

BOOK REVIEW

Abstracts of Popular Culture. Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 U.S.A. Quarterly. (Subscription rates: Individuals and High Schools \$50.00 a year; Libraries and Institutions \$75.00 one year, \$140.00 two years, \$300.00 five years)

The October 1976 *MLA Newsletter* brought the disappointing news that with the volume of the 1975 *Abstracts*, this experimental publication would cease. The reasons given were: the small percentage of journals cooperating (20%) and the disproportionate expense in view of the association's other activities. Happily, shortly after the *MLA Newsletter* arrived, I was shown a copy of the *Abstracts of Popular Culture*, Vol. 1, Issue 1. *APC* is a new quarterly devoted to the spread of information about popular culture, which the editors consider to be "all aspects of life which are not academic or creative in the narrowest and most esoteric sense of the words." Under this banner come such topics as "film, television, radio, popular literature, fairs, parades, theater, amusements, music, circuses, carnivals, urban and rural life, the counter culture, ethnic and women's studies, folklore, the family, sports, leisure and work, humor. . ."

Its appearance is pleasing. The large-size format (21×28 cm), the boldface capitals for titles, the italics for names of periodicals, and the spaces between entries assist the reader in scanning its pages. The first issue reviewed 188 journals (2100 items), which ranged widely from news commentaries, through professional folklore and literature journals to trade and popular magazines. The abstracts are current; before Vol. 9 #1 of *The Southern Literary Journal* arrived in Japan, Vol. 8 #2 had already been abstracted in *APC*. (Not every article in the journal was abstracted though—seemingly, just those of a wider cultural interest. Also, only one issue of *Commonweal* and two issues of *America* were abstracted. Since these magazines are published bi-weekly and weekly, respectively, a larger representation would be expected.)

In future issues the number of journals abstracted will be increased and they will gradually include more folklore journals to supply the loss of *Abstracts of Folklore Studies*. The aim of *APC* is to select those periodicals which have little coverage elsewhere and those which have a more limited circulation. The goal is to treat one thousand periodicals and thereby provide a service especially to those who are dependent upon local libraries.

APC abstracts not only periodical literature but also papers presented at meetings and talks given via mass media. As a special service it makes available reprints or microfilms of these otherwise unpublished materials.

The lengths of the individual abstracts vary: 30–150 words for "informative abstracts" and 1–30 words for "descriptive abstracts." The style, rather than proceeding along the lines of the argument, directly addresses itself to a summary of the contents and/or a statement of the information considered significant. Hence it is more declarative than syllogistic, a feature which also contributes to scanning and at times to actual quotation, should the original be unobtainable.

The abstracts, listed alphabetically according to author, are not written by the authors of the original articles except in the case of speeches. Instead, one

person is responsible for covering a particular journal. In this way it is possible for interested persons to make sure their favorite periodicals are abstracted, since they can volunteer to do the abstracts themselves. (By writing to the editors you can obtain guidelines and a list of journals which *APC* has on hand and need to be abstracted. At this early stage of *APC*'s development, I suppose it would also be possible to offer to abstract something not on their list.)

Other features of the intended 256 page issues are: a list of periodicals with their publishers, a periodical index, and a subject index. The alphabetical arrangement of the abstracts eliminates the need for an author index. The title index was dropped after the first issue to allow more room for the abstracts themselves.

The main disadvantage of this quarterly, as far as individuals are concerned, is its cost. Even some libraries will balk. Individuals would probably prefer to have four or five subscriptions to journals in their fields. Libraries, however, especially where there are interests in folklore, American culture, and current trends, should have it. Ideally one should have access to all the journals related to one's field. In the absence of perfection, at least this kind of abstracting gives researchers something more than a title to indicate whether they should look further and try somehow to obtain the original article. A person living in Washington, D.C., New York City, or Chicago maybe doesn't feel much of a need, but for people teaching in places like Epworth, Iowa; Greeley, Colo.; or Nagoya, Japan, the *Abstracts of Popular Culture* can be a real help.

David R. Mayer

E. Arsenio Manuel: *Tuwaang Attends a Wedding. The Second Song of the Manuvu Ethnoepic Tuwaang*. Ateneo de Manila University Press, Manila 1975. 109 pages, with 6 photos and 2 maps.

E. Arsenio Manuel is chairman of the University of the Philippines Department of Anthropology and president of the Philippine Folklore Society. Since 1949 he is engaged in much folkloristic fieldwork, especially among the Bagobo, Matigsalug, and Manuvu of the provinces of Davao and Cotabato in Mindanao in the Southern Philippines. Our journal is indebted to him for his contributions "Tayabas Tagalog Awit Fragments from Quezon Province" (Vol. 17, 1958), "Bagobo Riddles" (Vol. 21, 1962), and "A Survey of Philippine Folk Epics" (Vol. 22, 1963).

In the book under review here Manuel presents the text of an epic of the Manuvu. He stayed for fieldwork several times for longer periods in the area. The tribes living in Mindanao are the least known in the Philippines and are mostly illiterate. They have however nevertheless, a surprisingly rich and well developed folk literature. This is embedded in their material and spiritual culture. Manuel devotes almost half of his book to the preliminaries on this culture which are indispensable for an understanding of the ballads of the Manuvu. In 1957 he was able to publish "The Maiden of the Buhong Sky, a Fragment of the Tuwaang Epic Cycle" (Philippine Social Sciences & Humanities Review 22.) In 1958 this was followed by "The Maiden of the Buhong Sky, a Complete Song from the *Manuvu* Bagobo Folk Epic Tuwaang" (Manila, University of the Philippines Press). Later he found that it is more accurate to attribute the Tuwaang epic to the heritage of the Manuvu. The interrelationship of the epics of the tribes of Central Mindanao has still to be ascertained by further investigations.

Tuwaang is the hero of a cluster of epics. "Tuwaang attends a wedding" is