

## Letters to the Editors

I'm sad to have to tell you of the death of Marie Hare, who was one of the finest singers of traditional songs I've ever known. A native of Strathadam, Newcastle, New Brunswick, Marie Hare sang both local woods songs and ballads widely known in Britain and America. She was "discovered" by folklorists and folksong collectors from outside her native Miramichi, and Sandy Paton issued a recording of her singing on Folk-Legacy c. 1961. Like Almeda Riddle, she did the "folk festival circuit" and performed at Mariposa and at Pinewoods Camp. When I began visiting New Brunswick in 1986, Marie had me over to her house almost immediately, and she'd always insist that I have a meal with her. She was a woman of immense dignity and truly a Canadian national treasure.

*Margaret Steiner*

In renewing my membership, I thought I would also like to write to tell you how much I enjoy the information you've been sending. As a Canadian living in Wales, it is a much-welcomed link with the music with which I grew up. I thought you might be interested in receiving some information on Wales in return. I've recently been appointed Director of *trac* which, although a relatively new body, has been building a reputation for innovative strategic work in the field of Welsh folk music. We work in partnership with the established traditional Societies (Folk Song, Folk Dance, Cerdd Dant, etc.) but also with contemporary performers, local government, economic regeneration groups, etc. Interesting, if at times... complicated? I look forward to my next packet "from home" and more information about Canadian folk music.

*(Ms.) Siân Thomas*

I want to thank you for including a review of my *Into the Red* CD in the *Canadian Bulletin of Folk Music* [37.3, p. 41]... I was impressed by the attention [the author] paid to the songs and her extensive knowledge of the music of North-Eastern England. At a time when attention spans seem to be ever diminishing, it is a treat to have a review written by someone who actually took the time to listen thoroughly to the recording.

*Tim Readman*

## Treasures from Our Archives

*Fifteen Years Ago*

**Bulletin** 23.1 (March 1989). Two main articles graced this issue. In "An Ethnomusicological Perspective on Folk Music", Jay Rahn explained ethnomusicology in layperson's terms, as the prospect of CFMS (as it then was) becoming the society representing Canada's ethnomusicologists was on the horizon. Also, James Prescott's "Unriddling 'Came Ye O'er Frae France?'" made much clear concerning a song that had tended to puzzle me, among others. Two railroad songs were included -- "The Founding of the Famous C.P.R." (Powder River Jack Lee) and "The Hinton Rail Disaster" (Wiz Bryant) -- as well as Rona Altrous's topical comment on Ben Johnson's Olympic scandal, "There's Gold in Them Thar Pills". Recordings reviewed were Eileen McGann's *Elements*, Garnet Rogers's *Speaking Softly in the Dark*, Archie Fisher's *Sunsets I've Galloped Into...*, Faith Nolan's *Africville*, Tom Lewis's *Surfacing* and the Calgary Hungarian Senior Citizens' Choir's *Magyar Nóta Gyűjtemény*.

*Ten Years Ago*

**Bulletin** 28.1 (March 1994). The "newsletter" format was well and truly left behind by this issue, as CSMT (as it then was) shook off the financial crisis of that epoch. Lots about Stan Rogers in this issue: his picture on the cover, a review essay of the stage show *Rise Again* and reviews of Chris Gudgeon's book *An Unfinished Conversation* and the concert recording *Home in Halifax*. Lots of housekeeping stuff, editorials, board members' bios, 1990-93 Cumulative Table of Contents. Also Elaine Keillor's "An Opinion and Arguments Against an English Name Change" and "Deux reels-à-bouche" from Sharon Berman. In addition to those tunes, we included the song "Kumanovo Bykso Oro" from the Toronto Bicycle Choir, an Ethnofolk Letter column from Judith Cohen, a Centrefold column on dance magazines by Michael Pollock, and French versions of some material from the previous issue. Other reviews included books *The Storyteller at Fault* (Dan Yashinsky), *Songs of Labrador* (Tim Borlase), *Folksongs of the Maritimes* (Kaye Pottie and Vernon Ellis) and various Catalan traditional music publications, and many recordings, including *A Celebration of Heritage: Songs of Labrador* (June Baikie and Kelly Russell).

*Five Years Ago*

**Bulletin** 33.1 (March 1999). This issue had a memorial theme, as it contained two reminiscences of fiddler Graham Townsend, written by Al Yetman and Dorothy Hogan, and an obituary to songwriter Vincent Ierfino, by Stan Triggs. Two of Ierfino's songs, "An Old Country Waltz" and "The Apple Picking Man", accompanied the article. A couple of editorials prompted by a musician's response to a review were also noteworthy.