

OBITUARY

H. GRÜNER-NIELSEN

It is announced with deep regret that Hakon Grüner-Nielsen, co-director of the Danish Folklore Collection, born 1881, died on February 24th, 1953.

H. Grüner-Nielsen devoted his whole life to the study of folklore, especially Danish and Faeroese ballads and other songs, their texts and tunes. Having taken his degree at the University of Copenhagen, he immediately was appointed to the new Folklore Collection (1906), founded by Axel Olrik and others. In the field of text editing and investigation, Grüner-Nielsen was the pupil of Olrik, and he finished the standard ballad edition of Svend Grundtvig and Olrik, *Danmarks gamle Folkeviser* (I-IX, 1853-1923, and Appendix X). In the study of folk music he collaborated with Hjalmar Thuren, after whose untimely death (1912) Grüner-Nielsen was for many years the only qualified scholar of folk music. He published Faeroese tunes, collected by Thuren, older folklorists, and himself, and wrote monographs on this subject. Post-medieval Danish folk songs of different genres were published in exemplary editions, and in 1935, Grüner-Nielsen began the great melody edition of our ballads (*Danmarks gamle Folkeviser*, XI). This edition is a masterpiece of minute investigation and honest folkloristic editorial technique which, taking no liberties, publishes and comments on the material as it was taken down.

Many students and scholars in Denmark and abroad have drawn from his inexhaustible helpfulness. His reserved but warmhearted personality will be sincerely missed.

ERIK DAL.*

GEORGE PULLEN JACKSON

George Pullen Jackson (1874-1953), native of Maine, long resident in the South (where he accomplished his life work), was head of the Department of German at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Also a lover and practiser of music, which had shared with linguistics his formal study in Germany, he was a member and guider of an astonishing number of musical organisations and ventures. His enduring and massive scholarly work, however, was in the field of folk song and music. Like John A. Lomax with the cowboy songs and Franz L. Rickaby with the lumberman's songs, Jackson was a pioneer in studying the general religious folk song of English-speaking North America.

But from being a pioneer he went on to become specialist and master in this complex subject. His own published books† still form the real bulk of its literature—alike in compilation, historical research and formal analysis. They first threw light on the so-called "white spirituals" and their background by making available material from sources which Jackson was the first to examine both comprehensively and in detail. Jackson was also the first deliberately to seek out and compare these sources: the old "shape-note" hymn compilations of the first half of the nineteenth century.

* For a longer obituary notice in Danish, with bibliography, see *Danske Studier*, by Erik Dal (J. H. Schultz Forlag, Copenhagen, 1952).

† Jackson's important books about American religious folk song are these: *White Spirituals in the Southern Uplands*, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1933; *Spiritual Folk Songs of Early America*, New York, J. J. Augustin, 1937; *Down-East Spirituals and Others*, New York, J. J. Augustin, 1939; *White and Negro Spirituals, Their Life Span and Kinship*, New York, J. J. Augustin, 1943; *Another Sheaf of White Spirituals*, Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 1952. Jackson's entire voluminous scholarly output is listed with an eloquent appreciation in *Southern Folklore Quarterly* XVII, No. 1 (March, 1953), 89-92.