

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 26.2 (Fall 1992). Another transition issue. The *Bulletin* returned to the “newsletter” format which was to persist for roughly the next year, until the Society’s finances permitted a more ambitious approach. As well, the editorial torch was officially thrown from Lynn Whidden to George W. Lyon and myself, but much of the content of the issue was in fact inherited from Lynn’s tenure. This included Tom Brandon’s song “Canadian Unity”, Alister MacGillivray’s “Kitty Bawn O’Brien” and Bob Bossin’s “The Casca and the Whitehorse Burned Down”, articles on “Saskatoon in the Winter” and Lunenburg’s Folk Harbour festival, the as-yet-unnamed radio column and reviews of Roy Johnstone’s *Rolling Waves*, Ad Vielle Que Pourra’s *New French Folk Music*, Penny Sidor’s *Past Lives* and Willy Thrasher’s *Indian/Inuit Country*.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 31.2 (June 1997). This issue had a distinct Western Canadian flavour. Rod Olstad contributed an article on “Country Opries of Barrhead, Alberta, and Area” (including fiddle tunes “Westphalia Waltz” and “Red Wing” and a poem, “This Old Rig”, by Roy “Ollie” Olson). A Métis song, “Kispin Kisakahin”, accompanied an article entitled “... a rollicking melody...”, which excerpted music-related matter from the diaries of Métis interpreter Peter Erasmus. Rev. Franceene Watson’s article on “Red River Valley Fiddler Andy De Jarlis”, with “Nobody’s Business Two-Step” as played by De Jarlis, and Mark Wonneck’s song “The Dry Hills”, both carried on the Western theme. The Canadian Folk Festival Directory was included, and lots of columns and reviews.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 36.2 (Summer 2002). The first issue from the new co-editors, David & Rosaleen Gregory (has it really been ten years?!), set down their thoughts in an article, “Whither the *Bulletin*?”. Another article by David, “Time to Move Webwards?”, also explored the Society’s future. Looking towards the past, on the other hand, English folk music figure John Hasted was memorialized, including excerpts from his *Sing* magazine column “A Singer’s Notebook”, his poem on “The Modes”, and several songs in versions he collected: “The Methody Parson”, “Byker Hill” and “Young Sailor Cut Down in his Prime”. “Singing at

Sudbury” reported on the FSAC conference held in that city, along with a version of a song heard at the conference, “Papa m’a donné un mari”. Other songs in the issue were “The Parting Glass” (included as a farewell to Hasted and others) and reconstructed ballad “Dead Maid’s Land (The Gardener)”. A number of reviews appeared as well.

Five Years Ago

CFM 41.2 (Summer 2007). An article by John Spearn, “The Canada Songs Project: Music, Musings, and Memories”, described that project to encourage writing of songs about Canadian people, places and history. Four of John’s songs were included as examples: “Edith Cavell”, “When the Crop Comes in (Fair Meaghan)”, “The Chilkoot Mountain Trail” and “Dieppe”. Wilfred A. Gallant wrote about “A Coal Mining Heritage: Reflections of a Miner’s Son” and contributed his songs “The Wet, Dark, Dusty Seam”, “New Waterford’s Calling” and “La Joie du Paradis”. Rosaleen Gregory’s column “Singing the Child Ballads” returned with versions of five ballads, and there were reviews.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are now available from CSTM, c/o folkwaysAlive!, 347 Arts Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E6. For pricing, see the Mail Order Service catalogue or website (www.yorku.ca/cstm) and follow the links, or contact cstmsctm@ualberta.ca. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]

