

FOLK FESTIVALS: THEIR GROWTH AND HOW TO GIVE THEM

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Folk festivals: their growth and how to give them by Mary Master Needham

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MARY MASTER NEEDHAM

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Their Growth and How to Give Them

BY

MARY MASTER NEEDHAM

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TO
MY MOTHER
IN GRATITUDE
FOR HER ETERNAL YOUTH
AND UNFAILING UNDERSTANDING,
I PLACE THIS GIFT
UPON HER ALTAR

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PREFACE

It is with the hope that this fruit of my own experiences may inspire others to blaze trails, that I send out *Folk Festivals*. Not in any way does it aim to be exhaustive. Rather the material has been chosen with the idea that it may create a desire to give festivals, and at the same time furnish a working basis for them. Because I firmly believe that the value of this movement must be in its research, its spontaneity, and its creativeness, I have so limited the material. At the same time I have tried to make the book practical for those who are pioneers both in their interest and in their work on festivals.

To my pupils to whom I went to school, I owe much. To Miss Esther Braley and to Mr. Frank A. Manny, I am indebted for help in blazing my own trail. Not only did they give me courage at the start, but they have stayed by me along the path. Without the active and faithful interest of Mr. William Hard the book would not have been written. For the great task of reading

PREFACE

my manuscript I owe a commensurate gratitude to Mr. H. K. Bassett and to Mr. Manny. And for the encouragement and interest which made the daily work in it possible, I am indebted to my husband.

M. M. N.

Evanston, Ill.

February 1, 1912.

FOREWORD

A barber in a Philadelphia club sighed as he said to me recently, "The World's great events are all over!" It took me a moment to regain myself sufficiently to realize that he was discussing baseball! Few interests and activities are so thoroughly social as some of the popular sports and games. Within a few hours after a great contest a hundred thousand people are awakened and thrilled as little else could stir them, so dependent upon others have they become for opportunities for experiences which carry with them strong emotions.

This widespread common interest is a great gain but we need much more general participation. Children and adults alike must be active themselves to gain the re-creation and growth of imagination and invention they require. It is this that gives to them that prolongation of the period of growth so necessary to give balance and meaning to the specialization necessary in earning a living.