

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 23.4 (December 1989). This was the last issue of my first stint as editor, before I gratefully threw the torch to Lynn Whidden; the feature article was “My Life Was Not Wasted in Useless Things”, reminiscences of old-time musician Ernie T. Yardley as edited by George W. Lyon. The issue included a couple of B.C. songs, Patrick Smith’s “Gold-Dust” (about train robber Bill Miner) and Bill Farmer’s steamboat song “The *S.S. Minto*”. Other songs were “No More Pickin’ Coal”, by Valeria Hope MacDonald, daughter of Springhill mine disaster hero Maurice Ruddick, and Daphne Rackstraw’s topical song anticipating the G.S.T., “Mister Wilson”. In “A Potpourri of Canadian ‘Celtic’ Recordings”, I wrote about *Orealis* (the first recording by that group), *Raking the Coals* from Under the Moss, and *Mullingar* (also an eponymous LP). Also reviewed were the Regina Folk Festival and *Doug McCarthur with Garnet Rogers* (yet another self-titled disc).

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 28.4 (December 1994). The main article featured reminiscences from accordionist Olaf Sveen, “I’m Olle Myself!”, as well as “Journal Notes” on Judith Cohen’s musical travels in Iberia, Robert Ollikkala’s “Is Music a ‘Social Text’?” on Indian Ghazal singing, and “Canadian Musics,” an overview of the Society’s projected Multicultural Project. A Centrefold column appeared, as well as a Festival Directory (the winter ones were pretty small, in those days). The first Poley Mountain Folk Festival and a concert by Judith Cohen were reviewed, as were books *Raven Tales* (Peter Goodchild, ed.) and *Jack in Two Worlds* (William B. McCarthy, ed.), and recordings *Bandaline* (eponymous, again), Bob Bossin’s *Gabriola VOR 1X0*, Tanglefoot’s *A Grain of Salt*, Dave Foster’s *On That Christmas Day* and Nancy White & Bill Johnston’s *Homely for the Holidays*. A “Schottische” played by Olaf Sveen constituted the only musical offering this time.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 33.4 (December 1999). “Everybody can write, everybody can sing” led off this issue, a transcript of a presentation by Jon Bartlett to the Vancouver Folk Song Society concerning his musical odyssey. Also featured were three short essays on rock culture: “Moshing” by Justin Hartman, “Woo-Hoo!” by Justin Szott, and “The Dread” by Cordell Cummings. An editorial by George W. Lyon considered the vexed question of copyright and traditional music on the internet, while a Centrefold column quoted from other magazines on the question of reviews, particularly negative ones, a hot issue at that point. “Way Up the Ucletaw”, a traditional song collected in B.C. by Phil Thomas, Mac Beattie’s “The Log Driver’s Song” from the Ottawa Valley, and two songs on the downside of Christmas, “Homeless Wassail” (Ian Robb) and “The Other Side of Christmas” (Dave Foster) constituted the music component. Lots of pages were devoted to “housekeeping”, and there were a number of reviews, notably of a concert by the Calgary Chinese Orchestra.

Five Years Ago

CFM 38.4 (Winter 2004-05). Two articles on Quebec music highlighted this issue: “Le quiproquo de la gigue au Québec” (Pierre Chartrand) and “Conrad Laforte: bibliographie sélective” (Sandria P. Bouliane), accompanied by Sandria’s review of the book *La vie musicale en Nouvelle-France*. From the other side of the country, Tim Rogers contributed his song “Roll On, Columbia, Roll On (Wetlands Version)” (a rewrite of the Woody Guthrie original) and an accompanying article. The minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting were included, as well as a plethora of reviews.

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