

To these tasks he brought his rich natural gifts, plus the accumulation of family traditions and his own extensive musical studies, culminating in a deep insight into the nature of western European folk music and its value in the history of our culture. Several outstanding results of his work may be cited. He established, for example, that the music of American religious folk song was to a great extent a continued use and direct development of British traditional melody imported into North America; that the negro religious song was guided by, and to some considerable degree formed and borrowed from, pre-existing white folk-religious material; and that our folk hymnody was mainly the creation and possession of "dissenting" American Protestant groups, and began its American development in the latter eighteenth century. One result of his distinguished labours he himself never emphasised: that his compilations revealed numerous British tune-versions which were recorded in print from (roughly) fifty to twenty years before their mass publication from British shires or counties. Such early recording obviously makes these American versions especially valuable to the folk-tune student.

Genial, fair-minded, unpretentious, generous both in giving and acknowledging help, scrupulous in dealing with others, Jackson is mourned by all who had the privilege of knowing him personally. He lived for worthwhile things, and he accomplished them. But while we regret his passing, we need not grieve for a career cut short. For his work he left done, and done well.

SAMUEL P. BAYARD.

JOHN MEIER

On May 3rd, 1953, Dr. John Meier, Professor *honoris causâ* at the University of Freiburg-in-Breisgau, died shortly before his 89th birthday.

A native of Bremen, he studied German under Eduard Sievers and Hermann Paul, went on to complete higher research work at Halle, and in 1899 was appointed to a Chair at Basel; from there he moved at the age of fifty to Freiburg, the city which was to become his second home.

For many decades he was a leading figure in the province of folklore, inspiring the collecting and publication of material in this field on a large scale, and fighting for the prestige of folklore as an independent branch of science. For 38 years he was active as the President of the *Verband deutscher Vereine für Volkskunde*, the leading representative body for folklore studies in Germany.

His name is especially closely associated with researches in folk song, and with the "Deutsches Volksliedarchiv," which he founded at Freiburg in 1914, and of which he was the Director up to the time of his death. Ever since the 1890's he occupied a prominent position in this special field with editions such as the *Bergreihen*, *Volkslieder von der Mosel und Saar*, and with various monographs; in these latter he set forth new and revolutionary views concerning the nature and origin of folk song. It was the final goal of his endeavours to provide for Germany a work which for breadth of scope and excellence of scholarship should be able to sustain comparison with Child's *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*. Once sufficient material had been assembled at his Archives to provide an adequate basis for the work, he embarked in 1928 on the realisation of this project and had managed before his death to complete six half-volumes of the *Deutsche Volkslieder mit ihren Melodien*. This massive work, carried out with the co-operation of a staff of musicologists and experts on German studies, traces the history of each single song, from the standpoint of both text and melody, far beyond the frontiers of the German-speaking peoples,

and thus makes an important contribution to international research. The Archives were also the fountain-head of such publications as the *Jahrbuch für Volksliedforschung* and the *Studien zur Volksliedforschung*, and of 40 small illustrated volumes of regional songs with their melodies, intended for practical use. A *Lesebuch des deutschen Volkslieds* was also produced for use in colleges. In addition, John Meier was the author of an exceptionally large number of contributions to the study of folk song, both in the form of independent publications, such as his *Volksliedstudien*, and of articles in learned journals, which are important from the point of view of method no less than for their contents.

On the death of John Meier, the *Deutsches Volksliedarchiv*, which possess a treasury of approximately 280,000 transcriptions, not to speak of numerous catalogues and an extensive specialist library, passed unconditionally into the possession of the State of Baden-Württemberg, which undertook to maintain them in Freiburg as an independent scientific institute.

In John Meier's death we mourn the loss of a noble and outstandingly gifted personality, whose memory will live on not only in the work he achieved, but also in the hearts of his many grateful pupils.

ERICH SEEMANN.

trans. R. H.
