

Our Back Pages

This feature got left out last time due to space constraints, so here's half a year's worth at one go.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 15.3 (Fall 1981). This issue's main offering was an article "Contemporary Traditional Music in Newfoundland" (no, not an oxymoron!) by Gerald Thomas of MUN. Also included: "Constitutional Changes for the CFMS?" (no, times haven't changed that much!) by Dave Spalding, reviews of Robert C. Cosby's book *All In Together Girls*, Stan Rogers' *Northwest Passage* (has it been that long?), MacNaughton and Smith's *Fiddlin' for Steppers*, Shute and Null's *American Primitive*, and Marius Barbeau's book *Le Rossignol y chante*. Short pieces on "The Folk Singers" radio program and the Beaton Institute, and the column "Ali's Corner," round out the issue.

Bulletin 15.4 (Winter 1981). Feature articles this time were "Songs and a Sense of Place" by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat, and "Brandywine," in which Dave and Andrea Spalding discuss their experiences entertaining children. There's a review of Lois Choksy's book *The Kodaly Context* and columns by Alistair Brown and Jon Bartlett ("Last Post"). The issue also has an

historic aspect, as Jon and Rika's editorial announced their decision to lay down the burden of editorship in the near future.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 20.3-4 (December 1986). This was a double issue, reflecting the CSMF's hard times and my [JL's] struggle to get a grip on editing. The main articles were "The First Non-Native Canadian Folk Song?" by Tony Stephenson (recounting a song/poem found in a couple of the Norse Vinland sagas), "The Dressings We Put on Our Lives" by Martin Rossander (reminiscences of a musical life) and "Folk Music?" by Tim Rogers, an evocative contribution to the "What is folk music?" debate. There were a plethora of folk festival reviews and retrospectives by a plethora of authors, and Murray Shoolbraid's column "Folk Notes and Queries." Murray also contributed a couple of fiddle tunes ("Exposition Reel" and "Curtis Shull"), while songs "Hur- ray for Camp Borden"; "The Cat Got on the Lamp" and James Keelaghan's "The Fires of Calais" also were included.

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 25.3 (Fall 1991). More hard times. The CSMT ran short of money, and editor Lynn Whidden rose to the challenge by producing a photocopied issue. Content was substantial, articles "The Musical Saw" and "Learning through Drum and Dance" appeared, as did reports on the Society's AGM in Calgary and the Raga-Mala Conference in Winnipeg, and a review of Hugh Verrier's book *The Songs of Wade Hemsworth*.

Bulletin 25.4 (Winter 1991). George W. Lyon got his feet wet as guest editor of this monumental issue devoted to cowboy poetry and songs. "Words From the Range: Canadian Cowboy Poetry" is the feature article; songs and poems are too numerous to list. Lots of photos, too, including a photo essay, "Home on the Range, Home on the Stage." In addition to the cowboy material, there's the *Cumulative Table of Contents* covering 1982-89, plus reviews of Gallaher & Galbraith's *Home to the Island*, fiddle recording *Emma Lake Live* and Ken Hamm's *Floodtide*.

Copies of these issues can be obtained: see the Mail Order Service Catalogue and/or p. 31 of **Bulletin 30.1** (March 1996) for details of pricing and ordering.