

From the Editors



We've been thinking for some time now that *Canadian Folk Music* should be doing more for the dissemination of Canadian traditional song texts and tunes. When we took over as editors in the summer of 2002, Dave remarked (in an article titled "Time to Move Webwards") on the need for a new anthology to complement Edith Fowke's excellent but aging and out-of-print publications. Creating such a songbook remains a long term goal, but in the meantime there is no reason why we cannot print in these pages songs that Edith missed (or omitted for lack of space) and variants of many of the fine songs that she did publish. The reissue on a single CD-ROM of Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat's entire 16-part radio series titled *Songs and Stories of Canada* provides an opportunity to start—or perhaps we should say resume with more vigour—doing this. Jon and Rika have generously given us permission to print transcriptions of their singing versions of any of the songs they perform in the programs, so Dave's review of their CD is followed by the tunes and texts of sixteen items (one per program). And it so happens that in this issue we are also reviewing *Songs of the North Woods*, a selection of songs and ballads from O. J. Abbott's repertoire, as recorded by Edith Fowke. The editors of this book, Jeanette Panagapka and Laszlo Vikar, have given us permission to reprint six examples of Laszlo's transcriptions of songs from the audio collection, which is housed at the University of Calgary. To these twenty-two we are adding a few songs, some traditional and some composed, from John Leeder's repertoire, plus another four singing versions of Child ballads from Rosaleen's. So, would you believe it, this is a special issue of *Canadian Folk Music* devoted almost solely to Canadian folksongs. Let's try to find out which traditional items are currently still being sung in kitchens and living rooms, around camp fires and at folk clubs across this mighty land. *We are hereby issuing an invitation to you, our readers, to send us the texts and tunes of all those traditional Canadian songs that that you sing.* We'll print as many as we can in future issues.

Keeping you up to date on newly available books and recordings is another of *Canadian Folk Music's* aims. We had less space than usual for CD reviews in the last issue, so in this one we attempt to catch up with the backlog. We'd like to thank all our reviewers for their diligent work. Keep it up, crew! Potential new reviewers should contact John Leeder at <leeders@nucleus.com> to see what discs he has in hand. And we still have a vacancy on the editorial board for someone living in the Territories or for someone with expertise on northern and/or aboriginal music.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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

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