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EDITORIAL

THE Conference, the third in annual succession, that took place last July at Indiana University marks another notch in the Council's progress, and the removal of its meeting-place from Europe to the Western Hemisphere is an indication of the reality of its international character. It was a particularly happy arrangement to have had the Conference at Indiana University, a great centre for the study of folklore, immediately preceding the Midcentury International Folklore Conference. In fact, except for a few changes of personnel amongst the members, the two Conferences might almost have been regarded as one continuous meeting, particularly as the subject of folk music was never long absent from the discussions of the Folklore Conference. Folk music has been the Cinderella of folklore and we owe Dr. Stith Thompson, the prince of folklore, a debt of gratitude for having raised the study of folk music to its rightful status in the eyes of the folklorist. Our thanks are also due to him for his indefatigable work in the preparation of the Conference, and we acknowledge our indebtedness not only to him but also to President Wells, to the administration of Indiana University and to Dr. George Herzog for a span of five days filled to the brim with interest and enjoyment. We have also to thank Mrs. Letsinger, Dr. Herzog, and Mr. John Mickey for the onerous task of transcribing the discussions from the magnetic tape recordings (alas, not always audible!).

Were evidence of the vitality of folk music needed, one could not do better than to seek it in the United States, for there, in the most modern and progressive of countries, folk music has taken root and is ever bringing forth "individual blossoms from the common stem." It was a perpetual stimulus to sample the wealth and variety of traditional material that the several workers in the American field were able to bring to the Conference.

We look forward with confidence to a renewal of the Council's activities, not only through the members who were fortunate enough to participate in the Conference, but also through those who read the account of its proceedings appearing in the following pages of this *Journal*.
