeast Folklore Society Archives. You should settle on a topic by March 4. Make an appointment with me before that date for this purpose.

Student: Put this page in place
of page 7 in the "Guide"

Your name

Harriet Farnham-14-

page number in
your collection

(Pulpit Rock)

Title of story. Since title
was supplied by the collector, not
the informant, it's in parentheses.

The Devil preached a sermon to the fish on Pulpit Rock at
Robbinston. The Devil did not like the attitude of the haddock. He
jumped in and caught one with his thumb and finger. To this day the
haddock has dirty marks on each side of its neck where the thumb and
finger touched and marks on its sides where the haddock was
scratched as it was trying to get away.

where and when
collected

Coll.: Red Beach, Me., Oct. 24, 1960

Name, age, and
address of informant

Inf.: Martin Sullivan⁽³⁰⁾, RFD 1, Calais.

C

Type of transcript
See page 3 for this.
Here it means "Informant's
content, but my words"

Note: Mr. Sullivan did not believe the story; said it was "just a
yarn he'd heard," but he'd often told the story to his children.
He wasn't sure that this is how Pulpit Rock got its name, but
that's where the story is supposed to have taken place.

This is Motif A 2217.3.2 Marks on certain fish from Devil's fingerprints.

Put any thing in the notes that bear on
informant's attitudes. Also include here any
comments he might have made on the story.
And any comparative material you can give.