

Our Back Pages

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 17.1 (January 1983). In those days, the *Bulletin* carried the minutes of the AGM (a noble tradition which we're reviving this time), and the bulk of this issue consists of those minutes plus "State of the Art," reports from the regions across Canada—a great overview of what was happening in folk music in this country in those bygone days. Other content included articles on songs: "Dans le temps du sucre" by Donald Deschênes and "Three Sailors Went to Yellowknife" from Yurgen Ilaender. A third song was Ian Robb's "The Iron Lady." Columns from Alistair Brown and David Spalding made an appearance, as well as reviews of Michael Cooney's *Pure Unsweetened* and books *Je danse mon enfance* (France Bourque-Moreau) and *Stan Rogers: Songs from Fogarty's Cove and Coast to Coast Fever* (Arthur MacGregor, ed.).

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 22.1 (September 1988). Yes, that date is correct! Issues sometimes were late in those days, too! This issue included the new Constitution of the Society, totally rewritten at the 1987 AGM in Quebec City, which has survived with a few modifications until the present. Articles carried included Bill Sarjeant's call for regional reorganization of CFMS (which had in fact inspired the new Constitution), David Watts's "Creativity and Mourning in the Work of Stan Rogers," and Gregg Brunskill's account of the newly-formed Winnipeg Folk Connection (as its name then was). There were no columns this time, but the issue

included reviews of James Keelaghan's *Timelines*, Dick Howe's *A Scotsman in Canada*, Dave MacIsaac's *Celtic Guitar* and the Regina Folk Festival (with a photo montage by Bill Sarjeant). Several songs appeared: Kirk MacGeachy's "MacDonell of Barrisdale," Newfoundland traditional song "The *McClure*," and "Aux veilleuses du 28 février 1925," about an earthquake in Québec.

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 27.1 (March 1993). An editorial announces that, after producing the magazine for the better part of a year, George and I have decided to carry on. (Hard to imagine that that was five years ago....) The 'zine was still newsletter-style, but it was roughly back on schedule after the interregnum between Lynn Whidden's tenure and ours. The feature article was "Consumed by Consumerism" by Jon Bartlett, with full translation by André Gareau. The second "Ethnofolk Letters," "Over the Waves" and a still-unnamed magazine column were included. Songs and tunes were tied in with reviews this time: "I've Been a Gay Roving Young Fellow" and "Empty Nets" accompanied the review of Jim Payne's recording of the latter name; tune "Flight Six-Seven-Six" went with *100 Toe-Tappin' Tunes for Fiddle* by Gordie Carnahan and "Joey Beaton's Reel" with *Jerry Holland's Collection of Fiddle Tunes* (wish we could get that slick every time!); also reviewed was Roy Johnstone's *Flying Tide*. As well, the first "Canada Camps" (now "Camps and Courses") made its appearance. [JL]