

From the Editors

This issue, the second of 2004, will reach you in the fall rather than the summer. We apologize for the delay. It is a special issue, entirely devoted to the legacy of one of Canada's greatest collectors of traditional song, Helen Creighton. After what we hope to be a fairly short interval it will be followed by issue 38.3, which will revert to our traditional format. It will include a generous helping of book and CD reviews as well as the return of several regular columns. Unfortunately, because of space limitations due to increased printing costs, it may not be possible to include a winter update to the annual CSTM Folk Festival Guide, which we inserted in the Spring issue. That update will be available on the CSTM webpage at <http://www.yorku.ca/cstm>. The webpage currently has details of the 2004 CSTM Conference & AGM, to be held at York University, Toronto, at Hallowe'en (October 29th-31st). Remember, too, that back issues of *Canadian Folk Music/Bulletin de musique folklorique canadienne* and the *Canadian Journal for Traditional Music* can be accessed through the links provided there.

The format of this issue is simple. There are two main articles. The first is a chronological survey of Helen Creighton's song collecting in Nova Scotia and southern New Brunswick, and the focus is on the singers with whom she made contact and the songs that they sang to her. Included are transcriptions of a few of the items she collected, including the very first, "When I Was a Young Man", as sung by Enos Hartlan, and one of her early favourites, another of Enos' offerings, "When I Was in My Prime". The first transcription is Helen's own, while the second is based on Doreen Senior's noting of the tune. The third illustration in this piece, "The Ghostly Sailors", was transcribed by Rosaleen, and Walter Roast's words are copied from the text provided in the CD issued by the Helen Creighton Society, *Songs of the Sea*, which you will find reviewed on pp. 39-40. The second main article, a survey of the very important collaboration between Helen and Doreen Senior, which lasted from 1932 to 1940 and provided most of the contents of Helen's second major song collection, *Traditional Songs from Nova Scotia*, also includes a few transcriptions by way of illustration. The tunes of these songs were all noted by Doreen: they are Nova Scotian variants of two Child ballads, "Georgie" and "Young Hunting", a striking *revenant* ballad titled "Margaret and John", and Dennis Smith's version of one of Helen's favourite folksongs, "Peggy Gordon". Two contributions by Helen's friend, disciple and biographer, Clary Croft, follow. In the first Clary reflects on Helen's career, her achievements, and the criticisms that have been made of her and her work, while in the second he provides a very useful overview of the *Helen Creighton Fonds* at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia in Halifax. The issue concludes with four reviews: an appraisal of *Songs of the Sea* (a double CD of songs and other items that Helen recorded between 1943 and 1954), a belated assessment of Clary's biography of Helen, an appreciation of the NFB movie *A Sigh and a Wish: Helen Creighton's Maritimes*, and a review of Clary's newest CD release, which includes performances of Nova Scotian songs that Helen collected. The photo of Helen on the front cover [PANS HC Fonds Binder 18: 1101] was taken in 1967. The photographer is unknown, as is the case with all the pictures of Helen's informants included in the following pages, courtesy of Clary Croft. We learned a lot while preparing this issue, and we hope you find plenty to enjoy in it.

By the way, the editorial board of *Canadian Folk Music* still has a vacancy for an associate editor from northern Canada. Since the main articles published in the magazine are peer-reviewed, associate editors are expected to evaluate and prioritize submissions as required. They also have the opportunity to prepare (or help prepare) a special issue on their own region or subject of expertise. Anyone interested in joining our team should write to the address below or e-mail us at davidg@athabascau.ca.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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Canadian Folk Music is published four times a year: spring, summer, fall and winter.

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