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Reviews

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(Wilford Metz)


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


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Folklore Research Around the World: A North American Point of View By its very nature the study of folklore requires an International breadth of vision. The materials of folklore transcend all barriers of language and culture, traversing continents and spanning oceans in vast leaps and drifting across borders in easy stages. Cinderella has circled the globe. The Shanghai gesture, popular among American schoolboys as a thumb and finger wiggle of derision, roamed all over Europe in the past four centuries. One extended family of water goblins unites the Japanese kappa with the Scottish kelpie. In ballad and legend, romance and epos, the same protean hero performs the same sequence of marvelous exploits. Proverbs and riddles glide from one tongue to another to settle comfortably in a new idiom. Yet in seeming paradox folklore studies have developed most energetically along national lines. Individual scholars of eminence, such as Archer Taylor and Stith Thompson in the present volume, have pursued their researches in a truly international spirit, following their materials wherever they wander. But the galvanic force behind concerted, subsidized, and firmly organized folklore studies is the force of nationalism. Folklore has served national interests of various sorts: the anxious pride of the small country seeking its cultural identity; the hubris of the racist state, glorying in the solidarity of the Herrenvolk; the aspirations of an emergent nation, hoping to crystallize its myths; the ideology of the socialist state, extolling the creative powers of the anonymous masses. The same impulses that have led to the self-study of national history and national literature have urged the pursuit of national folklore. Today the well-equipped political state possesses its accredited...

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