

“Ah, little did my mother think, when first she cradled me,  
The lands I was to travel in, and the death I was to dee.

“Last night I washed the Queen's feet, and put the gold in her hair,  
And the only reward I find for this, the gallows to be my share.”

“Cast off, cast off my gown,” she cried, “but let my petticoat be,  
And tie a napkin 'round my face, the gallows I would not see.”

Then by and come the King himself, looked up with a pitiful eye,  
“Come down, come down, Mary Hamilton, tonight you'll dine with me.”

“Ah, hold your tongue, my sovereign liege, and let your folly be;  
For if you'd a mind to save my life, you'd never have shamed me here.

“Last night there were four Marys, tonight there'll be but three,  
There was Mary Beaton, and Mary Seton, and Mary Carmichael, and me.”

## Treasures from Our Archives

### *Fifteen Years Ago*

*Bulletin* 26.1 (Summer 1992). I [John Leeder] 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.

*Bulletin* 26.2 (Fall 1992). Another transition issue. The *Bulletin* returned to the “newsletter” format which was to persist for roughly the next year, until the Society's finances permitted a more ambitious approach. As well, the editorial torch was officially thrown from Lynn Whidden to George W. Lyon and myself, but much of the content of the issue was in fact inherited from Lynn's tenure. This included Tom Brandon's song “Canadian Unity”, Allister MacGillivray's “Kitty Bawn O'Brien” and Bob Bossin's “The Casca and the Whitehorse Burned Down”, articles on “Saskatoon in the Winter” and Lunenburg's Folk Harbour festival, the as-yet-unnamed radio column and reviews of Roy Johnstone's *Rolling Waves*, Ad Vielle Que Pourra's

*New French Folk Music*, Penny Sidor's *Past Lives* and Willy Thrasher's *Indian/Inuit Country*.

*Bulletin* 26.3 (Autumn 1992). Accordion music again! Len Wallace wrote about “The Accordion: The People's Instrument”. The other feature article was from Vladimir Simosko, “Ethnomusicology and Education in the 1990s”. Judith Cohen's EthnoFolk Letters column made its first appearance, as did the then-unnamed magazine column. The still-unnamed radio column showed up for the second time. Then there were reviews of Sid Holt and George Lyon's book *A Toast to Baldy Red* and recordings *Pint Pot and Plough* (Mike Ballantyne) and *Clawhammer Your Way to the Top* (Daniel Koulack). Joe Adams' song “Harvest Time” filled the back page of this “newsletter-style” issue.

### *Ten Years Ago*

*Bulletin* 31.1 (March 1997). Jay Rahn contributed an article “Using Single-Chord Pieces in Elementary School Music”, with a couple of accompanying songs, “My Dame Has a Lame Tame Crane” and “Lord Gregory” (an Ontario version from LaRena Clark); Daniel Thonon's tune “Évit 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.

*Bulletin* 31.2 (June 1997). This issue had a distinct Western Canadian flavour. Rod Olstad contributed an article on “Country Opries of Barrhead, Alberta, and Area” (including fiddle tunes “Westphalia Waltz” and “Red Wing” and a poem, “This Old Rig”, by Roy “Ollie” Olson). A Métis song “Kispin Kisakahin” accompanied an article entitled “...a rollicking melody...”, which excerpted music-related matter from the diaries of Métis interpreter Peter Erasmus. Rev. Franceene Watson’s article on “Red River Valley Fiddler Andy De Jarlis”, with “Nobody’s Business Two-Step” as played by De Jarlis, and Mark Wonneck’s song “The Dry Hills”, both carried on the Western theme. The Canadian Folk Festival Directory was included, and lots of columns and reviews.

*Bulletin* 31.3/4 (September/December 1997). This was a double issue. I’ll write about it next time.

#### **Five 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 Rural 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.

*Bulletin* 36.2 (Summer 2002). The first issue from the new co-editors, David & Rosaleen Gregory (has it really been five years?!), set down their thoughts in an article “Whither the *Bulletin*?”. Another article by David, “Time to Move Webwards?”, also explored the Society’s future. Looking towards the past, on the other hand, English folk music figure John Hasted was memorialized, including excerpts from his *Sing* magazine column “A Singer’s Notebook”, his poem on “The Modes”, and several songs in versions he collected: “The Methody Parson”, “Byker Hill” and “Young Sailor Cut Down in His Prime”. “Singing at Sudbury” reported on the FSAC conference held in that city, along with a version of a song heard at the conference, “Papa m’a donné un mari”. Other songs in the issue were “The Parting Glass” (included as a farewell to Hasted and others) and reconstructed ballad “Dead Maid’s Land (The Gardener)”. A number of reviews appeared as well.

*Bulletin* 36.3 (Fall 2002). Recently-deceased former President Bill Sarjeant was memorialized in this issue, with articles by David Spalding, Charlie Maguire and Paddy Tutty. The jam-packed issue also included an interview with Moira Cameron (with a review of her CD *Lilies Among the Bushes*), a complete version of the previously-excerpted article by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat “*Lamkin*, ‘The Terror of Countless Nurseries’ ” (with two versions of the ballad), reflections on Edith Fowke by Jeanette Panagapka (with David Gregory’s outline of Edith’s archival material at the University of Calgary) and a short in memoriam to Barry Isaac. The A Mare Usque column covered a number of festivals from the Yukon to Newfoundland, and there were plenty of CD reviews, as well as the song “The King of Ireland’s Sons”.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are available from CSTM Back Issues, 224 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2. For pricing, see the Mail Order Service catalogue or website ([www.yorku.ca/cstm](http://www.yorku.ca/cstm) and follow the links), or contact [john.leeder@nucleus.com](mailto:john.leeder@nucleus.com). Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]