

## From the Editors



This issue is very late. One problem with editing a periodical is that life sometimes gets in the way. It's been a very busy year, with Dave serving as Chair of the Centre for Global & Social Analysis at Athabasca University and also struggling to meet the contract deadline for the manuscript of his book on the Late Victorian folksong revival in England. That, happily, has now been accomplished, and *Canadian Folk Music* is one of many tasks and projects that have since come off the back burner and sprung back into life. Another recurrent challenge for editors is the non-appearance of copy that has been earnestly promised for an issue. We had planned issues with lead articles on Sam Gesser and Inuit music but these have had to be postponed for now. We are also encouraging each member of the editorial board to take charge of a future issue if they have not already done so, but they are busy people with many other urgent commitments so how soon those special issues will materialize is anyone's guess at this point. In the meantime we urge prospective contributors to keep the copy flowing in. We cannot print what you do not submit. But make sure you send your piece as a Word (or .rtf) file in plain English. No jargon, please!

In planning a graduate course on *Studying Canadian Folk Music*, Dave was horrified to see how few of the foundation collections of Canadian traditional song are still in print. Maud Karpeles' invaluable *Folk Songs from Newfoundland* is a case in point, and furthermore there seems to be no easily available account of her collecting trips for students to read. We are great believers in promoting excellent but neglected folksongs, especially Canadian traditional ballads, and we think they profit from being seen in context, associated, at least initially, with the source singers from whom they were noted and the locale in which they were still alive in oral tradition. So this issue includes an account of Karpeles' first trip to Newfoundland (in 1929), with some of the best songs that she collected on that occasion. We hope to follow it up in the next issue with a similar look at her return trip in 1930. This issue begins with a "Postscript" by Tim Rogers to the article on Canadian train robber Bill Miner that we printed in our last issue, plus the tunes for a good number of the songs that have been written about him. We have included a brief "Renewed Statement of Purpose," and we continue with our regular columns on "Singing the Child Ballads" and "Treasures from Our Archives." And as usual there is a reviews section courtesy of Reviews Editor John Leeder.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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