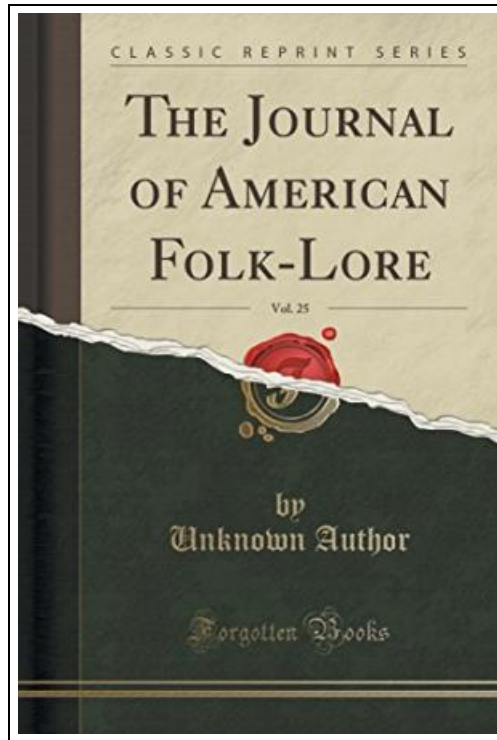


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Journal of American Folk-Lore, Vol. 25 When I first learned, about seven years ago, that genuine old British ballads were still alive in the hearts and on the tongues of old-fashioned folk in the State in which I was living, I hastened with all the enthusiasm of the novice to publish a plan - for the systematic collection and comparison, chiefly through the students in our schools and colleges, of all balladry in America. I knew very little of the work that had already been done in the same field, or of the controversy that had grown up concerning the nature and history of ballads; I had, indeed, no very strict notion of what a ballad might be; but it seemed to me that co-operative collection of traditional song from the mouths of the people would do more than anything else to resolve our doubts as to the origin of ballads, their special character if they had one, their relation to print, to social conditions, and to book poetry; and with the valor of ignorance I asserted that ten years might see the whole problem, so far as America was concerned, cleared up, - collections completed and conclusions drawn. Naturally, a closer acquaintance with the problem chastened my presumption. Seven of the ten years are gone, considerable effort has been expended, and there are still plenty of questions unanswered. I recall my early indiscretion here, only because the plan still seems to me in the main a right one. Considerable progress has in fact been made, and the value of cooperative collection has been demonstrated. Our Annual Meeting seems a suitable occasion for a review of the work...



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