Comptes rendus/Reviews

Books


The University of Illinois’s Music in American Life series is arguably the premier vehicle for traditional and popular song research on this continent. Its titles include many seminal studies within the discipline as well as some that have become standard works in their respective fields: Archie Green’s Only a Miner, Sandy Ives’s Joe Scott: The Woodsman-Songmaker, Norm Cohen’s Long Steel Rail, Neil Rosenberg’s encyclopedic Bluegrass: A History, and Jeff Todd Titon’s Early Downhome Blues. These titles are perhaps the ones best known to readers of the CSTM Bulletin, but they are only a scattered few in an eclectic bibliography covering virtually all facets of vernacular music in America.

The latest offering in the series is the autobiography of Canadian-born country singer, Clarence E. Snow: aka, Hank Snow, the Singing Ranger. In rags-to-riches fashion, Snow chronicles his slow but determined journey from rural poverty in Nova Scotia during the Depression to his stunning success as a recording artist. On the whole, it is an engaging account of the