

9-1-1988

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Repository Citation

Gatten, Jeffrey, "Woody Guthrie: A Bibliographic Update, 1968-1986" (1988). *LMU Librarian Publications & Presentations*. 87.
https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/librarian_pubs/87

Citation / Publisher Attribution

Gatten, Jeffrey N. "Woody Guthrie: A Bibliographic Update, 1968-1986." *Bulletin of Bibliography* 45 (September 1988):179-182.

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Jeffrey N. Gatten

Woodrow Wilson (Woody) Guthrie (1912-1967) was a singer, musician, composer, author, artist, political activist, philosopher, and American folk hero. He is alleged to have written more than 1,000 songs, including *This Land Is Your Land*. A refugee of the Oklahoma dust bowl, Guthrie travelled America extensively. In California he became a radio personality and performed regularly at union meetings. Following a move to New York City, Guthrie began writing a column for *The Daily Worker*. He joined with Pete Seeger, Lee Hayes, and Millard Lampell to form the politically motivated Almanac Singers. Guthrie served in the Merchant Marines during World War II and later recorded numerous folk songs for Folkways Records. During the 1950s, a genetic disease known as Huntington's Chorea slowly diminished Woody's physical and creative abilities. Eventually he was confined to a hospital bed where he remained until his death. His legacy includes being labeled a communist, patriot, pervert, and father of the 1960s "folk movement."

The scholars' interest in Woody Guthrie continues to be varied. An ongoing debate over his socialist views and communist ties may never be resolved completely. Historians and sociologists still attempt to separate fact from fiction in his writings, particularly the two semi-autobiographical novels, *Bound For Glory* and *Seeds of Man*. Those that study folk music as an art form or as a political forum are forced to confront Guthrie's role in American culture. Research into contemporary folk music, the dust bowl saga, McCarthyism, labor unions, social protest, and other societal phenomena of twentieth-century America is incomplete without an examination of Woody Guthrie's life.

This bibliography is an attempt to assist researchers by means of updating an extensive work by Richard A. Reuss, *A Woody Guthrie Bibliography, 1912-1967*, published in January 1968. Reuss tried to include all known items by and about Guthrie. Until now, no attempt has been made to pull together the various essays that continue to be written, although the United States government did issue a short bibliography in 1977 (Hickerson). This void has existed despite the fact that a number of best selling books have been written, a major motion picture produced, and several video documentaries generated.

Materials contained within this selected bibliography include books, sections of books, articles, dissertations, documents, and papers by or about Woody Guthrie. Newspaper articles are included if they are pertinent stories from major sources. Works that focus on other members of the Guthrie family (wife Marjorie, or son Arlo) are listed only if attention is given to Woody as well. All items date between 1968 and 1986, inclusive. Entries are arranged alphabetically by author, or by title if author is unknown. Items not included are foreign-language works, passing references to Guthrie (this would require compiling a book's worth of citations on Bob Dylan alone, as Guthrie was his biggest influence), reprints of Guthrie's songs that do not include commentary, and short biographical entries that do not provide more than summarized data. In addition, reviews of books, records, movies, and other works about Guthrie have been excluded. No judgment has been made as to the accuracy or bias of text for the items listed.

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