

John Saunders, writing from Cornwall in the UK, felt the article exaggerated the role of Lonnie Donegan in introducing the British public to the music of Lead Belly." Although Lonnie Donegan recorded some of Lead Belly's songs, by the time he had finished with them they are barely recognizable as such. (I find the idea that Alan Lomax mistook Donegan for the ghost of Lead Belly as hilarious)."

Bess Lomax Hawes (Daughter of John Lomax) wrote: "Please stop sending me the Lead Belly Letter. I appreciate your courtesy in doing so over the years, but the current interview with Lonnie Donegan [sic] has convinced me that your editorial position is to print whatever anyone wants to say without any attempt at verification...If you choose to present my father and brother as dishonorable, self-serving exploiters of the great singers of their day, there is nothing I can do to prevent you. But I don't have to read it."

Irma Commanday Bauman wrote: "A real error was made by Lonnie Donegan: Woody (not Woodie) was never a 'very, very well-off, well-employed, commercial singer.' Wherever did Donegan get that idea?"

The Jazz Curator at the British Library's National Sound Archive, Andrew Simons, wrote that the Lead Belly Letter "is obviously valuable to researchers of British jazz and blues. Further, tracking down Lonnie Donegan at his home in Spain is something that few British journalists would even think to attempt."

Pete Seeger found "it incredible that you print that long interview with Lonnie Donegan without checking a few facts. Was Lonnie drunk when he carried on like that? 'Guthrie was very well-off, well-employed commercial singer' and later 'the Lomaxes...were only concerned with making a buck...' Maybe Lonnie's wild statements will spark a real debate. So maybe we should thank him?"

King's Jazz Review recommended the Lead Belly Letter, "a fine publication," as "essential reading for Donegan fans."

The Richmond Organization of New York advised that "all songs by Huddie Ledbetter are published by TRO Folkways Music Publishers, Inc."

Peter Goldsmith, who is writing a biography on Moe Asch, sent an anecdote long in circulation about Lonnie Donegan's manager visiting the office of record producer Asch to "inquire about royalties due his client for songs recorded by a certain 'Ledbelly,' including Rock Island Line. Asch found the suggestion preposterous, saying: 'I'll tell you what, you come back here this afternoon and I'll have all the records here. And I'll break them over your head one at a time!'"