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The Woody Guthrie Centennial Bibliography

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Gatten, Jeffrey, "The Woody Guthrie Centennial Bibliography" (2014). *LMU Librarian Publications & Presentations*. 91.

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The Woody Guthrie Centennial Bibliography

Jeffrey N. Gatten

This bibliography updates two extensive works designed to include comprehensively all significant works by and about Woody Guthrie. Richard A. Reuss published A Woody Guthrie Bibliography, 1912–1967 in 1968 and Jeffrey N. Gatten’s article “Woody Guthrie: A Bibliographic Update, 1968–1986” appeared in 1988. With this current article, researchers need only utilize these three bibliographies to identify all English-language items of relevance related to, or written by, Guthrie.

Introduction

Woodrow Wilson Guthrie (1912–67) was a singer, musician, composer, author, artist, radio personality, columnist, activist, and philosopher. By now, most anyone with interest knows the shorthand version of his biography: refugee from the Oklahoma dust bowl, California radio show performer, New York City socialist, musical documentarian of the Northwest, merchant marine, and finally decline and death from Huntington’s chorea. July 14, 2012, would have been Woody Guthrie’s 100th birthday. Throughout the year, numerous concerts, conferences, and tributes in America and Europe celebrated the Woody Guthrie Centennial. All intended to recognize and honor the lasting influence of a true folk hero. Any examination of twentieth-century American society is incomplete without exploring the life and times of Woody Guthrie. The amount of creative output from Guthrie is staggering and the resulting impact on American culture remarkable. Yet, so much more depth and many layers to Guthrie’s history continue to be discovered. Scholars still investigate, study, and debate his political views, still attempt to separate fact from fiction in his writings, and still uncover more songs, more essays, and more artwork—increasingly so in the two decades leading up to his centennial.

This bibliography updates two extensive works designed to include comprehensively all significant works by and about Woody Guthrie. Richard A. Reuss published *A Woody Guthrie Bibliography, 1912–1967* in 1968 and Jeffrey N. Gatten’s article “Woody Guthrie: A Bibliographic Update, 1968–1986” appeared in 1988. Now, with

this present article, researchers need only utilize these three bibliographies to identify all English-language published items of substance related to, or written by, Guthrie. Materials included here are books, sections of books, articles, dissertations, liner notes of substance, radio transcripts, videos, sound recordings, and websites. Also included is a list of selected juvenile books containing content that may be of interest to researchers. Newspaper articles are included if from major sources. Items not included are works that include only passing references to Woody Guthrie or descriptions of his influence on others, such as Bob Dylan, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, and just about everyone else from the 1960s folk movement. Also excluded are reprints of Guthrie's songs that do not include commentary and short biographical entries unless focused on specific or unusual aspects of his life. Works devoted to other members of the Guthrie family are listed only if insight into Woody's life is provided as well. In most instances, reprints and excerpts are not included. In addition, reviews of books, recordings, movies, concerts, etc., have been excluded. No assessment has been made as to the content accuracy in the works listed. To identify a wealth of unpublished archival material, visit the Woody Guthrie Archives online <<http://www.woodyguthrie.org/archives/>>.

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