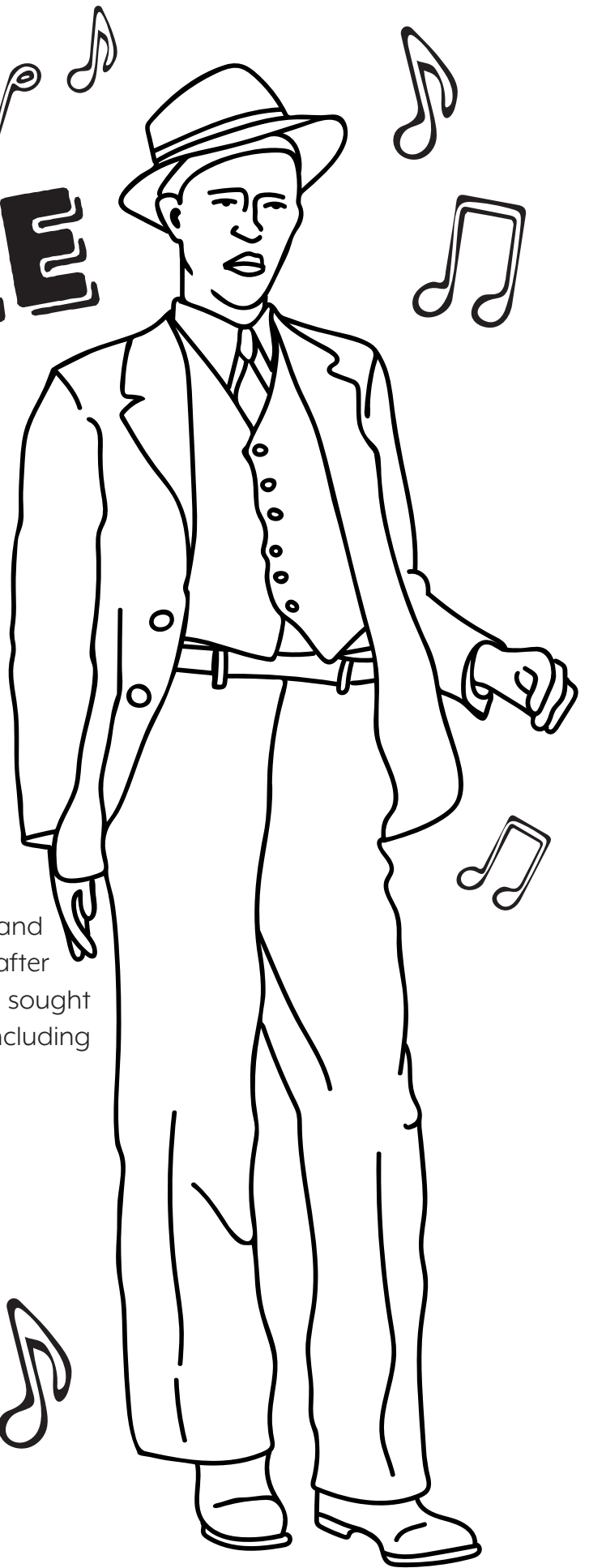


LESLEY RIDDLE

African American singer and guitarist Lesley Riddle was born in North Carolina on June 13, 1905. After the 1927 Bristol Sessions, Riddle went out on “song-catching” trips with A. P. Carter, where Riddle memorized the music while Carter learned the lyrics. Together, they collected many of the traditional tunes that The Carter Family later recorded. Maybelle Carter learned several songs from Riddle, including “The Cannonball,” and she also credited him with teaching her a finger-picking style on guitar that she further developed into her well-known and influential “Carter scratch.”

Riddle moved to Rochester, New York, in 1942, and soon stopped performing. Years later in the 1960s, after hearing about Riddle from Maybelle, Mike Seeger sought him out and encouraged him to return to music, including making a series of field recordings.

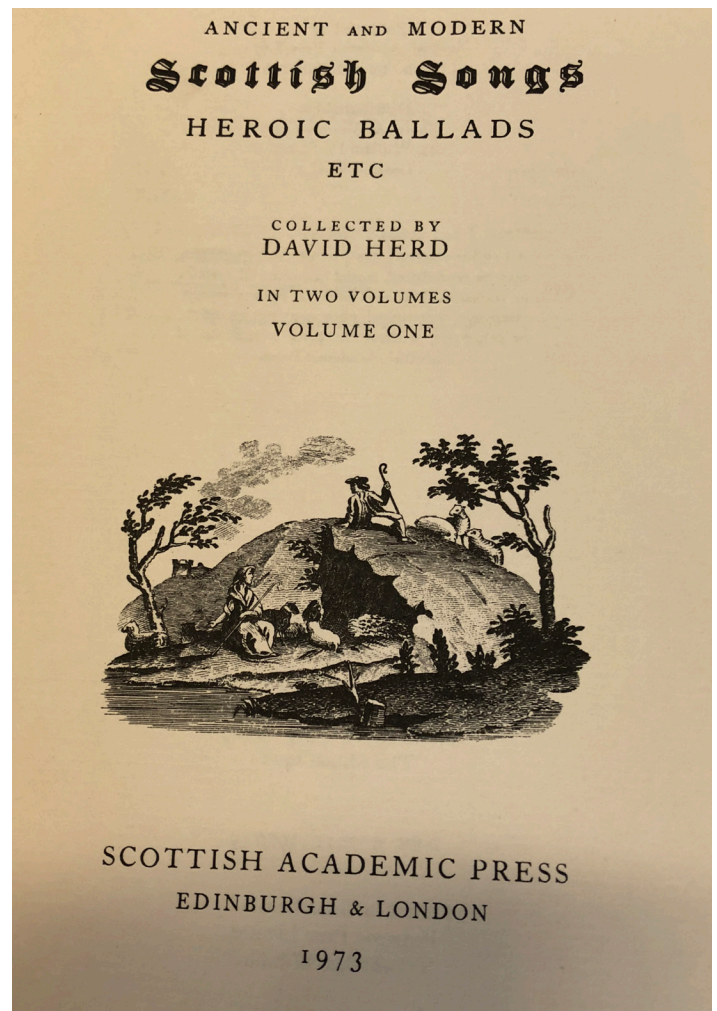
COLOR IN LESLEY RIDDLE!



WHAT IS "SONG-CATCHING"?

During the late 1800s and into the 1920s, people who studied Appalachian music were often called songcatchers. Early songcatchers were focused on finding Appalachian versions of ballads and songs that originated in the British Isles, some as old as the 1600s. Later scholars also came to the Appalachian region to record old and contemporary songs from a variety of sources, including Cherokee and African American musicians.

When A. P. Carter and Lesley Riddle went song-catching, they approached all sorts of people such as families living on farms, homesteaders up in the mountains, factory workers in the towns and cities, church singers, and railroaders. Carter would ask them if they had an old song to share with him, and once he and Riddle got back to the Carter homestead, he'd work it up with Sara and Maybelle into their own version of the song, ready to be recorded and performed.



This title page of David Herd's *Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs, Heroic Ballads, etc* shows a publication date of 1973, but the original book came out in 1776. One of the Scottish songs recorded in this book – "The Bonny Lass of Lochroyan" – has similarities to The Carter Family's "The Storms Are on the Ocean," recorded at the 1927 Bristol Sessions.

YOU CAN BE A SONGCATCHER TOO!

Talk to family, friends, your teachers, and other people in your life and ask them to tell you about their favorite song, a song they remember hearing when they were younger, or a song they sing a lot themselves – just be sure to ask permission from your grown-ups! Once you've got a list of songs, ask your grown-ups to help you find them online so you can listen to the songs – some of them might become your favorites too!