

# Delve Deeper into "Lomax The Songhunter"

A film by Rogier Kappers

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul Baren of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Lomax the Songhunter" that premieres on August 22, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

Alan Lomax was "the song hunter." He devoted his life to recording the world's folk tunes before they would permanently disappear with the rise of the modern music industry. In "Lomax the Songhunter," filmmaker Rogier Kappers seeks to tell Lomax's story by interviewing friends such as Pete Seeger, combining it with archival recordings of music greats Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly, and gathering footage of the cotton fields, rock quarries and prisons where Alan Lomax captured America's quintessential music. Finally, Kappers followed the route that Lomax took so many years ago and traveled to remote villages in Spain and Italy, hearing memories and music from the farmers, shepherds and weavers whose songs Lomax recorded decades earlier.

---

## ADULT NONFICTION

Collins, Shirley W. *America Across the Water: A Musical Journey with Alan Lomax*. London: S. A. F. Publishing Limited, 2004. At the age of 19, Shirley Collins (b. 1935) was making a name for herself as a folk singer in post-war London. This is an account of the year of her life spent as Lomax's assistant and lover in America.

Lomax, Alan. *Alan Lomax: Selected Writings, 1934-1997*. Ed. Ronald D. Cohen. London: Routledge, 2004. A collection of Lomax's article contributions to popular and academic journals from the 1930s onwards.

---

## MAGAZINE/JOURNAL ARTICLES

Abowitz, Richard. "Blues Traveler." *Rolling Stone*, 6 February 1993, p. 70. Taking his

recording equipment into the corners of the Deep South, Alan Lomax made America's roots music his life's work.

Abrahams, R. D. "Obituaries: Alan Lomax (1915-2002)." *Journal of American Folklore*, Winter 2004, Vol. 117, No. 463, p. 97-99.

Ante, Spencer E. "Alan Lomax Maps our Musical Genome." (cover story) *Wired*, November 1998, Vol. 6, Issue 11, p. 120. Profiles artist Alan Lomax and the development of the interactive Global Jukebox system, housed in Hunter College in New York City, and features song and dance clips of various cultures.

Barton, Matthew. "Collecting America's Music." *American History*, September/October 1997, Vol. 32, Issue 4, p. 8. Alan Lomax set out on two extraordinary Southern field trips in 1959 and 1960 that took him back to his own roots as a field worker and into the heart of this country's folk culture at a crucial moment in its history. Rounder Records (617-354-0700) has recently released the first 6 of a planned 13-compact-disc compilation--entitled *Southern Journey*--of the music gathered by Lomax during those two years.

Blumenfeld, Larry. "American Folk Lord." *Entertainment Weekly*, 2 August 2002, Issue 665, p. 73. Legendary folklorist Alan Lomax began traveling the American South and West as a teen with his father.

Ciletti, Eddie. "The Alan Lomax Archives." *Mix*, August 2003, Vol. 27, Issue 9, p. 114.

Cutting, J. "'Lomax in London' by E. David Gregory, in *Journal* 8.2 (2002), 136-69" [With discussion]. *Folk Music Journal*, 2003, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 362-363.

Filene, B. "'Our Singing Country': John and Alan Lomax, Leadbelly, and the Construction of an American Past." *American Quarterly*, December 1991, Vol. 43, p. 602-624.

"The Folk Behind The Songs." *The Economist*, 6 September

1997, Vol. 344, Issue 8033, p. 89.

Gallo, Phil. "Alan Lomax." *Variety*, 29 July 2002, Vol. 387, Issue 10, p. 46. Obituary for Lomax, who unearthed musical styles all over the world, discovering blues and folk musicians and presenting them to national audiences.

Gregory, E. D. "Alan Lomax (1915-2002)." *Folk Music Journal*, 2004, Vol. 8, No. 4, p. 548-557.

Gregory, E. D. "David Gregory Replies" [Reply to John Cutting]. *Folk Music Journal*, 2003, Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 363-365.

Gregory, E. D. "Lomax in London: Alan Lomax, the BBC and the Folk-Song Revival in England, 1950-1958." *Folk Music Journal*, 2002, Vol. 8, No. 2, p. 136-169.

Hajdu, David. "Authenticity Blues." *The New Republic*, 16 June 2003, Vol. 228, Issue 23, p. 38-41. A review of [Alan Lomax: selected writings, 1934-1997](#) (2003) that doubles as an appreciation of Lomax's contribution to the preservation of folk music.

"Inventing Leadbelly." *Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 1992, Vol. 16, Issue 2, p. 129.

Jabbour, Alan. "Copland's Kentucky Muse." *Civilization*, June/July 1999, Vol. 6, Issue 3, p. 110.

"Jelly on a Roll." *The Economist*, 21 January 2006, Vol. 378, Issue 8461, p. 79-80.

Kemp, Mark. "Alan Lomax." *Rolling Stone*, 22 August 2002, Issue 903, p. 36. Obituary of Lomax; an appreciation of his career.

"Lomax, Alan." *Current Biography*, October 2002, Vol. 63, Issue 10, p. 93.

Magrini, T. "Recording Reviews." *Ethnomusicology*, Fall 2003, Vol. 47, No. 3, p. 425-431.

# Delve Deeper into "Lomax The Songhunter"

A film by Rogier Kappers

Manning, Steven and Tod Olson. "I Hear America Singing." *Scholastic Update*, 9 February 1998, Vol. 30, Issue 9, p. 15.

Morales, Leslie Anderson. "African Americans in the News." *Footsteps*, September/October 2005, Vol. 7, Issue 4, p. 49.

Morris, Chris. "Alan Lomax's Musical Legacy Endures." *Billboard*, 3 August 2002, Vol. 114, Issue 31, p. 8. Appreciation of Lomax's work.

Morthland, John. "Folk Hero." *Texas Monthly*, November 1998, Vol. 26, Issue 11, p. 66.

Munnely, T. "Alan Lomax, 1915-2002." *Folklore* (London, England), April 2003, Vol. 114, No. 1, p. 115-118. Lomax's work in the South, which began in the early 1930s, culminated in the Lomax Collection--100 CDs of his recordings, which Rounder Records had begun releasing.

Olsen, Eric P. "Ambassador of the Blues." *World & I*, January 1997, Vol. 12, Issue 1, p. 176.

Panken, Ted. "Mr. Jelly Roll's Codified Legend." *Downbeat*, Jan 2006, Vol. 73, Issue 1, p. 78-79.

Seeger, P. "Correspondence on 'Lomax in London,' in *Journal* 8.3 (2003), 362-365." *Folk Music Journal*, 2004, Vol. 8, No. 4, p. 516-517.

Ward, Geoffrey C. "Leadbelly." *American Heritage*, October 1993, Vol. 44, Issue 6, p. 10.

Watkins, B.T. "A Folklorist's Material on More than 400 Cultures to be Available on a Multimedia 'Global Jukebox.'" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 13 May 1992, Vol. 38, Issue 36, p. A21, 2p, 2c.

Wood, Allan. "I Hear America Singing." *American Visions*, February/March 1994, Vol. 9, Issue 1, p. 50.

---

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"A Legendary Collector." *New York Times*, 23 July 2002, p. A18.

Jennings, Dana Andrew. "Gathering in a Reaper's Harvest of Song." *New York Times*, 13 April 1997, Vol. 146, Issue 50761, Section 2, p. 1. Focuses on the life and music of Alan Lomax; his influence on 20th-century culture; academic and career background; Rounder Records' embarkation on a five-year project called the Lomax Collection; recollections of Lomax from Spencer Moore and Wade Ward.

Pareles, Jon. "Alan Lomax, Who Raised Voice of Folk Music in U.S., Dies at 87." *New York Times*, 20 July 2002, p. A1.

Pareles, Jon. "A Man of His Time; Voices for All Time." *New York Times*, 28 July 2002, Section 2, p. 26.

Pareles, Jon. "Honoring Alan Lomax, Folk-Music Crusader." *New York Times*, 14 April 2003, p. E3.

Scherman, Tony. "Revelations from a Delta Journey." *New York Times*, 17 October 1999, Section 2, p. 37.

Weingarten, Marc. "Book Says Lomax Neglected Black Scholars." *New York Times*, 29 August 2005, p. E1-E6.

Weinstein, Norman. "Searching The Globe Uncovers Folk's Roots." *Christian Science Monitor*, 31 February 1999, p. 20.

---

## VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Alan Lomax." A film by Robert Gardner. A film distributed by Documentary Educational Resources, 2005. (75 min.) Biography of Alan Lomax, inventor of the Global Jukebox and acclaimed music preservationist. [www.der.org](http://www.der.org)

"Songcatcher." A film by Maggie Greenwald. Lions Gate, 2000.

(109 min.) A musicologist travels to Appalachia to visit her sister and winds up discovering beautiful folk songs.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

"A Mighty Wind." A film by Christopher Guest. Warner Home Video, 2003. (91 min.) Mockumentary about a folk music reunion concert. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

"The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack." A film by Aiyana Elliott. Winstar, 2000. (112 min.) The director's biography and exploration of her father, famous cowboy troubadour, Ramblin' Jack Elliott. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

"A Vision Shared: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly." A film by Jim Brown. Sony, 1988. (88 min.) Current artists such as Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, Emmylou Harris, Arlo Guthrie, and Bob Dylan perform covers of Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly's songs. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

"O Brother, Where Art Thou?" A film by Ethan and Joel Cohen. Walt Disney Video, 2000. (106 min.) Bluegrass music is featured in this story based loosely on the Grecian epic, *The Odyssey*. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

---

## WEBSITES

P.O.V.'s "Lomax the Songhunter" Web site [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/lomax/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/lomax/)

Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

The Alan Lomax Archive [www.lomaxarchive.com/index.html](http://www.lomaxarchive.com/index.html)

A multimedia archive of documentation and scientific research by folklorist and musical anthropologist, Alan Lomax.

The Alan Lomax Collection [www.alan-lomax.com/](http://www.alan-lomax.com/)

Includes news, biographical information and articles about Alan Lomax, performance style research, information on The Association for

# Delve Deeper into "Lomax The Songhunter"

A film by Rogier Kappers

Cultural Equity, and multimedia resources (records, film, photos).

## Library of Congress – Alan Lomax Collection

[www.loc.gov/folklife/lomax/](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/lomax/)

Information about the ethnographic documentation in Alan Lomax's collection and how it was acquired by The American Folklife Center.

## NPR: Library of Congress Unites Work of Alan Lomax

[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1788825](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1788825)

Information on how the Library of Congress acquired Alan Lomax's archives. Links to photo gallery and related NPR articles.

## Perfect Sound Forever Online Music Magazine: "A Man, A Mission, A Tape Recorder: Alan Lomax and His *Southern Journey*"

[www.furious.com/perfect/lomax.html](http://www.furious.com/perfect/lomax.html)

Review of Alan Lomax's *Southern Journey* collections and further information on them.

## Rounder Records – Alan Lomax Collection

[www.rounder.com/series/lomax\\_alan/](http://www.rounder.com/series/lomax_alan/)

Information about Alan Lomax's life, productions and various series in his collection.