Rika Ruebsaat and I are just this minute back from a month in the UK—an exhausting (thank you, London Transport!), delightful stay where we had the first holiday of quite a few years, and got the chance to explore what the British folk scene is up to these days. Everybody made us very welcome—we talked with Peter Pilbeam, Tony Capstick and Judy Butterworth of the BBC’s “Folkweave”, Mike Yates of the EFDSS, visited with Walter Pardon and with Ewan McColl and Peggy Seeger, dropped in on a few clubs, most notably Birmingham’s Grey Cock Club, where residents Kevin and Mary Pratt made us feel quite at home (and where Tish Stubbs and Sam Richards happened to be playing), spoke with Frankie Armstrong (but missed A.L. Lloyd, who was in the Balkans) and generally had a good time. Then, on the second day... Two books from Pluto Press (Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Rd., London NW1 8LH), one just recently published, we brought back with us. The Big Red Songbook (1977, 128 pp., £1), compiled by Mal Collins, Dave Harker and Geoff White, prints 43 songs of labour and the left, from Alex Glasgow’s “As Soon As This Pub Closes” (the Revolution starts) by way of Wobbly songs and Woody Guthrie to Leon Rosselson’s “The World Turned Upside Down”. My Song Is My Own: 100 women’s songs (1979, 189 pp., £3.95) is by Kathy Henderson with Frankie Armstrong and Sandra Kerr: a really fine collection of British songs, traditional and contemporary, by, for and about women, with excellent notes. Both value for money! We found a record waiting for us on our return: Emile’s Dream, by Emile Benoit of Black Duck Brook on the Port-aux-Port peninsula of Newfoundland. The liner notes are great and the record’s even better. We’ll be reviewing it soon, but if you can’t wait, write to Kelly Russell (1 Stoneyhouse St., St. John’s). Sorry, no price indicated. The New Brunswick news this month notes that the Canadian Folk Music Society Annual General Meeting will be held Nov. 16-18 in Fredericton. If you’re in the area, please come and see us all. There’ll be singers, club organizers, collectors and folklorists from all across the country, something so expensive we can only afford to do it once a year!

Jon Bartlett