

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 26.1 (Summer 1992). I was guest editor of this issue, foreshadowing my return to harness in tandem with George Lyon. It consisted mostly of the 1992 Festival Directory. There was as well a provocative article, “The Function of Folk Festivals”, by Gary Cristall, then Artistic Director of the Vancouver Folk Festival, and an article by Michael Taft, “A Response to Mr. Podolak”, reacting to a previous provocative article by another folk festival director, Mitch Podolak.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 31.1 (March 1997). Jay Rahn contributed an article, “Using Single-Chord Pieces in Elementary School Music”, with accompanying songs “My Dame Has a Lame Tame Crane” and “Lord Gregory” (an Ontario version from LaRena Clark); Daniel Thonon’s tune “Evit Gabriel” supported an interview with him and other Ad Vielle Que Pourra members, entitled “That’s World Beat, For Sure!”, which had a sidebar on “The Hurdy Gurdy, Old & New”; Bruce Paproski’s article “...a regular sound in the morning...” described Dan Brann’s grassroots radio show emanating from Hudson Bay Junction, Saskatchewan; there were photos of “Field Work in Iberia” from Judith Cohen and others; and Phil Thomas contributed a piece on the “First All-Canadian Folk Song Book?”. Lots of reviews, and the Festival Directory, made up the balance of the issue.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 36.1 (Spring 2002). This final issue under the aegis of Lorne Brown was titled “Legendary Issue!”. One of the legends was Jerry Gray of The Travellers, interviewed by Lorne; the collecting of another legend was described in an article by Allan Kirby, “Edith Fowke and Traditional Music in Ontario”; a third legend, Wade Hemsworth, was eulogized by his great-nephew of the same name, as well as by the editor, and his songs “My Mother is the Ocean Sea”, “The Wild Goose” and “The *I’m Alone*” were included; a fourth legend, Hamish Henderson, was also memorialized. The Ballad of the Month was “Lamkin”, with an article by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat. The column A Mare Usque consisted of reports from various writers across the country. The Back Page column consisted of numerous “Snatches, Catches, Fragments, and Ditties”. The usual reviews and compilations showed up.

Five Years Ago

CFM 41.1 (Spring 2007). Phil Thomas was memorialized in this unusual issue, which included articles “Phil Thomas – an Appreciation” by Jon Bartlett, “Phil Thomas – A Personal Memoir” by Rika Ruebsaat and “Remembering Phil” by Judith Cohen”. In addition, co-editor David Gregory took us on “An Odyssey in Song”, using no less than 24 songs collected by Phil to illustrate the breadth of his collecting and the songs’ relationship to the history of British Columbia. None of the usual columns and reviews were included this time.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are now available from CSTM, c/o folkwaysAlive!, 347 Arts Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E6. For pricing, see the Mail Order Service catalogue or website (www.yorku.ca/cstm and follow the links), or contact cstm@cstm@ualberta.ca. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]

