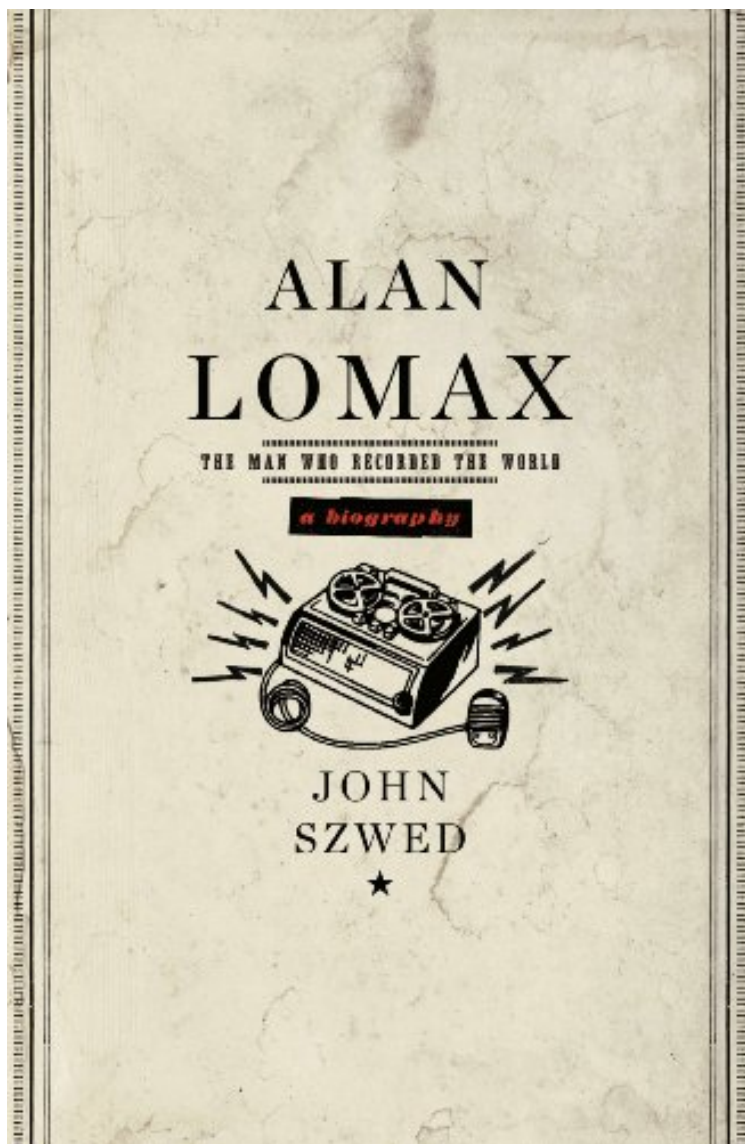


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Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World

John Szwed

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John Szwed : Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A FavoriteBy Mr. BakerAlan Lomax has long been a favorite of mine. I am continually amazed at the depth and breadth of his life's work. This book is not only well written and researched but flows from chapter to chapter with ease. Maybe it's my love of the subject and the love of his subjects, but I couldn't put it down and was continually amazed at the impact Lomax had on the USA and the world. What we listen to today, how we listen to it and understand it and most notably who we listen to is in large part a direct result of

the lifelong work of John and Alan Lomax, whatever the music is that you listen to. Social consciousness, preserving our heritage, understanding and appreciating the everyman in rural and urban settings were a given in Lomax's life. Appreciating the musicians as fine artists and that remarkable ear of his to pick out the best and to uncover some of the finest American and World Music ever recorded is truly phenomenal. Our lives have been so enriched by this man that he truly should be a household name. This fine biography does justice to the man who changed all our lives for the better whether we know it or not. For his work on Leadbelly recordings alone, I will be eternally grateful. When you consider his field recordings in Italy and Spain then you are reaching a plateau no one else has ever or will ever achieve again. Read this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A By kinsellajrwarts and all look at a renaissance man and an American original. If you have any interest in Americana, folk, blues, jazz in short music, then I recommend this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good story about the Lomaxes. By Arkansas Red Anyone interested in folk music or folksong collecting will enjoy this book by the man, who with his father made folk music popular.

The remarkable life and times of the man who popularized American folk music and created the science of song. Folklorist, archivist, anthropologist, singer, political activist, talent scout, ethnomusicologist, filmmaker, concert and record producer, Alan Lomax is best remembered as the man who introduced folk music to the masses. Lomax began his career making field recordings of rural music for the Library of Congress and by the late 1930s brought his discoveries to radio, including Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Burl Ives. By the 1940s he was producing concerts that brought white and black performers together, and in the 1950s he set out to record the whole world. Lomax was also a controversial figure. When he worked for the U. S. government he was tracked by the FBI, and when he worked in Britain, MI5 continued the surveillance. In his last years he turned to digital media and developed technology that anticipated today's breakthroughs. Featuring a cast of characters including Eleanor Roosevelt, Leadbelly, Carl Sandburg, Carl Sagan, Jelly Roll Morton, Muddy Waters, and Bob Dylan, Szwed's fascinating biography memorably captures Lomax and provides a definitive account of an era as seen through the life of one extraordinary man.