

Letters to the Editor

Robert Rodriguez writes:

As I write, the month of June, which the First Nations folks of the southern plains refer to as the Month of Roses, is nigh upon us, and the calendar swears that it is spring, but to tell the truth, it feels anything but spring; in fact, it feels more like the middle of November somewhere between Fargo and Duluth. But leave it to the *Bulletin* to bring a goodly dose of warmth and good cheer into one's otherwise dreary midst, for which yours truly can only be more than genuinely grateful. The *Bulletin's* tribute to Alan Lomax was truly inspirational, authentically professional in scope and its coverage of Lomax's life and musical and academic accomplishments, and I was especially gratified and pleased to see more than a goodly amount of his reissued materials now currently available on CD, with special thanks for the reviews done on his Spanish recordings as well as those dealing with the British Isles and related musical projects. I was also happy to see reviews done for both the *Southern Journey* and *Southern Heritage* series.

Further thanks is given for the *Bulletin's* fine piece on the several performing and collecting trips undertaken by Maud Karpeles in Newfoundland in the late 1920s. Her vital contributions to the fields of English and American country dance and folk music and folklore collecting, scholarship and dissemination cannot be underestimated, and thanks to the *Bulletin* for allowing us to revisit Karpeles and her extensive accomplishments on behalf of both Canadian and American folklorists. And last but certainly not least, another word of grateful thanks, in part brought on by the good fortune of being able to once more reread *Bluenose Ghosts* and *Bluenose Magic* by Canada's own gift to the folklore world, Helen Creighton. As one of the folks lucky enough to be chosen as a performer for the 25th annual Toronto Storytelling Festival this past February, I was therefore blessed when I met and heard the marvellous and special musical efforts of Nova Scotia's own Clary Croft and his special interpretation of the songs and ballads from the archives created from Creighton's decades-long field collecting jaunts throughout the Canadian Maritimes. Croft's Sunday morning festival workshop on Creighton and her musical life was more than wondrous; it was magic and poetry and wordsmithing of a unique type. Creighton's informants were storytellers of a special type, and Croft, in his own

inimitable manner, is also a storyteller of the first order. I can only fervently hope that the *Bulletin* will someday, and soon, I hope, do a story on Croft and his untiring work on behalf of Creighton and her musical legacy; that gift to the folkies of Canada and beyond I heartily look forward to receiving, and what a gift indeed it will be!

Lorne Brown writes

I am embarked on a project of writing a major retrospective of the late Canadian folksinger Alan Mills (1912-1977). He made a tremendous contribution to Canadian folk music through his many recordings, radio broadcasts on the CBC, some NFB films, concerts, and many songbooks. Sadly, he seems neglected and under-appreciated today, his recordings almost impossible to obtain except through the good folks at Smithsonian Folkways in Washington DC.

I plan to interview people who knew or worked with Mr Mills, family members, the Alan Mills fonds in the National Archives of Music in Ottawa, the CBC Archives. I've accumulated just about every recording Mills made, including a rare recording of a London, England concert. If anyone has any information or contacts to help me with this project, I would be most grateful.

Noel Thomas writes:

As a member of the *Canadian Society for Traditional Music*, I write to introduce myself and *Historians Recount*. HR is a national campus/community radio series project, funded by Canadian Heritage, that features multicultural stories which tell our social history. The collected stories are for educational purposes and will be available to international audiences of students, academics and others interested in Canada's diverse cultural history. My role as project director/interviewer is to travel Canada, meet and record oral historians (academic and community-based) recounting inter-cultural and inter-religious sect events.

I ask if you might know or possibly recommend to me community or academic storytellers. Community story categories can be entertainment, military, labor issues, business, public health, the professions, *et al.* If necessary, I can send additional information on the *Historians Recount* project.