

P R E F A C E

THE present editor feels honored to have participated in this co-operative work, and is grateful to the Duke University Press, and particularly to its managerial and editorial staff for numerous steps taken to add to the reference value of the volumes on Popular Beliefs and Superstitions. Scholars everywhere, for one thing, will have cause to rejoice in the decision to facilitate use of the Index by on-the-page references to chapters and subject headings with inclusive numbers. The added serviceableness of the Index is justified alone in the saving of time and bother to users, but more importantly, it will afford the interested student the means of ascertaining how individual items of folk belief are topically conceived in various categories represented in the collection. In a way, the tools are thus provided for the beginning of comparative study.

Without the indefatigable work of Carole Sherman Davis during the last weeks of 1960, and the long vigils of Judith Arlene Wittenberger during the same period, notes to the present volume might have been delayed well into 1961. As the 1960 deadline was rapidly running out, my wife Celeste also spent long and wearisome hours at the typewriter. Sidney Gilford stamped source material for the notes, and Enid Aldwell checked the Additional Bibliography. The ordeal of checking every item in the index against original entries was lessened by timely help from Marjorie Griffin. Belatedly acknowledged here rather than in the first volume is the help given by George P. Wilson, W. L. McAtee, and the late Josiah Combs in glossing difficult localisms. Also, thanks to Margaret Doremus for work with scissors and pastepot when the project was still new. To all these people, and to well-wishers everywhere who have looked forward with eagerness to the completion of the work, I should like to express my deep appreciation. The continued encouragement of Professor B. H. Bronson has been an inspiration to me, especially so since Professor Bronson has himself been involved for long years in a task that has perhaps been even more eroding on body and spirit than has my own project.

W.D.H.

St. Martin's Summer, 1962