

Treasures from Our Archives

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 24.1 (June 1990). The first issue under the aegis of editor Lynn Whidden was a theme issue, appropriately enough given Lynn's expertise in the area of First Nations and Métis music. Lynn contributed "A Note on Métis Music" and "Native and Métis Songs from the SMEA Project", and Anne Lederman did not stray from the field, authoring " 'The Drops of Brandy': Several Versions of a Métis Fiddle Tune". The news column consisted of a collection of mini-articles on the Brandon Festival, NAFA, Tamarack, Nicole Beaudry's fieldwork, and a tribute to the late D.K. Wilgus by Edith Fowke.

Bulletin 24.2 (Summer 1990). This issue introduced new songs editor Howard Kaplan and included one of his songs, "Bright Sweaters in Fall". Lots of constitutional housekeeping, with proposed revisions, notices of motion, an article by Phil Thomas on the proposed name change of the era, and an editorial by new president Gregg Brunskill. Gregg also wrote on Papalak (Theresa) Kukkiak, a button accordionist from Chesterfield Inlet. The Northern theme was continued by "A Week with Soviet Eskimo Singers and Dancers" by Nicole Beaudry. Judith Cohen wrote a report on Kelzkamp, and contributed the song "Alle Brider". Reviews of Grit Laskin's cassette *Lilia's Jig* and Margaret Bennett's book *The Last Stronghold: Scottish-Gaelic Traditions in Newfoundland* also appeared.

Bulletin 24.3 (Fall 1990). This issue included Barbara Kwiatkowski's article on the music of the Diegueño people of San Diego County, California (with several songs), and a profile of songs editor Howard Kaplan (again with several accompanying songs). John Leeder contributed a discussion of the *Bulletin's* review policy (nothing much has changed, 20 years later!). Ethnomusicology news on Native Counselor Anton Kolstee and world music performances at York University completed the issue.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 29.1 (March 1995). The feature of this issue was a major memoir by Vera Johnson (who later was made an Honorary Life Member of CSTM), "Genesis of a Folksinger/Songwriter"; a

prodigious memory, copious notes and a penchant for getting into interesting places and situations gave us a very informative overview of Vera's life as a performer. Several of her songs, "Bald Eagle", "The Fountain" and "Our 25th Birthday", accompanied the article. Several other songs made their appearance: "The Free Slave" from Edith Fowke's collection; Hilda Thomas's "The Condom Song", and "The Northwest Logger" by Hilda along with her husband, Phil (who later was made Honorary President of CSTM); and "We're in the Same Boat Now", by no less a personage than former Ontario premier and later federal Liberal interim leader Bob Rae (he missed his calling...), accompanying "Rae-Day in Jaffa" by Judith Cohen. On a sadder note was an obituary of CSTM director Hugh Hendry by Bill Sarjeant. Karen Bennett contributed an EthnoFolk Letter; The Centrefold column dealt with several magazines. Craig Mishler's book *The Crooked Stovepipe* was reviewed, as were recordings *Danses d'ici* (Jean-Pierre Joyal), *The Brule Boys in Paris* (Tickle Harbour), *One Evening as I Rambled* (Moirra Cameron), *Yellowknife Evening* (Ceilidh Friends), *Look to the Sea* (Irish Descendants) and *Ain't Life Sweet* (Penny Lang).

Bulletin 29.2 (June 1995). Grassroots events provided a sort of theme this time, with articles "How to Hold a House Concert" (Vic Michener), "House Concerts – The Beginning of Raga-Mala" (Jagannath Wani), "Bossinware Party Tips" (Bob Bossin et al.), " 'What's the Life of a Man?': Recording with Barry Luft" (Richard Scholtz) (with accompanying song of that name), "Confessions of a Hell's Elf" (John Leeder), "Living the Music" (Michael Pollock), "...gets the blood circulating and keeps the legs in condition..." (George W. Lyon) and "Powell River BC: The Enjoyment Band Plays On" (Martin Rossander). Yet another article was "Copyrights and Traditional Music: A Canadian Perspective" by Paul Cranford. Another song included was "The Rum Runners Song", lyrics by Jack Fleetwood, music by George Halkyard 62 years later. In addition to regular features (which by now included the Folk Festival Directory), there were reviews of Canada's Cowboy Festival, Edith Fowke and Jay Rahn's book on LaRena Clark, *A Family Heritage*, and recordings: *The Prairie Higglers over Twenty Years*; *In the Mùd* (Scatter

the Mud); *Canada: A Folksong Portrait; Keep on Walking* (Lester Quitzau); *The Hills of Home* (Minnie White); *Traditional Music from Cape Breton* (Scumalash); *Mobado*; and *Spirit of the North* (The Gumboots).

Bulletin 29.3 (September 1995). The showpiece of this issue was Rod Olstad's article on fiddler Fred Lang, with three accompanying tunes. Also, Jim Hiscott told us about his composition "Spirit Reel". Several articles explored various aspects of the Winnipeg Folk Festival as an event, by Pauline Greenhill, Lisa Hagen-Smith, Danielle Carignan Svenne and Janet Macaulay. Alistair Brown contributed an obituary of David Parry, while Olav Sveen remembered Toralf Tollefsen; Judith Cohen wrote an EthnoFolk Letter; reviewed items were recordings by Wendy Berner, Ian Robb, Roger Helfrick, The Irish Descendants, Mark Knickle and Sheela-Na-Gigh.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 34.1/2 (March/June 2000). This was a double issue, and a fat one at that. Among the articles were two tributes to the late Bill Sarjeant (one of our former presidents): "Bill Sarjeant: Singing from Sheffield to Saskatoon" by Dave Spalding, and "Bill Sarjeant: A Four Decade Contribution to Folk Music" by Lois A. Wooding. Sherry Johnson contributed "Gender Consciousness Among Women Fiddlers in Ontario Fiddle Contests", Jean Mills reported on "The Woods Music and Dance Camp", and Jim Hiscott told us about "Inuit Accordion Music—A Better Kept Secret". An obituary of Ed McCurdy (by Lorne Brown) was included, as were a couple of Ontario fiddle tunes, "Elmer Campbell's Barn Dance" and "My Aunt Sally Ann", and a number of topical parodies from The Raging Grannies. Minutes and abstracts from the 1999 AGM, the festival directory, various columns and numerous reviews rounded out the issue.

Bulletin 34.3 (September 2000). A slim issue, following the fat double issue which preceded it. George W. Lyon contributed an article on poet Isabella Valancy Crawford, focusing on her Western Canadian subject matter, and excerpts from 19th-century author Anna Brownell Jameson's writings on Native Canadian music. A song notated by Jameson, "Ojibway Quaince", was included, as was "The Walker of the Snow", a poem/song composite recorded in 1929. The

festival directory, a news column and A Peak in Darien made up the rest of the issue.

Five Years Ago

CFM 39.1 (Spring 2005). Articles on various topics highlighted this issue: "Chinese Traditional Music in Greater Vancouver" by Huai Sheng Qiu; "Finding Local Identity: Great Big Sea, Trad-Pop and Folksong" by Sarah J. Moore; and "Is There Still Traditional Music in Canada? Part 2,347" by Lorne Brown (accompanied by labour anthems "Solidarity Forever" and "Hold the Fort"). In addition to the Child ballads expounded in Rosaleen Gregory's Singing the Child Ballads column, two composed songs on the topic of traditional music were included: Shelley Posen's "The Old Songs' Home" and Clary Croft's "Still the Song Lives On". In addition to reviews and other columns, the 2004 Cumulative Table of Contents wrapped up the issue.

CFM 39.2 (Summer 2005). This was a special issue inspired by the release of the educational CD-ROM and Teachers' Guide *Songs and Stories of Canada* by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat. It contained a plethora of songs: sixteen Canadian songs from that CD-ROM; four Child ballads from Rosaleen Gregory's column; and five from my own repertoire. There was even space for some reviews and the usual columns.

CFM 39.3 (Fall 2005). The main article in this issue was "Gender Relations in Inuit Drum Dances" by Mary E. Piercey, who also included lyrics to three Inuit songs, and descriptions of four CDs of Inuit music. Then president Rika Ruebsaat contributed "Pourquoi Chanter? An Experiential Look at the Québécois' Relationship to Singing", Murray Leeder added a review article on the Ottawa Folk Festival, and Jon Bartlett penned an obituary of Hilda Thomas. As well as Rosaleen Gregory's Singing the Child Ballads column, traditional songs "Farewell to Tarwathie" and "John Kanaka" and Norm Walker's song "The Folky Geologist" (inspired by the late former president Bill Sarjeant) made an appearance, along with some reviews, two letters and A Peak in Darien.

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 cstmsctm@ualberta.ca.