

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Thirty Years Ago

Bulletin 17.4 (October 1983). Numerous articles made up A Tribute to Stan Rogers (1949-1983) after his recent passing: “Obituary” (Ian Robb); “Reflections” (David Alan Eadie); “The Last Song” (Paul Mills); “In Memoriam” (Mansel Davies); “A Friend” (Grit Laskin); “Stan and the Revival” (Tim Rogers); “A Song Ended Too Soon” (Emily Friedman); “Stan’s Primary Creative Works”, a photo essay, and “Open Your Mouth and Close Your Eyes...”, a contribution to The Singers column by Stan himself. On another topic, Sandy Byer contributed “Records ‘n Kids: Canadian Children’s Records”, Tim Rogers compiled a “Preliminary Listing of Canadian Produced Children’s Records”, and Dave Spalding included his column on children’s songs, “You and I and Nobody Knows”. Caroline Bolderson Parry wrote on “Christmas at Fiddler’s Green”. Songs “The True Newfoundland” (Lem Snow), “The Pedestrian’s Prayer” (Jim Payne) and “Bow Down” (a rare Ontario version of “The Twa Sisters” (Child 10)) were included, as well as a preview of the 1983 AGM, extensive news and feedback, and reviews of the book *As it Comes: Folk Fiddling in Prince George, British Columbia* (Roy W. Gibbons) and recordings *Géographie sonore du Québec, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Région 02* (Jacques Labreque, director) and *Music from the Simon Fraser Collection* (various).

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Bulletin 22.2-4 (December 1988). A response to “hard times” was a triple issue – not, unfortunately, with triple content, but with a respectable batch of articles. There was soul-searching in Bill Sarjent’s “Folk Music Today: A Problem of Definition” (has anything changed?) and Murray Shoolbraid’s “The Meaning of ‘Traditional’ ”; George Lyon gave us “Folk Music in NFB Films”, and David W. Watts contributed “Folk Music in Children’s Music Education in the English-Speaking World”; “Two More Railroad Songs from Alberta” came from Tim Rogers. In addition to the railroad songs, Bill Gallaher’s “The Newfoundland Sealers” and “The Skookumchuk Camp Song” (also from Tim Rogers) saw print. Donald Deschênes reviewed a number of recordings of Quebec instrumental music on Folkways; also reviewed were recordings *André Alain: Violoneux de St-Basile de Portneuf*, Anne Lederman’s compilation *Old Native and Métis Fiddling in Manitoba*, and Bar-

ry & Lyn Luft’s *Flower in the Snow*, as well as the book *Bruce Cockburn: At the Diamonds*.

Twenty Years Ago

Bulletin 27.4 (December 1993). This issue was mistakenly identified as 27.3 on its cover. It was sort of a theme issue, including “Jewish Languages, Jewish Songs” by Nomi Kaston, “Mir Zenen Do: Montreal Memories” by Rona Altrows, “Klezmer in Canada, East and West” by George Lyon, and “Two Shtetl Folksongs: ‘Die Soch’ and ‘Der Mail Lied’ ” from Ghitta Sternberg. There was also an Ethnofolk Letter from Judith Cohen, an Ottawa (and Area) Folk Directory, and reviews of books “*Ribbons, Bells and Squeaking Fiddles*”: *The Social History of Morris Dancing in the English South Midlands* (Kieth Chandler) and *Whistling Jigs to the Moon: Tales of Irish and Scottish Pipers* (Joanne Asala) and recordings *Close to the Floor: Newfoundland Dance Music and Six Mile Bridge*.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 32.4 (December 1998). This issue showcased an interview with Max Ferguson entitled “Music is a very subjective thing...”, with Barry Luft and Jim Dauncey posing the questions, as well as two articles on folk music’s therapeutic uses: “A Journey in Song with Recovering Alcoholics” (Dr. Wilfred Gallant) and “The Potential of Music to Help Patients with Dyspnea and Anxiety” (Dr. Leslie Hall). Two songs by Dr. Gallant, “The Wet, Dark, Dusty Seam” and “Back Home Again”, accompanied his article. A traditional piece from Northern Ontario, “L’ivrongne et les puces”, was also included. Judith Cohen contributed an EthnoFolk Letter entitled “Revival and Traditional”, and columns “Over the Waves” (radio) and “The Centrefold” (magazines) also appeared. Numerous recordings from French Canada were reviewed, as well as the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, Ken Hamm’s CD *Galvanized!* and Chris McKhool’s *Earth, Seas and Air*. There were four short editorials as well as the usual news and other ongoing features.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 37.4 (Winter 2003). This issue was kicked off by an interview by David Gregory with Kiran Ahluwalia, accompanied by a review of her two CDs, *Kashish/Attraction* and *Beyond Boundaries*. Next was an article by Phil Thomas, “‘D’ye Ken Sam Hughes?” and Two Other Songs from the Great War,

1914-1918"; the other two songs were "Sam Hughes' Army" and "We Are, We Are, We Are Canadians!". Tim Rogers updated the song " 'Hard, Hard Times' for the Mad Cow". Other songs included were "Cotter's Lament" (an SCA song by Nancy Niles and James Prescott) and Sol Siggurdson's "The Cruise of the Spear". Minutes of the AGM in Athabasca, an article on the singing which took place at that conference, the Canadian Folk Festival Directory and a plethora of reviews made up the rest of the issue.

Five Years Ago

CFM 42.4 (Winter 2008-09). Lots of songs in this issue. No less than 12 of them accompanied co-editor David Gregory's feature article "Song Collecting in Newfoundland: Maud Karpeles, 1930"; the songs are all from Ms. Karpeles' collecting. Co-editor Rosaleen Gregory's column "Singing the Child Ballads" included four more. David Gregory contributed "Four Songs for the Environment", all of his own composi-

tion. "Songs from Three Provinces" included my Alberta song "Those Little Foxes", "Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary's" (a well-known Newfoundland song originally written by Otto P. Kelland), and the traditional "Just Over the Don" from Ontario. An article by Brian Rusted, "How Kelly Russell Spends his Summer Vacation", plus the minutes of the 2008 AGM and the usual features (but no reviews this time) finished things off.

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. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]