

# Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

## *Thirty Years Ago*

*Bulletin* 18.1 (January 1984). This was a State of the Art issue, with reports from most provinces of Canada describing the state of folk music in their area. Editor Tim Rogers penned an introduction and also commented on the absence of a report from Quebec. In addition, there were reports on the folk music scene in France (Ronald Labelle) and Australia (Terry Goldie) and an article by Lois Choksy on “Folk Music and Education”. The Singers column, penned this time by Frankie Armstrong, was titled “Songs and Singing as Expression”. Songs in the issue included Ian Robb’s “Song for the New Year”, “The 400 Year Celebrations” by Jim Payne and Peter “The Poet” Leonard, and Donald Deschênes’ “À Marius Barbeau”. The minutes of the 1993 AGM made it into the issue, as well as reviews of books *Songs and Sayings of an Ulster Childhood*, by Alice Kane, and *A Musical Calendar of Festivals* by Barbara Cass-Beggs, as well as an umbrella review of several recordings of Québec folk songs.

## *Twenty-Five Years Ago*

*Bulletin* 23.1 (March 1989). Two main articles graced this issue. In “An Ethnomusicological Perspective in 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 Altrows’ topical comment on Ben Johnson’s Olympic scandal, “There’s Gold in Them Thar Pills”. Recordings reviewed were Eileen McGann’s *Elsewhere*, Garnet Rogers’ *Speaking Softly in the Dark*, Archie Fisher’s *Sunsets I’ve Galloped Into...*, Faith Nolan’s *Africville*, Tom Lewis’s *Surfacing*, and *Magyar Nóta Gyűjtemény* by the Calgary Hungarian Senior Citizens’ Choir.

## *Twenty 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 Shannon Berman. In addition to these tunes, we included the song “Kumano Bykso Oro” from the Toronto Bicycle Choir, an EthnoFolk Letter column from Judith Cohen, a Centrefold column on dance magazines from 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), various Catalan traditional music publications, and many recordings, including *A Celebration of Heritage: Songs of Labrador* (June Baikie and Kelly Russell).

## *Fifteen 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.

## *Ten Years Ago*

*Bulletin* 38.1 (Spring 2004). An article by Zainab Jerrett, “Collecting Folksongs in Nigeria”, was followed by “An Interview with Rick Fielding” by Lorne Brown (Rick had succumbed to cancer a few months previously). The Canadian Folk Festival Directory and reviews of a couple of books (Dan Yashinsky’s *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps*, and *Classic English Folk Songs*, edited by Ralph Vaughan Williams and A.L. Lloyd, revised by Malcolm Douglas) and some recordings completed the issue.

## *Five Years Ago*

CFM 43.1 (Spring 2009). No less than four articles were featured: “A Fully Fledged and Finely Functioning Fiddle: Humour and ‘The Uke-Cree Fiddler’ ” (Marcia Ostaszewski); “Receptivity in the Music of Kilaytiup Songuninga” (Tom Artiss); “Interview with Saskatchewan Hip Hop Artist Eekwol (a.k.a. Lindsay Knight)” (Charity Marsh); and “Postdoctoral Pathways: From Powwow to Gregorian Chant” (Janice Esther Tulk). Rosaleen Gregory’s Singing the Child Ballads column included four songs; a President’s message from Anna Hoefnagels, four reviews and the previous year’s Table of Contents wrapped things up.

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](http://www.yorku.ca/cstm) and follow the links), or contact [cstm@cstm.ualberta.ca](mailto:cstm@cstm.ualberta.ca). Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]

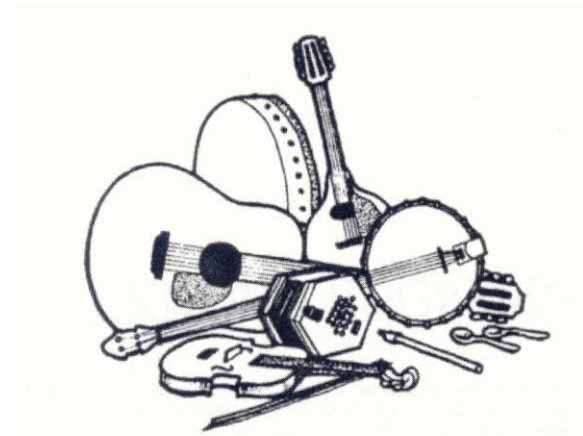


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