

painting tiny cross-stitches on the intricate background, Anderson signed his work and provided notes on its scale in a hand reminiscent of 19th-century cross-stitch sampler verses.

*Drawing on America's Past* concludes with a bibliography of books, articles, exhibitions, and archival documents, and biographies of Index artists. The information that *Drawing on America's Past* provides about the works of folk, popular, and decorative arts depicted in the Index helps researchers understand artistic techniques and discover more about objects so prevalent in and meaningful to our past. The book also enlightens those seeking information about the Index and how it contributed to our present-day concept of American art.

The Index of American Design remains the most extensive pictorial representation of American folk, popular, and decorative arts. This attractive, well-researched and finely written publication perfectly complements the expressive content and valuable cultural meaning of the objects that the Index celebrates.

Betsy Butler  
*Ohio Historical Society*

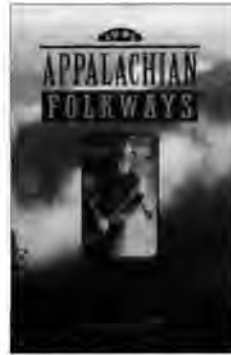
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### *Appalachian Folkways*

By John B. Rehder. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004; 353 pp., illustrations, notes, glossary, bibliography, index; cloth \$39.95.

John Rehder, a cultural geographer at the University of Tennessee, presents an informative and entertaining look into the "culture hearth" of the southern Appalachian Mountains, a region he defines as ranging from southern Pennsylvania to northern Alabama. The volume crosses the disciplines of cultural anthropology, social identity, and ethnography, but the author necessarily clarifies the cultural geography emphasis of his work. His

discussion of culture (the learned and shared life-ways of the cultural hearth of Appalachia) identifies southern Appalachia as a distinctive cultural center in America.



Important Appalachian cultural traits are presented in chapters on the history and composition of the region's ethnicity, architecture, economy, food and subsistence methods, folk medicine and religion, music and art, and language. Rehder provides an academically rigorous and entertainingly informative perspective on a "cultural milieu" that is uniquely American, but deeply rooted in a primarily Anglican ancestry of the Scottish, Irish, British, and German. Rehder takes particular issue with negative stereotyping of mountain people evident in earlier literature by environmental determinists and "color-writers"—the generation of post-Civil War writers who characterized the Appalachian region as backward and portrayed its inhabitants as "yesterday's people."

After a condensed discussion of the topography and geology of the Appalachian Mountain ranges, Rehder examines its population by ethnic group, including a thorough discussion of the Cherokee Indians and the enigmatic Melungeons. He does an excellent job of describing historic settlement routes and patterns of occupation. He identifies the most common surnames in specific locales creating associations of particular interest to genealogists.

Rehder provides a wonderful account of the origins and variations of the architecture and cultural landscape of Appalachia. Not only does he provide detailed descriptions of the many types of structures of the region, but he also gives the reader a visual understanding by including photographs and floor plans. The discussion of log cabins,

including spatial and temporal distributions, is comprehensive. Rehder also considers Appalachian folkways of making a living by looking at both past and current regional economies, including agriculture, sanging (ginseng collecting), logging, mining, and outlaw ways (bootlegging and guerilla farming).

The most entertaining chapter is an informative study of the origins of Appalachian cooking. Discussions of the origins of the region's unique cuisine are accompanied by recipes and a delightful discussion of the American Indian contribution to the American diet, corn. The discussion partially addresses tribal contributions to the folkways inventory. Of particular interest is a discussion of the origin and preparation of the classic southern breakfast mainstay, grits, creating a mouth-watering desire to sample the recipes. The chapter, rich in ethnographic content, is the heart and soul of the entire volume, adding a wonderfully human dimension to the book.

The author's discussion of folk remedies is informative, although it lacks information about their preparation. The same chapter also discusses the region's religious sects. Rehder includes a list of the most popular church groups, descriptions of their dogmas, the history of their founding, the identity of the founders, and descriptions of what to expect at a service.

Music lovers will no doubt favor Rehder's chapter on music and language. Readers interested in the roots of bluegrass music, and country music in general, may be surprised at the details of the development of the genre that Rehder's research reveals. Rehder closes his discussion of the "culture hearth" with the origins of Appalachian speech. He posits that it is founded in the British Isles but enriched with "linguistic contributions from southern English, German, French, and Native American sources." The chapter concludes with a glossary of terms.

Scholars of Cherokee studies may take issue with the discussion of the important figure, Sequoyah. Rehder correctly describes Sequoyah as a patriarch (the accompanying descriptive term *ancient* aside) because he assumed a leadership role among his kinsmen in relocating his family to Indian Territory. However, Sequoyah never achieved the national political leadership role of Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Sequoyah was a veteran of the Creek War as a member of Chief Junaluska's Cherokee brigade that served with Andrew Jackson at the battle of Horseshoe Bend. He was also an accomplished silversmith. His most important contribution to the Cherokee, however, was the invention of the Cherokee writing system. It is correctly termed a "syllabary," not an alphabet, and is a most amazing linguistic accomplishment. The 85 characters in the set represent the vowels, consonants, and consonant-vowel clusters comprising the Cherokee language.

In summary, Rehder presents an insider's look into North America's southern Appalachia. The author is a native North Carolinian whose career and life have focused on this region and whose ancestry is both Cherokee and Scots-Irish. Throughout the text, the author conveys his sense of loss of the lifeways that he recounts. Forces of change are altering the lifestyles of the people of Appalachia. Rehder closes by expressing his desire to see that more is done to preserve and display Appalachian folkways in museums, folk festivals, and other interpretive forums. The strong academic foundation of the book and its broad cultural subject are certain to appeal to a wide audience of cultural resources specialists.

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# CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship

Volume 2 Number 2 Summer 2005



*CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*  
Summer 2005  
ISSN 1068-4999

CRM = cultural resource management

*CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* is published twice each year by the National Park Service to address the history and development of and trends and emerging issues in cultural resource management in the United States and abroad. Its purpose is to broaden the intellectual foundation of the management of cultural resources. *CRM Journal* is edited in the offices of the National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, in Washington, DC.

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*CRM Journal* is produced under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

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