

Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Thirty Years Ago

Bulletin 19.2 (June 1985). This issue heralded the arrival of the first Canadian Folk Festival Directory, a feature which continued as part of the magazine for ten years, then continued independently on CSTM's website. Other articles in the issue were "La Musique traditionnelle au Québec" by Roland Boutot, "Saskatchewan 1984" by Bill Sarjeant, "A Step in the Right Direction: Our President Comments" by John Leeder, and "The Green Fields of Canada sung by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat: The First CFMS Cassette". Two songs showed up: "A Lucky Man" by Grit Laskin, and "The Toronto Volunteers", a traditional song with additional lyrics by Anne Lederman. The CFMS Membership Survey was summarized, and there were letters, news, Murray Shoolbraid's column and reviews of Dorothy H. Farquharson's book *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* and Barry Luft and Tim Rogers' recording *Songs of the Iron Trail: The Canadian Railroad Experience in Song*.

Bulletin 19.3 (September 1985). This special issue on Fiddling in Canada was guest-edited by Anne Lederman. Numerous authors contributed articles on fiddle music across the country, including Neil Rosenberg ("Newfoundland Fiddle Recordings: An Annotated Discography"), Jim Hornby ("A Survey of Fiddling on Prince Edward Island"), Bill Guest ("Down East Fiddling"), Paul Cranford ("Cape Breton"), Ivan C. Hicks ("Old-Time Fiddling in New Brunswick"), Anne Lederman ("Ontario: An Introduction" and "Fiddling in Western Manitoba: A Preliminary Report"), Elaine Keillor ("Fiddling in Kitley Township"), Christopher McGuire ("Instrumental Music of Sheenboro"), Tim Rogers ("The Three Westernmost Provinces: A Call for Some Much-Needed Research"), John Bennett ("The Fiddler's Heritage at Pangnirtung") and Richard Green ("Fiddle Records in Canada"). Some articles included transcriptions of tunes. Also included was a list of recordings featuring fiddle music from the CFMS Mail Order Service's stock, plus reviews of several Newfoundland fiddle recordings and David Johnson's book *Scottish Fiddle Music in the 18th Century*.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Bulletin 24.2 (Summer 1990). This issue introduced new songs editor Howard Kaplan and included one of his songs, "Bright Sweaters in Fall". There was 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 accordianist from Chesterfield Inlet. The Northern theme was continued by "A Week with Soviet Eskimo Singers and Dancers" by Nicole Beaudry. Judith Cohen wrote an article on Klezka, and contributed the song "Alle Blieder". Reviews of Grit Laskin's cassette *Laila'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 Diegue[n tilde]o 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, 25 years later!). Ethnomusicology news on Native Counsellor Anton Kolstee and world music performances at York University completed the issue.

Twenty Years Ago

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 M üd* (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 Freddy 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.

Fifteen 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", 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 that preceded it. George W. Lyon contributed an article on the poet Isabella Valancy Crawford, focusing on her Western Canadian subject matter, and excerpts from 19th-Century author Anna Brownwell 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.

Ten Years Ago

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 songs from that CD-ROM; four Child ballads from Rosaleen Gregory's column; and five from John Leeder's 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. 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.

Five Years Ago

CFM 44.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2010). This monumental issue was devoted to the Princeton Traditional Music Festival, with a great deal of detail on all of the festival's then five years plus its 2007 trial run. (Yes, the issue's confusing cover date was due to a quirk of scheduling.) Much of the issue was written by co-editor David Gregory, although Jon Bartlett, the Festival Coordinator, contributed an overview, "Five Years of the Princeton Traditional Music Festival". Numerous festival participants contributed thoughts on the festival; performers' websites and CDs were included, and there were reviews of Bartlett and Ruebsaat's CD *NowIt's Called Princeton* (with accompanying song of that name) and their book *Dead Horse on the Tulameen*.

CFM 44.3 (Fall 2010). This issue's focus was on "ballad and song", with Moira Cameron's article "Coming Back Through Ballads", describing how resuming performing helped her recuperate from a personal tragedy, leading off. The balance of the issue included lyrics, or lyrics and music, to no less than 18 songs, including traditional songs, history, originals, and even a Robert Service poem set to music. The issue also included reviews and the 2009 cumulative table of contents.

These issues (and all back issues up to 2013, 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 cstm@cstm.ualberta.ca. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well, as are scans of issues from 1973 to 1999 (<http://cfmb.icaap.org/>). [JL]