

Comp  
6-10-91

# FOREWORD

Dr. MacEdward Leach  
Department of English  
110 Bennett Hall

May 24, 1962

Dear Dr. Leach:

In accordance with the recommendations of the Provost and the Dean, I would like to ask you if you would be willing to undertake the responsibilities of the Chairman of a new Group Committee on Folklore Studies for the academic year 1962-1963.

I hope that you will be willing to accept this appointment and can assure you of the unqualified support of your colleagues in the Administration.

Very sincerely,

Gaylord P. Harnwell



his matter-of-fact letter from the then-President of the University of Pennsylvania opened a new era in folklore studies. With it the University of Pennsylvania inaugurated the second doctoral program in folklore in the country, delivering Indiana University from its

pioneering isolation, and stimulating other folklorists to increase their efforts in that direction in their own universities. None could underestimate the dedication, perseverance, and excellence in scholarship that culminated with the establishment of a folklore program. None, however, should be surprised at the success of these efforts.

The University of Pennsylvania had a long tradition of profound involvement with folklore scholarship that spanned disciplines and generations. A long list of internationally known scholars offers a glorious testimony to this commitment to the field of folklore. Suffice it to say that Professor Daniel Garrison Brinton, the founder of the Anthropology Department at the University of Pennsylvania, secured his position in the history of folklore as a theoretician, a student of Native American mythology, and as the second President of the American Folklore Society. Hence, the individual initiative of Professor MacEdward Leach has touched a responsive intellectual cord in the University at-large, the vibration of which were to have an impact reaching far beyond the University community.

The present annotated bibliography of dissertations partially reflects the influence that the establishment of the program has had on the discipline in general. Many of the dissertations were published in part or in full. They influenced the course of folklore inquiry, expanding its boundaries with rigor and depth, and attesting, at the same time, to the interdisciplinary connections that reflect the educational approach we cherish.

This bibliography, representing the anniversary of the Department of Folklore and Folklife that grew out of the Group Committee on Folklore Studies, offers us a moment for reflection and self-examination. We scrutinize our accomplishment with pride, but have no intention to rest on our laurels. Much of the work is still ahead, since when folklorists study passing societies their research can suffer no delay, and when they analyze emerging traditions their work is urgent.

Dan Ben-Amos  
Chairman

