

Canadian Folk Music

Bulletin
de musique folklorique canadienne



Special Issue on Alan Lomax

A LIFE IN MUSIC CITIZEN ACTIVIST

ON CANADIAN FOLKSONG THE SPANISH LEGACY

SAMPLING THE ALAN LOMAX COLLECTION

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From the Editors

Alan Lomax was a giant in the world of traditional music, and perhaps the greatest folklorist of the twentieth century. Rather than mourn his loss, we have decided to celebrate his long life of service to folk music. This issue of *Canadian Folk Music* is given over entirely to our tribute to the man and his work. The Lomax archives in New York are huge, and we are still discovering exactly how many irreplaceable performances of traditional music Alan saved for posterity. He probably recorded more folk musicians than any other collector, and he had a global vision and expertise that was matched by none. We cannot, in one issue of the magazine, do justice to Lomax's entire *oeuvre*, but we try to canvass some of the highlights of his career and sample some of the recordings that he made at different times. Our lead article is by Ron Cohen, who is currently editing a collection of Lomax's writings to be published later this year. Ron is the author of *Rainbow Quest*, a new history of the American folksong revival that we hope to review in a future issue, and one of the leading American experts on Lomax. Ron's perspective on Alan as "citizen activist" is followed by a survey of the highlights of Alan's long career as a folklorist, broadcaster, and academic. We are pleased to have another contribution from our own Judith Cohen, who knew Lomax personally and is an authority on his Spanish fieldwork (see issue 35.3-4 for her first report on Alan's Spanish legacy). In addition you will find an account of Lomax's perspective on Canadian folk music, which was heavily indebted to Marius Barbeau, and also reviews of a substantial number of the CDs currently available in Canada that make accessible many of Alan's field recordings.

This special issue, numerically the last of 2002, will actually reach you early in 2003. We apologize for the delay. After what we hope to be a fairly short interval it will be followed by issue 37.1, which will revert to our traditional format. It will include a report on the CSTM conference at St. John's and a feature article on the Folklore Archives at Memorial University, as well as a generous helping of book and CD reviews and such regular columns as "Singers' Workshop" and "Ballad of the Month".

And now for some good news. We are pleased to announce that back issues of the *Journal*, and some back issues of the *Bulletin*, are now available on-line free through ICAAP, and we are hoping to add more back issues of the *Bulletin* in the near future. The plan at present is to allow at least a full year to pass since publication before we add an issue to ICAAP, so the most recent issues you will find on-line at present date from 2001. If you think this policy should change, please let us know. Also, if you note any typographical errors in what has already been posted, tell us so that we can try to get them fixed. We greatly appreciate the work of Mike Sosteric and his crew at Athabasca University in providing this service. The respective URLs are <http://cjtm.icaap.org/> and <http://cfmb.icaap.org/>.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

The editorial board of *Canadian Folk Music* has vacancies for associate editors from the Maritimes and from northern Canada. Associate editors are expected to review and prioritize submissions as required, and also to prepare a special issue on their own region or subject of expertise. Anyone interested in joining our editorial team should write to the address below or e-mail us at davidg@athabascau.ca.

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