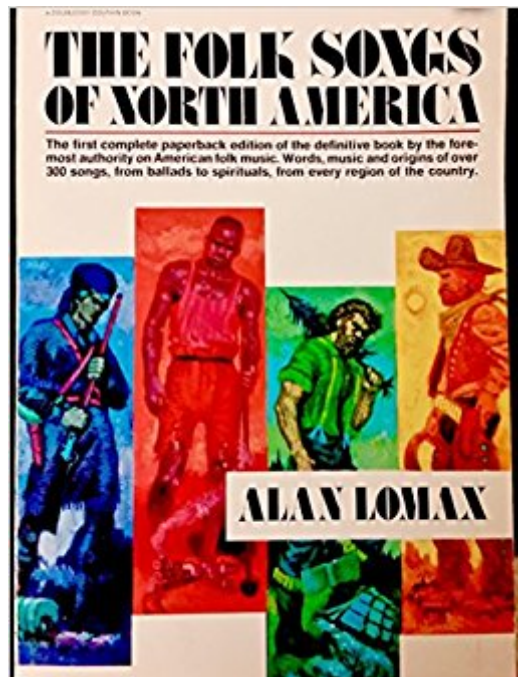




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# The Folk Songs Of North America: In The English Language



## Synopsis

After more than 25 years of intensive research and in the field collecting, Alan Lomax, the most widely recognized authority on folk songs in the world, assembled over 300 songs in this book which the New York Times called "the fullest, most representative and best edited popular anthology of American folk songs so far compiled". Besides being a collection of memorable songs, **THE FOLK SONGS OF NORTH AMERICA**, IS ALSO AN AUTHORITATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF FOLK SONGS IN America. For Mr. Lomax believes folk song is closely related to fantasy and the life of the unconscious and that, in folk songs, the American people have put forth their dreams and their repressed desires, both good and evil. Thus, in tracing the origin and development of each of the songs, Mr. Lomax presents not only a fresh interpretation of American folk music, but, quoting liberally from folk biographies, folk tales, and from other American documents, a people's history of the United States. For in these folk songs and in folk comment, the people have set down in plain and delightful language their own view of their American heritage. Each of the more than 300 songs is ready to be sung and played - with arrangements that even a beginner can perform. Divided into four sections - North, Southern Mountains and Backwoods, Negro South, and West - each song has either a piano accompaniment or guitar chords. In addition, there are notes by Mr. Lomax on how the songs should be sung, instructions on how to play American folk guitar and banjo, and bibliographies of records and books. Stunningly illustrated, **THE FOLK SONGS OF NORTH AMERICA** is an invaluable book for both students and fans alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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*Folk Songs of North America* is much more than a collection of folk songs. It is a comprehensive study of the nature of folk music, its historical and cultural underpinnings, and the sociological impetus for individual tunes. As performing artist, I enjoy playing to a listening audience and typically introduce different pieces with a narrative background to give greater meaning to the lyrics. *Folk Songs of North America* provides you with all this key information, either for your own interest, or to share with others. This is a very large collection of music and one that is well worth the purchase price. The only thing I did not like about the text is the cover art. It looks cheesy. The content is deserving of a textbook quality cover. Anyone who is serious about folk music needs to own this book.

A great piece of work from Lomax, the Lomax collaborators, and publisher Doubleday. Large format, decorative cloth over hardback boards, with a heavy-duty binding. Many illustrations. 317 songs. 623 pages. 16 page introduction by Lomax. Chapter introductions by Lomax or his team. Multiverse lyrics and alternate lyrics. Color front pastedown map showing the locations of different Song Style Families. Color back pastedown map of the Names and Places of the Songs. Every song appears to be annotated by Lomax, or by his team, with an introduction explaining the background of the song and quotes from Americans such as Faulkner, Woody Guthrie, or Reuben Delano. The simpler songs are notated with melody and guitar chords. The more complex ones have a piano accompaniment. There are over 25 pp of Appendices: Book List, Guitar and Banjo Guide, Discography, Index of Song Titles, Index of First Lines.

This was a gift for my brother-in-law. He had given an older copy of this book that he'd had for many, many years to a good friend. When he was showing it to me and telling me what a special book it was and why he was giving it to his friend, I could tell how much it meant to him. So I thought it would make a great Christmas present to him if I could find another one for him. He was so surprised when he opened it! And he started once again showing me things in the book that made it so special to him. So if you know anyone who plays guitar or has ever played a guitar, this would be a wonderful gift that they would treasure for many years to come.

we had owned a copy before. Great used copy, very clean and high quality for the price.

The best collection of American folk songs I know of. If you know a better one, please let me know. The cover had a bit of age damage on the front and started to fall apart after a few days, which was unexpected. The seller did an excellent job, offering it at a very low price and with a low shipping rate.

I bought this book when it was new 45 years ago. I learned to play the guitar and sing folk songs by going through the pages of this book and trying to do as many as I can. Some caught on, some didn't. Decades later I started to seriously listen to blues and banjo music, fiddling, and old time ballads. I started study old time music seriously. I bought this book again and went through it. So many songs well known by lovers and students of the blues and old time music of banjo playing and fiddling of Black and Canadian Maritime folk music that I had not remembered or had not known were there as well as the obvious songs. Having said that, this book reflects the particular

weaknesses of Alan Lomax and his work. This is a book of public domain traditional music collected by Lomax and his father and others, but copyrighted in the name of Alan Lomax. The book hues pretty close to Lomax's general romantic "Americanism" and belief in some inherent superiority of "folk" music over "commercial music" whereas recent scholarship suggests the interaction between the two is more important than the difference. However, this is the basic collection of American folk songs. The advances we have made in the availability of recordings of all kinds of traditional music, in the specialization and extension of scholarship of specific genre, specific cultures and sub cultures, and other aspects of the music mean probably no one today would attempt to publish one big book of general traditional folk songs. However, that has come in large part by musicians, scholars, and enthusiasts who came out of the generation who learned their folk songs through this book and other work Lomax and his colleagues did. If you love real folk music, this is a good book to have.

A great piece of work from Lomax, the Lomax collaborators, and publisher Doubleday. Large format, decorative cloth over hardback boards, with a heavy-duty binding. Many illustrations. 317 songs. 623 pages. 16 page introduction by Lomax. Chapter introductions by Lomax or his team. Multiverse lyrics and alternate lyrics. Color front pastedown map showing the locations of different Song Style Families. Color back pastedown map of the Names and Places of the Songs. Every song appears to be annotated by Lomax, or by his team, with an introduction explaining the background of the song and quotes from Americans such as Faulkner, Woody Guthrie, or Reuben Delano. The simpler songs are notated with melody and guitar chords. The more complex ones have a piano accompaniment. There are over 25 pp of Appendices: Book List, Guitar and Banjo Guide, Discography, Index of Song Titles, Index of First Lines.

This is a great book if you are into early folk music of America. I am glad to have this as I used to sing at folk festivals when I was younger and sure could have used this.

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