

THE DRUM AND THE HOE

LIFE AND LORE
OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE



DRUM AND THE HOE, THE

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Anthropology/Folklore/Ethnomusicology

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Haiti, brought vividly to life in this book, is a rugged, mountainous land, thickly populated by farmers who live close to the edge of hunger. Descended from Africans brought as slaves to the New World, they have developed a culture of African, American, and French influences—rich in folklore, music, art, dance, religion, and language. How is so complex a culture to be described and separated from the romantic legends that have grown around it? Mr. Courlander finds the means: he emphasizes the Haitian folklore, arts, dancing and especially singing; he explains their African survivals, death rites, work and play, oral literature, musical instruments, and festivals. His work will interest folk dancers, singers, and musicians particularly, for he has reproduced and commented upon much Haitian music. His tapestry includes vivid threads of the rituals that have led less sophisticated observers to create the mystique of voodoo.

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