

Our Back Pages

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 19.1 (March 1985). The first stand-alone catalog of the Mail Order Service was planned to occupy the centre pages of the issue, but it turned out to be so large that it commandeered the entire magazine! It was a monumental work, complete with photos of album covers interspersed with the text. Tim Rogers put together the catalogue and operated the service, in addition to being Bulletin editor and President at the time—having had the same experience later, I can testify to his huge commitment to the Society as it then was.

Bulletin 19.2 (June 1985). Another free-standing publication included in the Bulletin: the Canadian Folk Festival Directory was included as a yellow-page centre insert as well as being published independently. Other highlights were: the first Membership Survey results; a "Saskatchewan 1984" report from Bill Sarjeant; a report on the first CFMS cassette, *The Green Fields of Canada* by Jon Bartlett & Rika Ruebsaat (still available from our MOS); and "A Step in the Right Direction," presidential comments from JL. Columns were Murray Shoolbraid's "Folk Notes & Queries" and "La Musique traditionnelle au Québec" by Roland Boutot. Grit Laskin's song "A Lucky Man" and "The Toronto Volunteers," a traditional song added to by Anne Lederman, were included; reviewed items were Dorothy Farquharson's book *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* and the LP *Songs of the Iron Trail* by Barry Luft & Tim Rogers.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 24.1 (June 1990). The first issue under the aegis of editor Lynn Whidden was a theme issue, appropriately enough given Lynn's expertise in the area of First Nations and Métis music. Lynn contributed "A Note on Métis Music" and "Native and Métis Songs from the SMEA Project"; and Anne Lederman did not stray from the field, authoring "'The Drops of Brandy': Several Versions of a Métis Fiddle Tune." The news column consisted of a collection of mini-articles on the Brandon Festival, NAFA, Tamarack, Nicole Beaudry's fieldwork, and a tribute to the late D.K. Wilgus by Edith Fowke.

Bulletin 24.2 (Summer 1990). This issue introduced new Songs Editor Howard Kaplan and included one of his songs, "Bright Sweaters in Fall." Lots of constitutional housekeeping, with proposed revisions, notices of motion, an article by Phil Thomas on the proposed name change of that era, and an editorial by new President Gregg Brunskill. Gregg also wrote on Papalak (Theresa) Kukkiak, a button accordionist from Chesterfield Inlet. The Northern theme was continued by "A Week with Soviet Eskimo Singers & Dancers" by Nicole Beaudry. Judith Cohen wrote a report on Klezka, and contributed the poem/song "Ale Brier." Reviews of Grit Laskin's cassette *Lilia's Jig* and Margaret Bennett's book *The Last Stronghold: Scottish-Gaelic Traditions in Newfoundland* also appeared.

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 29.1 (March 1995). The feature of this issue was a major memoir by Vera Johnson (who has recently been made an Honorary Life Member of CSTM), "Genesis of a Folksinger/Songwriter"; a prodigious memory, copious notes and a penchant for getting into interesting places and situations gave us a very informative overview of Vera's life as a performer. Several of her songs, "The Bald Eagle," "The Fountain" and "Our 25th Birthday," accompanied the article. Several other songs made their appearance: "The Free Slave" from Edith Fowke's collection; Hilda Thomas's "The Condom Song," and "The Northwest Logger" by Hilda along with her husband Phil; and "We're in the Same Boat Now" by no less a personage than former Ontario Premier Bob Rae (he missed his calling...), accompanying "Rae-Day in Jaffa" by Judith Cohen. On a sadder note was an obituary of CSTM director Hugh Hendry (has Hugh really been gone from us five years?), by Bill Sarjeant. Karen Bennett contributed an *EthnoFolk Letter*; *The Centrefold* column dealt with several magazines. Craig Mishler's book *The Crooked Stovepipe* was reviewed, as were recordings *Danses d'ici* (Jean-Pierre Joyal), *The Brule Boys in Paris* (Tickle Harbour), *One Evening as I Rambled* (Moirra Cameron), *Yel-lowknife Evening* (Ceilidh Friends), *Look to the Sea* (The Irish Descendants) and *Ain't Life Sweet* (Penny Lang).

Bulletin 29.2 (June 1995). Grassroots events provided a sort of theme this time, with articles "How to Hold a House Concert" (Vic Michener), "House Concerts—The Beginning of Rāgā-Mālā" (Jagannath Wani), "Bossinware Party Tips" (Bob Bossin *et al.*), "'What's the Life of a Man?': Recording with Barry Luft (Richard Scholtz) (with accompanying song of that name), "Confessions of a Hell's Elf" (JL), "Living the Music" (Michael Pollack), "...gets the blood circulating and keeps the legs in condition..." (GWL) and "Powell River BC: The Enjoyment Band Plays On" (Martin Rossander). Yet another article was "Copyrights & Traditional Music: A Canadian Perspective" by Paul Cranford. Another song included was "The Rum Runners Song," lyrics by Jack Fleetwood, music by George Halkyard 62 years later. In addition to regular features (which by now included the Folk Festival Directory), there were reviews of Canada's Cowboy Festival, Edith Fowke & Jay Rahn's book on Larena Clark, *A Family Heritage*, and recordings *The Prairie Higglers over Twenty Years*, *In the Mōd* (Scatter the Mud), *Canada: A Folksong Portrait*, *Keep on Walking* (Lester Quitzeau), *The Hills of Home* (Minnie White), *Traditional Music from Cape Breton* (Scumalash), *Modabo* and *Spirit of the North* (The Gumboots).

These issues are available from CSTM Back Issues, 224 20th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2. See the Mail Order Service catalogue or the website (address on p.1) for pricing. [JL]