

In 1943-44 I made disc recordings for the Library of Congress, Archive of Folklore Division. Since these discs could not be played over and over, the notes that I sent back gave titles, names of singers, and the place where the items were found, but the full texts were never properly typed out, and even my own set of duplicates I didn't want to use for this purpose. And besides this, I was never pressed for fuller notes. In order to have a working set, I was able through a Canada Council grant <sup>in 1959</sup> to have this collection put on tape. I had been told that the quality of my recordings on disc was good, but these were scratchy and had been carelessly done. Fortunately a set had been ~~done~~ <sup>recorded</sup> earlier for Dr. R.C.A. Archibald who wanted them for the Mary Mellish Archibald Memorial Library in Sackville, New Brunswick. Much care had been given to this work, ~~and~~ and the songs were separated into their own classifications. Whether the master records were in better shape or not at this time or what, I do not know, but the quality is very different, and it is obvious that ~~much~~ <sup>were</sup> time and thought ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> put on this assignment. They are on one long tape at Mount Allison University. A year or two ago I borrowed the large tape, bought seven inch reels that match all my other tapes, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Halifax kindly made copies for me.

Although twenty-eight years late, probably the longest time the Library of Congress has ever had to wait for a collector's notes, it is a satisfaction to have completed this task. A duplicate set is being sent to Mount Allison to be put with their long tape, and to the National Museum of Canada with which I was associated for twenty years, and who have made copies from my set of tapes. In my notes I have made frequent references to my published books where many of the songs appear. They are: Songs and Ballads From Nova Scotia, J.M. Dent & Sons, 1932 & republished by Dover Publishing Company, New York; Traditional Songs From Nova Scotia, Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1950; Maritime Folk Songs, Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1962; Gaelic Songs in Nova Scotia, National

Museum of Canada, Ottawa, 1964, and Bluenose Magic. Ryerson Press, 1968.

Songs in Acadian French and Micmac Indian I have identified as best I could, and upon occasions have been able to supply the words. Others need to be transcribed by scholars native to these languages. Perhaps some day funds will be available, but at the moment I have none for this purpose.

One interesting fact I have gleaned from these recordings made so long ago. I had supposed that my oldest and best singers always had one way of singing and that they never varied their songs. Comparing these Library of Congress texts with those taken down by ~~xxx~~ hand or recorded on tape at a later date, and published in my books, I find many variations in both words and music, but if they once made a change in word or note, they were consistent. An example is Dennis Smith in the song, "I'll Give My Love An Apple." In ~~one~~ one version he sang "without e'er a core," and kept to that throughout the song, but in other version he sang, "without any core." I also found that they could change whole phrases around with great facility.

The Mount A re-recordings have been taken mostly from discs made in 1943. There are many other items, including songs, which were not done for Dr. Archibald, and which were recorded in 1944. However, ~~the~~ <sup>practically</sup> the selection was well made, and ~~practically~~ all of the best songs from that period are here.

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