

From the Editors



We broke off working on this issue to attend the CSTM conference in New Westminster and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves there. Hats off to Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat for organizing such a wonderful event! The local Cider Festival and Morris Dancing we attended on the Sunday afternoon was a nice bonus. Too bad it rained all the time, but that's the west coast for you.... When we got back we were pleasantly surprised by the favorable reaction to the Special Issue on Canadian Songs (39.2). We took a bit of a chance in departing from our normal format and, to tell you the truth, we were half expecting some grumbles. So thank you for your support. Now we just need you to keep sending us Canadian songs – traditional or more recent contributions to the tradition – so that we can share them with our readers. In particular, how about some peace songs or environmental songs?

The format of this issue is pretty standard. The lead article is on Inuit drumming, and there are two follow-up pieces: three Inuit songs and a review of four Inuit music CDs. We have an opinion piece by Rika Ruebsaat, the new CSTM president, stimulated by her experience performing at the *Chants de Marins* festival in Quebec. We have a no-punches-pulled review of the Ottawa Folk Festival by Murray Leeder, and our thanks go to Rachel E. Beattie for the photographs. Rosaleen has given us another instalment of the Child ballads in her repertoire, and we look for submissions from readers in response. Please send us the versions that you sing of any of the first twenty-one in the Child canon. John Leeder's regular *Treasures* column is here as usual, accompanied, sadly, by Jon Bartlett's obituary of Hilda Thomas, whose passing we mourn. There are some traditional songs and one about Bill Sargeant, and, of course, a goodly number of book and CD reviews. Something for everyone, we hope.

We must apologize for the tardiness of the issue, which will probably get caught in the Christmas holiday shut-down and may not reach you until January 2006. Better late than never. Issue 39.4 will, we hope, come close on its heels, and will focus on the New Westminster conference and AGM. In the meantime, don't forget to renew your CSTM membership and to check out the Mail Order Service website.

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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