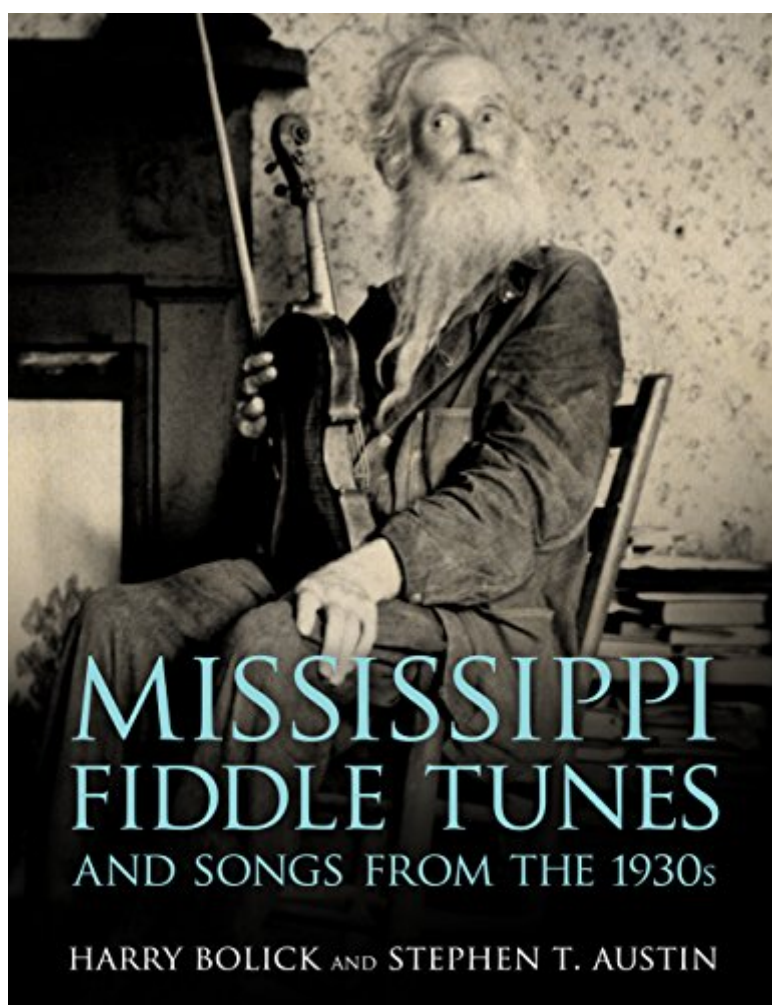


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# Mississippi Fiddle Tunes And Songs From The 1930s (American Made Music Series)



## Synopsis

While in the Mississippi State Archives tracking down Abbott Ferriss's beautiful photographic portraits of musicians from 1939, author Harry Bolick discovered, to his amazement, a treasure trove of earlier fiddle tunes in manuscript form. Since then he has worked to understand how this collection came to exist and be set aside. With Stephen T. Austin, Bolick has transcribed the subsequent 1939 audio recordings. *Mississippi Fiddle Tunes and Songs from the 1930s* presents the history of the collecting work, with over three hundred of the tunes and songs and a beautiful selection of period photographs. In the summer of 1936, over one hundred fiddle tunes, many of them unique, along with thousands of songs, were collected and notated throughout a large part of Mississippi. Roughly 130 novice field workers captured beautiful tunes and tantalizing fragments. As a body of work, it is an unparalleled and fascinating snapshot of vernacular music as heard in Mississippi in the early part of the recorded era. However, this music was unpublished and forgotten. In 1939, building on the contacts made three years earlier, Herbert Halpert led one of the last and best executed of the WPA folklore projects which recorded audio performances in Mississippi. Some, but not all, of those distinctive fiddle tune recordings have been published. Additionally through cassette tape copies passed hand to hand, some of these distinctive tunes have regained currency and popularity among contemporary fiddlers. In *Mississippi Fiddle Tunes and Songs from the 1930s*, this great music is at last widely available. Selected tunes in this book are available from Document Records. Get Harry Bolick's CD with 22 tunes from the book, more information, a video, and free downloads of the sound files at [www.mississippifiddle.com](http://www.mississippifiddle.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent book full of great background information on old-time music from Mississippi as well as a great collection of nicely printed music. Mr. Bolick has done an excellent job in producing this book. My only complaint, as with most of this sort of books of music collections is that it is "perfect bound" which means that it has a square binding that doesn't lie perfectly flat on the music stand for easy reading and playing. I realize that many people who play in this tradition memorize the songs they will play and many pick the tunes up by ear, but many more need to read the tunes from printed music while learning them, and a book of music should lie flat on the stand. Taking it to a local copy shop to have the book coil bound solves the problem but it's also an extra expense which the reader shouldn't have to pay. The binding notwithstanding, this is an excellent book that is a great addition to the library of anybody who loves old-time fiddle music and wants to expand their repertoire. I give it 5 stars based on the content and scholarship of the author. I give the publisher only 3 stars because of the binding.

Fantastic resource!

Excellent!

A must own for any old-time musician's library.

This book includes a short history of the musicians and the time period, with many beautiful photographs. A real glimpse into the past! The notations are great fun to play through.

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