

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Thirty Years Ago

Bulletin 17.2 (April 1983). “Festivals: The Second Installment” was the focus of this issue, and it contained numerous articles, some reviews of specific festivals, some information on festivals by their organizers, and some overall thoughts on festivals as such (a few article titles: “Big Festivals Don’t Work ... at least for me!”, “The Performers’ View”, “What to Do With A Folklorist”, “Open Season on Festivals ... again!”), with a summary by editor Tim Rogers. (Many of the comments are still applicable today!) Don Freed’s song “On the Trail of the Festival” accompanied the articles, as did Alistair Brown’s column “Ali’s Corner” and reviews of books *Sea Songs and Ballads from 19th Century Nova Scotia, Catalogue de la chanson folklorique française, Tome III: Chansons en forme de dialogue*, and *A Folklore Sampler from the Maritime with a Bibliographical Essay on the Folktale in English*, and Émile Benoit’s recording *Ça vient du ichoeur/It Comes from the Heart*.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Bulletin 22.2-4 was published in December 1988; a description will appear in a future issue.

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 27.2 (June 1993). As this issue was a Festival Directory issue (it came out once a year, back then), we left the “newsletter” style (which economics had begun to dictate) for a booklet format with a cover, much as the magazine appears today. In addition to the Directory, the issue contained Allan Thrasher’s article “The Society’s Name and Its Membership”, which explained the reasons for the change away from “Canadian Folk Music Society” which had recently taken place, as well as “Learning About Folk” by Vic Bell, who was then artistic director of the Calgary festival. Musical items for this issue were Norm Walker’s “The Prairie Pagans” and George Lyon’s “Mr. & Mrs. Jamieson” (accompanied by a memoir about the couple for whom it was written). Reviews of recordings *On Wings of Song* (a compilation of Yiddish songs), Brendan Nolan’s *Across the Great*

Divide and storyteller Mary Eileen McClear’s *O Canada* were included.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 32.2 (June 1998). George Lyon interviewed Phil Thomas for this issue; Phil contributed a couple of songs from his collection (“Are You From Bevan?” and “Hard Rock Miner”) and a short piece about his wife, Hilda (“Hilda Herself”). Also appearing was Ada-Marie Atkins Nechka’s account of the University of Calgary’s celebration of the work of the late Edith Fowke. A number of reviews of books and recordings, plus the Festival Directory, showed up.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 37.2 (Summer 2003). This issue had a Newfoundland flavour; Anna Kearney Guigné’s article “An Operative Model for Analyzing Kenneth Peacock’s Newfoundland Song Collection” led up, followed by Philip Hiscock’s “Ten Things to Consider About ‘The Star of Logy Bay’”. Phil Thomas told us about “Folksong at FSAC”. The Festival Directory made an appearance, as did letters, reviews and housekeeping.

Five Years Ago

CFM 42.2 (Summer 2008). There were three main articles this time: “Folkways Records and the Ethics of Collecting” by Michael Asch, Tim Rogers’ “Bill Miner in Song”, which analyzed ten songs about the legendary train robber, and “Seeger Sings Again (In Canada)” by Lorne Brown, describing a concert by Pete Seeger, then 89, in Toronto. The articles were joined by Rosaleen Gregory’s Child ballads column and a few reviews.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are 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 cstm@cstm@ualberta.ca. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]