Editorial

In his editorial to the November 1993 issue of Three Quarter Times: The Newsletter of the Vancouver Folk Song Society, Jon Bartlett opened with apologies for what seemed to him a "heavy" amount of "errors and misprints." This is a sterling example, which we will herewith imitate. Last issue there were a large handful of errors for which we claim full responsibility. (Not all, alas, are typos—I myself committed a couple of pronoun blunders for which I would rap the knuckles of my first year composition students. Blush.)

Perhaps the most distressing error, however, was simply the remnant of a couple of last minute corrections and alterations on the cover, which left the issue numbered Volume 27 Number 3, when it should have been Volume 27 Number 4. Librarians of the world, please forgive us.

You may have noticed that the last issue contained a larger number of the prairie dance descriptions that I gathered a few years back, mostly from the local histories of Alberta. We were able to make a slightly larger issue for December, and so there were more little spaces to fill up. I happened to be working in my basement where I've got the file of those, so on the last runthrough of the issue, I just reached around and pulled out items that looked like they'd fit. About halfway through, I got to worrying that this might start to look like the Alberta Folk Music Bulletin. I hope you enjoy these items—as John and I, the other editors, and all the contributors hope you enjoy everything that we publish here—but it wouldn’t be amiss if you also begin to wish to see more of your own province and locality in the Bulletin. Please do think about contributing: in addition to articles and tunes, we'd welcome photos, drawings, and other graphics, and news items from where you live—which, if you are unsure of your own writing competence, could always be submitted in draft form, to be rewritten here. That procedure is not uncommon; look at the bylines of most newsmagazines, for instance. (I've been rereading some issues of the Bulletin from a couple of decades ago, and I note with some amusement that there's a Society tradition according to which the Bulletin editors plead for member input. John and I are just carryin' it on!)

Readers are undoubtedly all too conscious of the varying size and degrees of elegance of the Bulletin. I needn't tell anyone that finance has a great deal to do with this variance. But finance is not the only factor. We have, for example, given the annual festival directory card stock covers, assuming that some people, at least, will use these issues enough that extra protection is justified. By the same token, as the previous issue began to grow into a mini-theme issue somewhat by accident, as I explained at the time, it began to make sense to give it a formal cover with a relevant photograph. During other quarters, less material has come in, and we have not bothered with a cover.

Serendipity strikes again! We didn't plan on an issue taking a close look at Stan Rogers, but reviews of a posthumous concert recording, a book, and a stage production, all coming out within a few months of each other, give this issue a Stan flavour. (We hear another stage play was produced elsewhere in Canada, and would be happy to receive a review of it.)

Canadians of a certain age and inclination all can answer the question "What were you doing when you heard about Stan Rogers's death?" (like Americans, indeed Canadians too, concerning JFK). (I [JL] was driving south on 14th Street SW in Calgary, on my way to work, when CBC radio made the announcement, then played "Forty-Five Years." I had to pullover and compose myself before I could carry on driving. What's your story?) Now, 11 years later, many more Canadians are becoming aware of Stan's place as a major figure in Canada's culture. He's receiving appreciation which was never his during his lifetime. Of course, we can't help wondering whether, had the Cincinnati plane crash never happened, Stan would have continued to develop as an artist, and whether he would have achieved the mainstream status denied him. Perhaps, like Gordon Lightfoot, he would have dried up creatively and spent the rest of his life as a parody of himself. I suspect not. We'll never know what we lost.

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Plans are firming up for the Annual General Meeting. It will take place at the University of Calgary, Craigie Hall C119, June 5, 9:00-12:00 AM. (This refers to the meeting itself. There may be other events, such as a Contra Dance the night before, but such plans have yet to be firmed up.) Despite the interval being shorter than usual since the last meeting, the presence of so many board members already in town for the meetings of the Learned Societies is a distinct advantage. Also because of those meetings and because of the shorter interval, the CSMT/SCTM's meeting will be less structured than previous years (although we'll still show you a good time!). In this issue of the Bulletin or the next, we'll include proxy forms for those who can't attend, billeting information for those who can, and so on. Make plans to come to Calgary in June for the AGM!

Accompanying this issue is a proxy form. If you are unable to attend this year's AGM but wish to have your votes cast, please fill the form out and send it to any member you know will be attending the meeting. As of this writing, Bill Sergeant, Regula Qureshi, and the editors of the Bulletin are planning to attend. You may send your proxies with them or with any other member you feel will represent your wishes.
Les actualités—surtout concernant la réunion annuelle

(La version anglaise a été publiée dans le numéro précédent du Bulletin.

La réunion annuelle de la société a eu lieu à Ottawa au mois de novembre. Voici un résumé de quelques faits saillants qui intéresseront particulièrement les lecteurs du Bulletin. (Le compte rendu complet de la réunion est disponible aux membres qui le désirent—faire la demande au secrétaire.)

La plupart des lecteurs ne seront pas touchés par les changements dans les tarifs d’abonnement, puisque le tarif pour les individus demeure fixé à $20. Les abonnements pour les institutions augmentent à $20. Le tarif pour l’ancienne catégorie d’étudiants et personnes âgées a diminué à $15. Le nom de cette dernière catégorie a été changé: c’est maintenant la catégorie suivante: "les individus ne travaillant pas à plein temps", ce qui comprend les étudiants, les retraités, les chômeurs—on vous prend sur parole. Bien sûr, les étudiants et les retraités plus riches ont toujours l’option de payer le tarif régulier de $20!

De plus, la plupart des membres ne seront pas touchés par les changements dans le calcul de l’année de l’abonnement. Au lieu de suivre l’année selon le calendrier, les abonnements commenceront avec le numéro du Bulletin qui suit la date de l’abonnement. Donc les dates de renouvellement d’abonnements seront distribuées durant l’année, ce qui facilitera la tâche pour les volontaires qui effectuent ce travail. Ceci nous permet aussi de réduire la période durant laquelle les membres recevaient le Bulletin après avoir oublié de renouveler leur abonnement—mais ça ne vous arrivait pas à vous, sans doute?

La débat sur la question du nom de la société n’a pas trouvé de conclusion (voir le numéro 27:2, p.3) ni quant à la procédure ni quant à la substance, donc un avis de motion a été fait pour réconsiderer la question à la réunion annuelle de 1994.

Cette réunion annuelle aura lieu à Calgary la première fin de semaine de juin, pour correspondre avec les réunions des sociétés savantes. On vous transmettra les détails de l’assemblée quand les plans seront plus précis.

Pour la liste complète des directeurs de la société, il faudra attendre le prochain numéro du Bulletin. Voici le nouveau conseil exécutif de la société:

**Président:** Judith Cohen, 751 Euclid Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6G 2V3

**Vice-présidents:** Monique Desroches, Faculté de Musique, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succ. A., Montréal, P.Q. H3C 337; et George Lyon, 4444 16A St. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T2T 4L5.

**Secrétaire:** Paula Conlon, 1123 Second Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1H 8C9

**Trésorier:** Gordon Smith, School of Music, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6

**Ancien président:** Bill Sarjeant, Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0. (Bill Sarjeant détient ce poste puisqu’il demeure le plus récent président qui demeure toujours au pays—il y a eu un président élu et deux présidents intérimaires depuis sa présidence.)

Généralement nous avons quitté la réunion annuelle avec beaucoup d’enthousiasme et d’optimisme pour l’avenir de la société, puisque plusieurs nouvelles idées ont été discutées et quelques-unes font déjà l’objet de contributions au Bulletin. Et comme toujours, la musique était bonne!

Je tiens à remercier personnellement Jay Rahn pour avoir rempli le poste de président intérimaire et pour avoir dirigé la société durant une période difficile. Donc le train de la société est maintenant bien sur la voie, avec une nouvelle vigueur, avec l’aide de Jay Rahn qui est intervenu juste au bon moment.


Enfin, le numéro 27:4 est en retard en raison d’un surplus de travail pour moi, suivi d’une maladie chez George. Déjà nous perdons notre réputation de ponctualité! Eh bien, c’est inévitable quand il s’agit d’une société menée par des volontaires, qui ont un nombre limité d’heures de loisir. Mais pour le prochain numéro, on a l’intention de battre nos records.

N’hésitez pas de nous faire part de vos soucis au sujet Bulletin, et envoyez-nous un déluge de lettres, de chansons, d’articles, de compte-rendus, de noms de volontaires pour le poste de rédacteur pour le Canada français, etc.

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