

Our Back Pages

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 18.1 (January 1984). In those days, the post-AGM issue often included geographical reports from regional board members ("State of the Art"). This year was no exception. Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia were represented, and the absence of a Quebec report was commented on by Tim Rogers in an article; the missing Maritime provinces elicited no such comment. Other articles included "Le folklore musical en France" (Ronald Labelle), "Folk Music and Education: 1983" (Lois Choksy) and "Folk Music in Australia" (Terry Goldie). The AGM minutes were included. The Singers column this time was written by Frankie Armstrong, entitled "Songs and Singing as Expression." Books reviewed were Alice Kane's *Songs and Sayings of an Ulster Childhood*, *Musique acadienne du Sud-Ouest de la Nouvelle Écosse*, Gabrielle Morency-Létourneau's *Au jardin de mon père* and Barbara Cass-Beggs's *A Musical Calendar of Festivals*. And let's not forget to mention the songs: Ian Robb's "Song for the New Year," Jim Payne and Peter Leonard's "The 400 Year Celebrations" and Donald Deschênes's "À Marius Barbeau."

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 23.1 (March 1989). Two main articles graced this issue. In "An Ethnomusicological Perspective on Folk Music," Jay Rahn explained ethnomusicology in layperson's terms, as the prospect of CFMS (as it then was) becoming the society representing Canada's ethnomusicologists was on the horizon. Also, James Prescott's "Unriddling 'Came Ye O'er Frae France?'" made much clear concerning a song that had tended to puzzle me, among others. Two railroad songs were included—"The Founding of the Famous C.P.R." (Powder River Jack Lee) and "The Hinton Rail Disaster" (Wiz Bryant)—as well as Rona Al-

trows's topical comment on Ben Johnson's Olympic scandal, "There's Gold in Them Thar Pills." Recordings reviewed were Eileen McGann's *Elements*, Garnet Rogers's *Speaking Softly in the Dark*, Archie Fisher's *Sunsets I've Galloped Into...*, Faith Nolan's *Africville*, Tom Lewis's *Surfacing* and the Calgary Hungarian Senior Citizens' Choir's *Magyar Nóta Gyűjtemény*.

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 28.1 (March 1994). The "newsletter" format was well and truly left behind by this issue, as CSMT (as it then was) shook off the financial crisis of that epoch. Lots about Stan Rogers in this issue: his picture on the cover, a review essay of the stage show *Rise Again* and reviews of Chris Gudgeon's book *An Unfinished Conversation* and the concert recording *Home in Halifax*. Lots of housekeeping stuff, editorials, board members' bios, 1990-93 Cumulative Table of Contents. Also Elaine Keillor's "An Opinion and Arguments Against an English Name Change" and "Deux reels-à-bouche" from Sharon Berman. In addition to those tunes, we included the song "Kumanovo Bykso Oro" from the Toronto Bicycle Choir, an Ethnofolk Letters column from Judith Cohen, a Centrefold column on dance magazines by Michael Pollock, and French versions of some material from the previous issue. Other reviews included books *The Storyteller at Fault* (Dan Yashinsky), *Songs of Labrador* (Tim Borlase), *Folksongs of the Maritimes* (Kaye Pottie and Vernon Ellis) and various Catalan traditional music publications, and recordings *A Celebration of Heritage: Songs of Labrador* (June Baikie and Kelly Russell), *Dead Branches Make a Noise* (Kathleen Yearwood), *No Idle Jest* (Alistair Brown *et al.*) and *Canadian Borderline* (Doug Cox). [JL]



Folk music has always been a great morale-booster and solidifier of causes, but its recent track record as an evangelist is less than sparkling.

Ian Robb Bulletin 17.2 (Avril/April 1983)