Editorial

CSTM Mail Order Service

An important transition is in progress for the CSTM, and one which is perhaps little noted or little understood by most of the membership. I’m talking about the end of the Gregory Era as far as the CSTM’s Mail Order Service is concerned. Probably no one in the Society today is capable of fully appreciating the depth of the contribution made to our organization by Jan, Garry and Jill Gregory, or the personal sacrifices they have made to keep our Mail Order Service running as the important, vital and successful enterprise it is. Perhaps only people who have had a turn at shouldering the responsibility for the MOS can come close to understanding what that function entails. And there aren’t many of us around who’ve had that experience!

In the fall of 1988 my call first went out for someone to replace me in looking after the Mail Order Service. Happily, when local members were canvassed, Jan Gregory stepped forward. Jan proved to be an admirable choice; as well, the Service’s stock was housed on the premises of Neotechnology Consultants, the company operated by Garry. This arrangement soon ensured that Garry became an active participant in the operation of the service, as well as a Director of the Society. Their daughter Jill also became involved as time went by, and some other family members helped out on such tasks as assembling catalogues. Together they brought the Mail Order Service to a level of efficiency and effectiveness rarely reached in any volunteer organization. The MOS has been operated in a businesslike fashion, and the Gregories’ participation in the affairs of the organization has provided a perspective badly needed by the rest of us.

Some six years later, the time has come for the torch to be thrown once more, for reasons both positive (expansion of Neotechnology Consultants’ business affairs) and negative (Garry’s slower-than-expected recovery from an unfortunate accident). Happily, once more a Calgary member has volunteered to take on the task. Rosemary Reed has already been in the position of stepping in to help out the Society at a crucial time; she served as Treasurer at a past point of need. Jill Gregory remains part of the operation as well. As Rosemary is replacing at least two people, we expect she’ll welcome local volunteer assistance as she gets a grip the reins; any Calgary-area members wanting to help out can phone her at (403) 284-4263. The new address of the Mail Order Service is: CSTM Mail Order Service, P.O. Box 65066, North Hill Post Office, Calgary, Alta. T2N 4T6. (We also hope the service’s clients will be understanding during the transition period.)

Those of us who work for volunteer organizations try not to think of the dollar value at which our time and effort would be rated if it were channelled into profitable concerns. We do spare-time jobs because we see them as worth doing, and we get personal satisfaction from accomplishments which we see as worthwhile. Nevertheless, a certain amount of recognition from our peers never hurts. The contribution of the Gregories (and Neotechnology Consultants) to our Society as been beyond estimation, and deserves the gratitude of all of us who care about CSTM and, indeed, about the state of folk music in Canada.

—JL

Translator/Traducteur

We have great need of translation assistance for the Bulletin. Our stalwart translator, André Gareau, has moved from Calgary to Canmore. This move hardly puts him out of touch with the editors, and André has affirmed his willingness to continue to assist the Society and specifically this publication, but he has been heavily occupied this year and does not foresee a great deal more time in the future. We are behind in our translation and abstracting of articles from English to French, and we wish there to be no mistake: The Canadian Folk Music Bulletin serves a bilingual, multicultural Canada. But we cannot do it alone. Please volunteer to assist us with translation and/or nudge your acquaintances who would be able also to volunteer for this important duty. [GWL]

Annual General Meeting—1995

At the 1994 meeting, the decision was made to return the AGM to its traditional Fall time in 1995. The Academic Programme Chair, exact date, and location will be named shortly and announced in the Bulletin. Begin to make your plans to attend! Since the Society is working to develop its status with funding agencies, it is essential that we provide strong evidence of our Academic seriousness, which means a strong showing of papers should be offered. Keep in mind as well that our Society’s mandate calls for attention to both academic and nonacademic interests, so plan to bring your instruments and songbags.