

## Our Back Pages

### Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 19.4 (December 1985). Feature articles in this issue included Shelly Posen's "Tracking Down the Chapeau Boys" (pinning down facts concerning the well-known Ottawa Valley song), Billy Hill's "George Cook: Canadian Extraordinaire" (Mr. Cook's claim to fame is being the most prolific songwriter in history), "About Song Writing" by Denise Larson, and my own "Back to the Source." Charlotte Cormier contributed two songs on the 1959 disaster of Baie-Ste-Anne, New Brunswick, in which 35 fishermen died. Monique Jutras's song "La complainte de Julie" was also included. David Spalding's column "Singing Our Dreams" in the "You and I and Nobody Knows" series, the minutes of the 1985 AGM, a photo montage by Bill Sarjeant from that meeting, and reviews of LPs *Ma Mie Tant Blanche* (Charlotte Cormier), *Garnet Rogers*, *The Great Lobster Boil* (Lem Snow) and *Woodnight Moon* (Gordon Quinton) appeared.

### Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 24.4 (Winter 1990). Articles by Vladimir Simosko on "World Music Appreciation: 1990" and by Bill Sarjeant on "The Archives of the Canadian Society for Musical Traditions and the Folk Music Collections of the University of Calgary Library" were featured in this issue; Howard Kaplan's song "The Farm-

er's Carol" and Ian Robb's "Song for the New Year" struck a seasonal note. Another song, Farrell Boyce's "Penman's Combinations," was included, as was a review of Edward Ives' book *Folksongs of New Brunswick*. More somberly, the issue held obituaries of Barbara Cass-Beggs and Helen Creighton.

### Five Years Ago

Bulletin 29.4 (December 1995). Pete Seeger's essay "Pop, Rock and Coca-Colonization," first published in 1972, led off the issue; Bob Bossin's songs "Sulphur Passage" and "Look What's Become of Me" accompanied an extensive interview with Bob on his musical heritage, current thoughts and former Stringband days. Other songs were Ian Robb's "They're Taking It Away" and a number of political parodies from Alberta's Common Front. Numerous items were reviewed, notably Tall are the Tales: Newfoundland Stories and Recitations, and recordings by Paul Haslem, Tzimmes, Kyp Harness, Tanglefoot, Richard Wood, James Keelaghan, Len Wallace, Stewart McIsaac, Bill Gallaher & Jake Galbraith, Jiggery Pokery, The Immigrants, and The Friends of Fiddler's Green.

These issues are available from CSTM Back Issues, 224 20th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2. See the Mail Order Service catalogue or the website (address on p.1) for pricing. [JL]

## News, Views, & Stuff

This issue is just a-bornin' as the first week of Lister Sinclair's series *Hands Across Time* has finished on Ideas. I got most of the week on tape and will be dubbing the rest. I gather that Sinclair has retired as the show's host and *éminence grise*, and while Paul Kennedy is certainly doing a fine job, I will miss Sinclair, especially the sort of music/verse/history fantasia of which *Hands* is but the latest; I don't even remember the titles of all of the series: *Humours and Temperaments*, *Boxing the Compass* (we quoted that one in our *nueva cancion* issue), *A is for Aardvark* really gave him free rein, and what was the series about the gods and goddesses? Oh, right, *Nectar and Ambrosia*. I do hope that *Hands Across Time* will not be the last of 'em. We wish Lister Sinclair as long and profitable a retirement as he's had a working life. He's done a lot to make Canada a livable place for grownups.

Am I going to get into trouble for admitting that I've sometimes dubbed these shows? If so, here's your chance to get in dutch along with me: I failed to get either the program on Demeter from the *Nectar and Ambrosia* series (my daughter's name happens to be Demeter), or the 2-parter that was done (not by Sinclair) on the Percival/Grail myth. Neither appear likely to be reissued now; neither are available for purchase through the series. Are there any fellow pirates out there who'll share with this poor, forgetful buccaneer? It'd be much appreciated. [GWL]



Don't forget the conference of the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance—it's being held in Vancouver this time, February 15 to 18, 2001. See the British Columbia section of the Festival Directory for details.



En 2001, l'assemblée générale annuelle de l'Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore, qui se tiendra à Québec, à l'Université Laval, du 26 au 28 mai, prendra la forme d'un atelier visant tant à faire le point sur l'ethnologie au Canada, qu'à identifier des orientations pour l'avenir et à mobiliser des efforts pour renforcer la présence et la visibilité de la discipline. Plus spécifiquement, cette rencontre permettra de discuter de la publication d'un manuel canadien de culture traditionnelle et populaire (un collectif présentant l'ethnologie/le folklore et son étude à un public de niveau secondaire et postsecondaire) et du développement d'une proposition pour au moins un grand travail de recherche concertée (GTRC).

Comme convenu lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de 2000, les communications doivent traiter de ce thème. Elles peuvent prendre la forme d'une animation de discussion, de ta-

bles rondes, d'ateliers, de présentations d'affiches (posters) ou de communications. Les présentations peuvent traiter (sans forcément se limiter à ces thèmes) d'utilisations innovatrices ou interdisciplinaires de la recherche ou de méthodes de l'ethnologie, de nouveaux projets de recherche ou de publication, de sources de financement inexploitées et de la mise en place de liens disciplinaires.

Notez qu'un remboursement des frais de transport (au coût le plus bas) sera offert aux participants, grâce au soutien généreux du programme IDR du CRSH (et probablement d'autres). Ceux qui présentent des communications sont toutefois priés, comme d'habitude, de s'adresser en premier lieu à leur propre établissement (afin que le financement puisse être offert à tous ceux qui en ont besoin). Ceux qui ne présentent pas de communication et qui veulent obtenir un remboursement de leurs frais de transport sont priés de donner une brève description de leurs intérêts et de leurs liens en rapport avec la discipline et vis-à-vis de cet atelier.

Comme à l'habitude, seuls les membres en règle de l'ACEF (2001) pourront participer au colloque. Il faut s'adresser à Pauline Greenhill pour se procurer les formulaires d'adhésion. Ceux-ci sont également disponibles dans le site web de l'ACEF, à <<http://www.fl.ulaval.ca/celat/acef/membre.htm>>.

Les membres actuels de l'ACEF (2000) recevront des formulaires d'inscription avec l'avis de renouvellement de leur adhésion qui leur sera expédié vers le début du mois de novembre prochain. Les résumés des communications et les lettres présentant les intérêts des participants doivent être expédiées au plus tard le 15 janvier 2001, le cachet postal en faisant foi. Faites parvenir un résumé de 100 mots de votre communication ou une présentation de 100 mots de vos intérêts à :

Dr. Pauline Greenhill  
Women's Studies  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9  
Canada  
<[p.greenhill@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:p.greenhill@uwinnipeg.ca)>  
(204) 786-9439



The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, at l'université Laval, Québec, QC, May 26-28, will be a workshop to assess the state of Ethnology/Folklore studies in Canada as well as identify future directions and mobilize efforts towards strengthening the presence of the inter/discipline. Specific endeavours will include work toward a Guide to Canadian Traditional and Popular Culture (a multi-authored volume introducing folklore/ethnology and its study to a secondary and post-secondary audience), and the development of a proposal for at least one Major Collaborative Research Initiative.

As agreed at the 2000 AGM, presentations must address this theme. They may take the form of discussion facilitation, round-table, workshop, poster session or formal paper. Topics may include, but need not be limited to, suggesting innovative and/or

interdisciplinary uses of folklore research or methodologies; describing new research projects or publications; locating potential funding sources; and forging disciplinary links.

Note that some funding will be available for travel costs, thanks to generous funding from the SSHRCC RDI program (and possibly others). Those who are giving formal presentations are nevertheless requested, as usual, to seek funding from their own institution (to ensure that we can offer funding to all who need it). Those who are not giving a formal presentation and wish to be funded will be asked to give a short description of their interest in and commitment to folklore/ethnology studies and this workshop.

As usual, only paid up FSAC members (2001) can participate in this meeting. Contact Pauline Greenhill or the FSAC website for forms:

<<http://www.fl.ulaval.ca/celat/acef/membre.htm>>.

Current FSAC members (2000) will receive proposal forms with their membership renewal at the beginning of November. Proposals and statements of interest must be postdated January 15, 2001 *at the latest*, in order to be considered.

Please send your 100-word abstract for your formal presentation, or 100-word statement of interest to

Dr. Pauline Greenhill,  
Women's Studies,  
University of Winnipeg,  
515 Portage Ave.,  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9  
Canada  
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Here's a new song making the rounds of the Raging Granies. It was written by Rose De Shaw of Kingston. I think it's one of the coolest of RG hit parade. (It goes to a good ol' southern tune, "Polly Wolly Doodle," which we used to sing in elementary school in Houston, though I don't s'pose anyone does any more!)

#### Talking Doodle, Mr. Day

Oh, I went to see what the candidates said,  
Oh, what a lot of doodle, Mr. Day,  
You want to end our medicare,  
Oh, what a lot of doodle, Mr. Day.  
Stockwell Day,  
Stockwell Day,  
Wants to sell the CBC,  
Privatize our VIA Rail,  
Help our public schools to fail,  
Oh, what a lot of doodle, Mr. Day.  
This candidate says he's a Christian boy,  
But that's a lot of doodle, Mr. Day,  
You gotta walk the walk,  
Not talk the talk,  
And you're talking so much doodle, Mr. Day.

Stockwell Day,  
Stockwell Day,  
Says he's walking Jesus' Way,  
But Jesus loved the poor folks,  
Wouldn't lie or help his friends hoax,  
And your record's talking doodle, Mr. Day.



Un numéro spécial de la Revue d'histoire de la culture matérielle (NO 54, automne 2001) sera consacré aux aspects matériels de la culture populaire. En abordant un vaste éventail de disciplines : histoire, anthropologie, folklore, sociologie, et études muséales, le numéro examinera de quelle manière la culture populaire s'est manifestée à l'intérieur et autour de notre vie matérielle.

Les sujets abordés pourraient comprendre notamment l'évolution de la signification contextuelle des artéfacts dans la culture populaire; le rôle de la culture populaire dans diverses formes d'activisme social et/ou politique, tel que démontré par des preuves matérielles; des histoires critiques des formes populaires de technologie, d'art et d'architecture; des études d'objets produits en vue d'être commercialisés et dont la signification et/ou la fonction ostensible ont été contestées ou détournées par les consommateurs; l'existence ou la persistance de formes nationales reconnaissables de culture populaire durant une période donnée ou à un moment précis; ainsi que la diffusion et l'évolution de la signification populaire de formes matérielles de la culture de masse lorsque celles-ci franchissent les frontières nationales.

Les collaborateurs sont invités à se concentrer sur la signification des objets dans la culture populaire; sur la façon dont ces significations sont créés et contestées et les changements qui surviennent avec le temps; ils sont également invités à expliquer comment ce processus pourrait élargir notre capacité d'interpréter ces importants témoignages de notre histoire culturelle.

La Revue d'histoire de la culture matérielle est une publication du Musée des sciences et de la technologie du Canada situé à Ottawa, au Canada. Les chercheurs que le sujet intéresse sont encouragés à soumettre un résumé de 250 mots d'ici le 15 novembre 2000, au plus tard, au directeur scientifique invité :

Christopher S. Clarke, Ph.D.  
Exhibition Developer and Consulting Historian  
110 Greystone Lane # 9  
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Les articles préliminaires doivent être soumis d'ici le 31 janvier 2001; ils seront examinés par des pairs. La version finale doit être remise au plus tard le 2 avril 2001.



A special issue of *Material History Review* (No. 54, Fall 2001) will be devoted to material aspects of popular culture. By including a wide spectrum of disciplines: history, anthropology, folklore, sociology, and museum studies, this issue will address the ways in which popular culture has manifested itself in and around the material life of developing nations over the past two centuries. Topics might include changes over time in the context of meaning for artifacts in popular culture; the role of popular culture in various forms of social and/or political activism as seen through material evidence; critical histories of popular forms of art and architecture; studies of particular artifact groups at the center of popular culture whose ostensible meaning and/or function have been challenged or subverted by consumers; the existence/persistence of recognizable national forms of popular culture at or across a given period of time; and the diffusion and changing popular meaning of American-born forms of mass culture as they move across national boundaries.

Contributors are invited to focus on the meaning of objects in popular culture; how those meanings are created, contested, and change over time; and on how an understanding of this process can expand our capacity for interpreting these important sources of evidence about cultural history.

*Material History Review* is a publication of the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa. Interested researchers are encouraged to submit a 250-word abstract by November 15, 2000 to the guest editor:

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Preliminary papers must be submitted by January 31, 2001, and will be subject to peer review. Final submissions are due by April 2, 2001.



*Newfoundland Studies* was founded in 1985 as an interdisciplinary journal devoted to publishing lively and well-written essays about the society, arts, culture, and science of Newfoundland and Labrador. The journal communicates the discoveries and perceptions of a wide range of scholarly disciplines to a broad audience in universities, government, and the general public, across Canada and internationally. The journal accepts submissions in either English or French. The policy for selection of an article is that it be relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador, that it be excellent, and that it be written in such a way as to have an appeal that transcends its discipline. All manuscripts are assessed by referees in the relevant or a cognate discipline, and then approved by the Editor.

Recent articles have examined such diverse subjects as the fishery, mummering, Newfoundland art, poetry and literature, history and geography. We often publish important original



documents, expertly edited, introduced and annotated. Each issue also includes authoritative reviews of books with a Newfoundland theme, and once a year we publish an extensive bibliography of recent Newfoundlandia. Several special theme issues have been published in the past few years, the most recent a 308-page volume containing eight specially commissioned articles written to commemorate and analyse the first fifty years of Newfoundland's presence in the Canadian confederation. A full list of the Tables of Contents can be found on our website at <<http://www.uacs.mun.ca/nflds>>.

Subscription Rates: Canada (Foreign-Submit in U.S dollars)  
 Individuals: 1 Year \$15 (\$18), 2 Years \$27 (\$32), 5 Years \$60 (\$72)  
 Institutions: 1 Year \$20 (\$25), 2 Years \$36 (\$45), 5 Years \$80 (\$100).  
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 Web: <<http://www.mun.ca/nfld>>



North Atlantic Fiddle Convention  
 Crossing Boundaries  
 25-29 July 2001  
 University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Crossing Boundaries is devoted to traditional fiddlers and fiddle music from countries around the northern seas, combining an international conference with performance events and workshops, as well as opportunities for informal sessions.

The North East of Scotland, famous for its fiddle tradition, is the setting for this event, organised by the Elphinstone Institute in conjunction with other local, national, and international arts and cultural organisations: SCaT (Scottish Culture and Traditions), and the Lemon Tree in Aberdeen; Aberdeenshire Arts; the Irish Centre for World Music, University of Limerick; the Department of Ethnology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

The convention will focus on the way the fiddle, fiddle music, and styles of playing cross boundaries of all kinds—geographical, political and personal—creating new styles and fresh musical insights.

The conference will explore the past and future of traditional fiddling in social, ethnological, and musical contexts, with keynote contributions. Themes include transmission, performance, social context, symbolic or religious function, stylistics, material culture, dance, supernatural beliefs, folklore, and iconography.

If you are interested in attending, contributing, performing, or offering an academic paper (abstract of 300 words, deadline 1 April 2001), please E-mail or write to the Elphinstone Institute. (The Institute may present abstracts of papers for peer review and anticipates the publication of the proceedings.)

Convenors: Ian Russell and Mary Anne Alburger  
 The Elphinstone Institute  
 University of Aberdeen

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 Aberdeen AB24 3EB  
 Tel: +44 (0)1224 272996 Fax: +44 (0)1224 272728  
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I was recently poking around the University of Calgary Library and noted some of Edith Fowke's donated books on the shelves. I was sorry to see some of them treated rather cavalierly. Presumably funds are not available to create a Fowke reading room or to have them in closed stacks for short term loan, but it was a shame to see them left on the shelves at the mercy of undergraduates. You can be sure some of them will not be around for very long.

Two that struck me forcibly were pamphlets from the late 50s, early 60s—topical ballads from British songwriters like Dominic Behan and Alex Comfort. These were mere stapled pamphlets, which need to be treated with some care. They were sitting in the middle of a fairly packed shelf, up high, ready to get knocked down or creased. I don't know whether anything can be done about it; I don't suppose anything *will* be done about it. It's a shame. [GWL]



Institute of Ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
 European Folklore Institute, Budapest, kindly invite you to the 31st International Ballad Conference (KfV) in Budapest, Hungary April 21 - 23, 2001

The 7th Congress of SIEF will be organized in Budapest during the last week of April (23-28) 2001. The Ballad Commission joins the main Congress as a pre-conference. The tentative topics include 1. The value of traditional ballads in contemporary culture; 2. Ethics and moral issues in ballad tradition; 3. The role of gender in the performance of ballads.

Accommodation is available at the Charles Apartment House at the reduced price of \$30 US. Rooms in other hotel categories are also available. Registration fee is \$50 US.

Contact person: Dr. Ildiko Kriza  
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