



## **Ozark Folksongs Collection (C3774)**

**Collection Number:** C3774

**Collection Title:** Ozark Folksongs Collection

**Dates:** 1919-1957

**Creator:** Randolph, Vance, 1892-1980

**Abstract:** The *Ozark Folksongs* Collection contains the original typescript of the four-volume work as published by the State Historical Society of Missouri between 1946 and 1950. The manuscript was purchased for \$1000 and prepared for publication by Frances Guthrie Emberson apparently in consultation with, or at least with encouragement from, Henry M. Belden, professor of English at the University of Missouri and founder of the Missouri Folk-Lore Society. Photographs from the book are included, as is a typescript of Chapter XIV, "Unprintable Songs" which was left out of the four-volume work. In addition, there are two volumes entitled "'Unprintable' Songs From the Ozarks" sold to the Society in 1956 for \$50. These "unprintable" songs appear to be copies of those for which Randolph sold publication rights to Gershon Legman.

**Collection Size:** 3.1 cubic feet  
(122 folders, 2 volumes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ozark Folksongs Collection* (C3774); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** Consult the reference staff about the donor information for this collection.

**Alternate Forms Available:** Photographs from the collection have been digitized and are available online in the Photographs collection:

<https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/search/searchterm/C3774>.

**Processed by:** Processed by a State Historical Society of Missouri staff member, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya, February 25, 2023.

### **Biographical Note:**

Vance Randolph was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, February 23, 1892, the son of Theresa Gould and John Randolph. In 1914 he received his degree in education from the State Manual Training Normal School, now Pittsburg State University. He received an M.A. in psychology from Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1915, after which he lived for a time in Greenwich Village, working as a ghostwriter, primarily for Vanguard Press.

By 1916 he was back in Pittsburg, teaching in the high school. He was drafted in October 1917 at the age of 26 but received a medical discharge in December of the next year. In 1919 he moved to Pineville, Missouri, and met and married Marie Wardlaw Wilbur there in 1930. By 1936, the year that Marie died, he was assistant state supervisor of the Federal Writers Project in Missouri. In 1941 he assisted Rose O'Neill in the writing of her memoirs (which were never published) and between then and 1943 he was a field worker for the Archive of American Folk Song of the Library of Congress.

Randolph spent many years ghostwriting and producing pseudonymous works for the Haldeman-Julius "Little Blue Book" series. After the mid-1940s he began to see publication of numerous volumes of his collected folklore. *Ozark Folksongs* appeared in 1946, followed by *Ozark Superstitions* in 1947, *We Always Lie to Strangers* in 1951, and many others.

At age 70, in 1962, he married Mary Celestia Parler of Fayetteville, Arkansas. He died in Fayetteville on November 1, 1980.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

*Ozark Folksongs*

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains the complete typescript as it was prepared by Frances Guthrie Emberson and sent to the printer. During the editorial process, musical scores were clipped from the pages and sent to the engraver. Other materials, including song titles, introductory notes, identification of contributors, and variations of the songs were reassembled and pasted to full sheets of paper from which the type was set. Scores have been replaced in their original locations; however, a few were missing.

Since editorial changes were made by hand and the manuscript was not retyped, it is easy to discern changes made by Emberson; Floyd Shoemaker, director of the State Historical Society of Missouri; or Randolph. The order of the pages was changed in the editorial process, but Ran-

dolph's original numbers remain visible. The typescript as it has been arranged now matches song for song the work as it was originally printed.

### Container List:

- f. 1 Title page and contents for Volume I, preface
- f. 2 Bibliography for all volumes
- f. 3 Chapter I--Introduction to all volumes
- f. 4-12 Chapter II--Traditional Ballads
- f. 13-25 Chapter III--Some Later Importations
- f. 26 Title page and contents for Volume II
- f. 27-35 Chapter IV--Songs About Murderers and Outlaws
- f. 36-39 Chapter V--Western Songs and Ballads
- f. 40-44 Chapter VI--Songs of the Civil War
- f. 45-49 Chapter VII--Negro and Pseudo-Negro Songs
- f. 50-53 Chapter VIII--Songs of Temperance
- f. 54 Title page and contents for Volume III
- f. 55-73 Chapter IX--In Lighter Vein
- f. 74-82 Chapter X--Play Party Songs
- f. 83 Title page and contents for Volume IV
- f. 84-89 Chapter XI--Brush-Arbor Music
- f. 90-112 Chapter XII--Miscellaneous Songs and Ballads.
- Binder for Chapter XIII--Unclassified Songs. The latter were apparently redistributed to other locations in the book, as this binder was empty.
- f. 119-122 Photographs from all volumes
- v. 1-2 In 1956 Randolph placed 10 volumes of bawdy folklore at the Library of Congress. In addition, he sold these two volumes of songs to the State Historical Society of Missouri. It is assumed that this material is duplicated in other collections, and that all publication rights to it and the material contained in folders 113-118 legally belong to Gershon Legman, La Cle Des Champs, Valbonne (Alpes-Mnes), France.

### Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Volume	Image
Architecture, Vernacular	119,120		Yes
Automobiles, 1930s	121,122		Yes
Ballads	4-12,36-39,90-112		
Banjo	121,122		Yes
Bible, Lum	120		Yes
Bishop, Wythe	120		Yes
Blacks--Songs and music	45-49		
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Bullard, Linnie	119		
Campbell, Booth	121		Yes
Carlisle, Irene	119		Yes
Check, Ada	119		Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Volume	Image
Children, 1930s	122		Yes
Church music	84-89		
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Cowhands--Songs and music	36-39		
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Denoon, Ray R.	121		Yes
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Dogs	119,122		Yes
Dusenbury, Emma L.	119		Yes
Erotic songs	113-118	1, 2	
Eyeglasses	119		Yes
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Fences	119		Yes
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Folk dancing	74-82		
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Folk songs--Arkansas	1-118	1, 2	
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Folk songs--Missouri	1-118	1, 2	
Folk songs--Ozarks	1-118	1, 2	
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Hats	119-122		Yes
Household equipment and supplies	121		Yes
Ingenthron, Charles	122		Yes
Jewelry	119		Yes
Jordan, Lon	122		Yes
Keithley, Joshua C.	121		Yes
Kelley, Lewis	121		Yes
Kinnard, Cinderella	119		Yes
Lamberson, Jewell	121		Yes
Little, Cass	120		Yes
McCarty, Gladys	122		Yes
McCord, May Kennedy	119		Yes
McCullough, Pauline	122		Yes
McDaniels, Sam	119		Yes
Men's clothing, 1930s	119-122		Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Volume	Image
Photography, Artistic	119-122		
Robbers and outlaws, Songs and music	27-35		
Short, Lillian	119		Yes
Spinning	119		Yes
Temperance, Songs and music	50-53		
Tobacco pipes	121		Yes
Trail, Arthur	120		Yes
Trail, Olga	122		Yes
Violin	121, 122		Yes
Wagons	121		Yes
Wasson, Laura	122		Yes
White, Lucy	121		Yes
Whittaker, Judy Jane	121		Yes
Wilbur, Marie	122		Yes
Women, 1930s	119-122		Yes
Women's clothing, 1930s	119, 122		Yes
Woodruff, Fred	120		Yes