State of the Art: 1983

compiled and edited by Tim Rogers

Introduction

This year’s “State of the Art” feature reveals that there have been some very interesting and important developments in Canada this year. It was a year of celebration, being the 100th birthday of our founder, Marius Barbeau. It was a year of acute sadness in the death of Stan Rogers. It was a year of discovery as we shared a marvellous Annual General Meeting with the folks in Edmonton. So too was it a year of change (cf. the Ontario Report) and a year of new challenges (cf. the Quebec Report/Editorial). You will find out how various regions have reacted to these changes and challenges as you read the wonderfully comprehensive regional reports which are the major substance of this “State of the Art” review. Reports from Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia offer detailed information about events and issues of concern. We especially welcome a wonderful report from Manitoba compiled by Gregg and Sheila Brunskill. There is also an editorial section about Quebec, that discusses some of the issues that have been raised in the pages of the Bulletin of late.

We have the addition of several other kinds of contributions to our “State of the Art” feature this year. There are three songs, one (by Jim Payne) relating to last year in Newfoundland which was the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and another (by Ian Robb) that is offered as a new year message for 1984. The third, concerning Marius Barbeau, was written by Donald Deschenes at our Annual General Meeting. We also have an article by Lois Choksy that reviews important events in the educational field over the last year. And we have two other articles which treat aspects of folk music in other countries. Terry Goldie offers us a look at the revival in Australia, while Ronald Labelle documents some of his observations on folk music research in France. These non-Canadian articles are being presented because they give us an understanding of how we are doing relative to other parts of the world. Both of these articles provide insight into how well we are doing, and offer us a look at how other countries are faring.

The songs and general articles are intermixed with the regional reports in this feature to provide variety. They all combine to provide a most interesting perspective on folk music in Canada in 1983.