



**Moran Lee Dock Boggs** (February 7, 1898 – February 7, 1971) was an American old-time singer, songwriter and banjo player. His style of banjo playing, as well as his singing, is considered a unique combination of Appalachian folk music and African-American blues.

Contemporary folk musicians and performers consider him a seminal figure, at least in part because of the appearance of two of his recordings from the 1920s, *Sugar Baby* and *Country Blues*, on Harry Smith's 1952

collection *Anthology of American Folk Music*. Dock Boggs was first recorded in 1927 and again in 1929, although he worked primarily as a coal miner for most of his life.

He was rediscovered during the folk music revival of the 1960s and spent much of his later life playing at folk music festivals and recording for Folkways Records.

In June 1963, at the height of the folk music revival in the United States, the folk music scholar Mike Seeger sought out and found Dock at his home near Needmore, Virginia. Seeger was delighted to learn that he had recently repurchased a banjo and had been practicing the instrument for several months before his arrival. He persuaded Dock to play at the American Folk Festival in Asheville, North Carolina, later that year. With Seeger's help, Boggs began to record again, eventually recording three albums for Folkways Records. Throughout the 1960s, he toured the United States, playing

in clubs and at folk music festivals, including a performance before an audience of 10,000 at the Newport Folk Festival.

In the early 1970s, Boggs's health began to deteriorate, and he died on his 73rd birthday. In 1968, his protégé Jack Wright started the Dock Boggs Festival, which is still held annually in Boggs's hometown of Norton, although it is now known as the Dock Boggs & Kate Peters Sturgill Festival. He was buried in Norton, Virginia.