

From the Editors



This is an unusual issue in that the regular columns are missing and there are no CD or book reviews. We decided that we would devote all our available space to commemorating the life and work of Philip J. Thomas, who died last January. Phil, of course, will need no introduction to most of our readers. Suffice it to say that he was the pioneer and the dean of vernacular song collecting in British Columbia, and an impressive performer of the songs that he had rescued from oblivion. He will be badly missed, as indeed he has been already. The CSTM conference in Ottawa did not seem the same without him. We hope to conjure his spirit at the next conference with a workshop devoted to the Western Canadian songs that he collected.

The P.J. Thomas Collection at the Provincial Archives of British Columbia in Victoria is a permanent memorial to Phil's pioneering labours, as are his two CDs (available from Cariboo Road Music) and his renowned publication *Songs of the Pacific Northwest*, the new edition of which should be appearing in bookstores in a few month's time. In this issue we present an appreciation of the man and his work by Jon Bartlett (who knew him well and worked with him closely), and a personal memoir by Rika Ruebsaat (who was inspired not only by his music but also by his approach to teaching children). In the main article we attempt to outline the various phases of Phil's 'spare time' career as a roving song-collector in the different regions of the province he loved, and we also provide a summary account of the different kinds of songs contained in his great book and their relationship to the social history of British Columbia. We have included in this issue as many of Phil's songs as we could find space for. Readers are also directed to Vol. 37.4 (Winter 2003), Vol. 38.3 (Fall 2004), and Vol. 39.2 (Summer 2005) for other songs from the P.J. Thomas Collection.

Please remember that the next CSTM Conference and AGM will take place on November 2nd-4th, 2007, in Edmonton, at the University of Alberta. We will celebrate Phil Thomas' life and work there.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

The editorial address of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne* is 4907 - 54 St., Athabasca, AB, Canada T9S 1L2

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

Editors David & Rosaleen Gregory (Athabasca)

Review Editor John Leeder (Calgary)

Music Editors Maureen Chafe (Newfoundland) &

..... Michael Pollock (Calgary)

Associate Editors Marcel Bénéteau (Ontario)

..... Sandria Bouliane (Quebec)

..... Judith Cohen (Ontario)

..... Clary Croft (Nova Scotia)

..... Philip Hiscock (Newfoundland)

..... Murray Shoolbraid (British Columbia)

Distribution Volunteers Wendy Berner, Dave Foster, John & Marge

..... Leeder, Rodger Leeder, James Prescott &

..... Rosemary Reed (Calgary)