

# Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

## **Thirty Years Ago**

*Bulletin* 17.1 (January 1983). Editor Tim Rogers put together a “State of the Art” feature, with nine articles by various authors on the folk music scene in their regions of the country. In addition, Yurgen Ilaender contributed an article on a children’s game song, “Three Sailors Went to Yellowknife”, and Donald Deschênes wrote about the song “Dans le temps du sucre”. Ian Robb’s song “The Iron Lady”, two columns, “Ali’s Corner” (by Alistair Brown) and “You and I and Everyone Knows” (by David Spalding), the minutes of the 1982 AGM, a news column and four reviews made up the rest of the issue.

## **Twenty-Five Years Ago**

*Bulletin* 22.1 (September 1988). Yes, that date is correct! Issues sometimes were late in those days too! This issue included the new Constitution of the Society, totally rewritten at the 1987 AGM in Quebec City, which has survived with a few modifications until the present. Articles carried included Bill Sarjeant’s call for regional reorganization of CFMS (which in fact inspired the new Constitution), David Watts’ “Creativity and Mourning in the Work of Stan Rogers”, and Gregg Brunskill’s account of the newly-formed Winnipeg Folk Connection (as it then was). There were no columns this time, but the issue included reviews of James Keelaghan’s *Timelines*, Dick Howe’s *A Scotsman in Canada*, Dave MacIsaac’s *Celtic Guitar*, and the Regina Folk Festival (with a photo montage by Bill Sarjeant). Several songs appeared: Kirk MacGeachy’s “MacDonell of Barrisdale”, a Newfoundland traditional song “*The McClure*”, and “Aux veilles du 28 février 1925”, about an earthquake in Quebec.

## **Twenty Years Ago**

*Bulletin* 27.1 (March 1993). An editorial announces that, after producing the magazine for the better part of a year, George Lyon and I had decided to carry on. (Hard to imagine that it was 20 years ago!) The ‘zine was still newsletter-style, but it was roughly back on schedule after the interregnum between Lynn Whidden’s tenure and ours. The feature article was “Consumed by Consumerism” by Jon Bartlett, with a full translation by André Gareau. The second “EthnoFolk Letters”, “Over the Waves” and a still-unnamed magazine column were included. Songs and tunes were tied in with reviews this time: “I’ve Been a Gay Roving Young Fellow” and “Empty Nets” accompanied

the review of Jim Payne’s recording of the same name; the tune “Flight Six-Seventy-Six” went with *100 Toe-Tappin’ Tunes for Fiddle* by George Carnahan and “Joey Beaton’s Tune” with *Jarry Holland’s Collection of Fiddle Tunes*; also reviewed was Roy Johnson’s *Flying Tide*. As well, the first “Canada Camps” (later “Camps and Courses”) made its appearance.

## **Fifteen Years Ago**

*Bulletin* 32.1 (March 1998). The centrepiece of this issue was “A Conceptual Canadian Blues Festival”, a collection of ten blues songs with a Canadian flavour, written by Canadians. An interview with “Carlos del Junco, Blues Harp Virtuoso” by Perter Narváez carried on the theme. There was lots of housekeeping and ongoing material as well: the minutes of the 1997 AGM, plus an informal report on it; the 1996-97 Cumulative Table of Contents; the Canadian Folk Festival Directory; and “A Peak in Darien”. Reviews included two books, *The Story of Ronnie Hawkins and the Hawks* and *The Seven-Headed Beast*, and seven recordings.

## **Ten Years Ago**

*Bulletin* 37.1 (Spring 2003). An article by David Gregory, “Before Newfoundland: Maud Karpeles in Canada”, kicked off the issue, accompanied by versions of “The Lady Leroy” and “The Female Highwayman” collected by her. Patricia Fulton wrote about “The Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore and Language Archive”, and a description of the Canada Research Chair in Ethnomusicology at that university was included. There were minutes, reports and a photo montage from the AGM in St. John’s, carrying on the Atlantic ambiance, David Gregory’s “Ballad of the Month” column spotlighted “The Oxford/Wexford Girl”, and he also revisited “Dead Maid’s Land” from a previous column, while Rosaleen Gregory in “A Singer’s Workshop” asked for missing verses or versions of “Once There Was a Dragon”. My song “Painting Over the N.A.R.” showed up, and there were lots of reviews, etc.

## **Five Years Ago**

*CFM* 42.1 (Spring 2008). This issue spotlighted the role of the C.P.R.’s Chinese railway builders, with two articles, “Who Built the Canadian Pacific Railway? Chinese Workers from Hoisan” by Josie Chan, and “Hearing a Missing Voice: Chinese Railway La-

bourers” by Tim Rogers. The latter article was accompanied by three songs on the subject by modern authors. “Two Irish Nostalgia Songs from Calgary” completed the songs complement. Rosaleen Gregory’s “Singing the Child Balads” column, the usual columns and a number of reviews made up the balance of the issue.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are available from CSTM,

c/o folkwaysAlive!, 347 Arts Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E6. 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 [cstmsctm@ualberta.ca](mailto:cstmsctm@ualberta.ca). Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]



The Canadian Society for Traditional Music is a registered charity, so all donations made to the CSTM are tax-deductible. Until recently, only a small number of our members have made use of this benefit, and we value their generosity.

The time has come to spread the word about the CSTM and our growth! You might have noticed a few changes in the Canadian Society for Traditional Music lately. We are proud of our organization’s recent renewal and revitalization, which has included:

- a new logo
- a new journal format
- electronic access to our journal via ProQuest
- a redesigned website
- expanded conferences that include three days of concurrent papers
- a new CSTM office housed at folkwaysAlive! at the University of Alberta
- improved bilingual services, including a bilingual website
- an ever-growing listserv with more than 230 subscribers

But we have even more planned! We are increasing our journal’s publication schedule from annual to semi-annual. We have made our magazine made available electronically at Athabasca University. And we sponsor a student conference paper prize.

To accomplish all this, we need *your* help! We are asking members to consider making a donation to the CSTM. This is fully tax-deductible in Canada, and you will be issued a receipt for income tax purposes.