

[Letter from Duncan Emrich to Woody Guthrie, March 26, 1946]

March 26, 1946

Mr. Woody Guthrie 3520 Mermaid Avenue Brooklyn 24, N.Y.

Dear Woody Guthrie:

Your inquiry about the Check-List of songs has been received. The one to which you refer was originally published in three volumes, mimeographed, in 1940. Its full title is: Check-List of Recorded Songs in the English Language in the Archive of American Folk Song to July, 1940. I regret, however, that we are unable to send a set on to you. The why of it is that we are completely out of them. If we did have one of the set, moreover, it would now be out of date and not the last word on what we have in the collection. This will, of course, not satisfy your daughter who will naturally ask another why. To that we have to answer that during the war and since the office has been shorthanded with many additional demands which have kept us so busy that we have not been able to get around to bringing the list up to date. As soon as we do have a breathing spell, however, it is possible that we will tackle a much more enlarged list and send one on to you, by then she will probably have other questions. In the meantime, though, the New York Public Library does have the Check-List in case you wish to consult it there. Is there any likelihood that you will be in Washington during the Spring? We would, of course, like to see you at the Archive and, if you felt in the mood, add other songs of yours to the collection which we already have.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours, Duncan Emrich Chief, Archive of American Folk Song

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