



Treasures from Our Archives

This feature got omitted last time, so here's a double-barreled dose of nostalgia for you. - Ed.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 20.1 (March 1986). This was a special issue on folk clubs and other grass-roots events; I guest-edited (shades of things to come...). Organizations around the country were profiled in articles by their organizers. There were also general articles on "House Concerts" (Barry & Lynn Luft) and "Running a Folk Club: One Performer's Opinion" (Charlie Maguire). Two songs suitable for folk club finishers were included, the traditional "And Say Will We Yet" and my "Safe Home", as was Grit Laskin's "Port Alfred". Murray Shoolbraid's column "A Plea for Waifs and Strays" appeared; items reviewed were Horst Pohle's Folk Record Source Book, the MUN Folklore & Language Archive, and LPs Jim Payne & Kelly Russell and Tradition (a Pigeon Inlet sampler).

Bulletin 20.2 (June 1986). The Folk Festival Directory took up much of this issue, which was produced in a time of editorial transition. An article on "The Miramichi Folksong Festival" by Susan Butler enhanced the festival content. The minutes of the 1986 Board Meeting (one of the few times we were able to afford a mid-year meeting!) were included. Don Hansen wrote "The Singers" column this time, and Murray Shoolbraid's "Folk Notes & Queries" column also appeared. There were lots of songs, including "Pleasant and Delightful" and two parodies of it, "Cosmic and Freaky" by Grit Laskin and "Weird and Dynamic" by Rona Altrows. Other song parodies in the issue were "The Frozen Jogger" (by David Spalding, extra verses by John Dwyer) and "A Tune to Parse Away the Hours"; Kathy Palm's award-winning song "Where the Skeena Comes Down to the Sea" was a non-parody song inclusion. Reviews of Richard Johnston's Folk Songs North America Sings, Robert Cantwell's Bluegrass Breakdown and Neil V. Rosenberg's Bluegrass: A History (all books), Margaret Christl's recording Looking Towards Home and the CSTM Mail Order Catalogue finished things off.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 25.1 (Spring 1991). Two articles graced this issue: "We Didn't Explode in Calgary!", President Gregg Brunskill's retrospective on the 1990 AGM, was accompanied by W.A.S. Sarjeant's photo montage from the event; Neil V. Rosenberg's "Maurice Ruddick: In Memory"

included Mr. Ruddick's song "Spring Hill Disaster". The issue's other song was Howard Card's "The Woodsman Marrs". A review of The Shanty Crew's Stand To Yer Ground, and lots of news items, completed the issue.

Bulletin 25.2 (Summer 1991). Once again we had an issue concentrating on the festival directory, this time guest-edited by Murray Evans and Lei Anne Sharratt. Many of the listings included mini-articles on the festivals contributed by their organizers. Mitch Podolak, artistic director of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, contributed an article "The Truth About Folk Festivals".

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 30.1 (March 1996). This issue focused on individuals, some passed on, some still with us. It featured two articles on Stanley G. Triggs, by GWL and Phil Thomas, and Triggs' song "The Wreck of the Green Cove". Two songs by Wade Hemsworth, "My Mother is the Ocean Sea" and "Montréal", accompanied an interview with Wade by GWL and JL. Martin Rossander reminisced on his friend Chuck Irwin in "Bring some more music!", Olaf Sveen profiled Gaby Haas, "Canada's Mr. Polka", and an obituary of Kenneth S. Goldstein was contributed by Edith Fowke. Two Métis songs, "Marie Rouvin" and "La Montagne Tortue", and Wendy Robbins' "Come Sit With Me" completed the issue's complement of songs. "The Centrefold" column on magazines was there, and the reviews were of books Encyclopaedia

of Canadian Rock, Pop and Folk Music (Rick Jackson), Off the Record: An Oral History of Popular Music (Joe Smith) and Stompin' Tom: Before the Fame (Tom Connors) and recordings The Songs of Wade Hemsworth, Danielle Martineau's Autremont and David Wilkie's Cowboy Celtic.

Bulletin 30.2 (June 1996). Several articles on an influential figure from an earlier day, Alan Mills, were the focus of this issue: Vera Johnson's "Just Call Me Al", Bram Morrison's "Apprentice to Master, Friend to Friend", and Edith Fowke's "Collaborator and Friend", and some untitled reminiscences by Michael Taft. Two songs from Mills's recordings, "Isabeau s'y promène" and "The Chesapeake" and the "Shannon", accompanied the articles. Joe Adams's song "Cabin Fever Blues" was included, as was an anonymous poem about an old-time fiddler, "A Tribute to Harry Miller". Lots of columns: Judith Cohen contributed an "EthnoFolk Letters", Tom Coxworth did "Over the Waves" and "The Centrefold" was variously authored. Several books were reviewed: Northern Journey by Gene Wilburn, Notes from the Continuing Tradition by Edith Fowke, A Folktale Journey Through the Maritimes by Helen Creighton, and Ragas for Guitat by Michael Kleniec. The recordings reviewed were too numerous to mention.

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