News, Views, & Stuff

You probably notice that the last issue was very fat while this one is extremely skinny. Why? Our new Treasurer did some calculating and figured that we’d do better this year to run a double issue March-June and a small one this month. Unfortunately, our double issue was larger than he’d intended, so we’ve had to cut back even more this time. Give us time—in the long run, this kind of thinking just may save the Society.

Encountered something interesting in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine from 1830: “Every man has a natural antipathy to taxes, therefore declamations against them, however devoid they may be of reason and proof, are always palatable to him…. It, of course, happens that diatribes against taxes always rank amidst the grand means with which demagogues, parties, and factions, operate on public ignorance and credulity” (487). As Utah Phillips likes to note with an ironic grin, “How times change!” Interesting to note in a recent newspaper article that average wage-earners in Canada in fact pay slightly less income tax than do their counterparts in the US. Remember that one of the favorite whipping boys of “demagogues, parties, and factions” is what is perceived as frivolous interests, like the work of the CSTM, this Bulletin included. If you haven’t noticed this, scan your local paper every time the Learned meet; invariably there’ll be a wire service feature on the silly things scholars look at, like Neanderthal burials or the survival of obscure musics among various immigrant or border societies the world over.

The Society has not received any government money for a long time—there hasn’t been much of that around because the “demagogues, parties, and factions” have been pretty much in the saddle. Keep all this in mind for future reference. [GWL]

We received an interesting correspondence from Nepal this summer. They’ve got a National Cultural Promotion Academy, which would like to get some international notice for their neat stuff, which is very neat, indeed. They ask to be invited to present Nepali cultural programs, to have exchanges with other cultural organizations, and to help other groups present in Nepal. For more information, write PO Box 12831, Kathmandu, Nepal, or email <akash@hons.com.mp>.

Nuno Morna’s letter last issue (p.40) didn’t include his mailing address; we’ve since ascertained that it’s: Nono Morna, Dança do Lobo, Travessa da Descanso A2, 9050 FUNCHAL, Portugal. Also, he has a new email address, <almma@netmadeira.com>.

Want to be part of the 2nd World Music Festival in Pakistan, March 15 to 25, 2000? They’re seeking performers; contact Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop at <rptw@brain.net.pk>, check out the website at <www.peergroup.com.pk>, write them at #25 F/3, Block D, National Homes, New Muslim Town, Lahore, Pakistan, fax +92 42 5869686, or phone +92 42 5885074, 5885075, 5885079 or 5839122. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2001.

Mairi Irene McCormack, daughter of Rosemary and Brian McCormack of B&R Heritage Enterprises in Iona, Cape Breton, and member of the singing group An Cruinne, drew our attention to an on-line Gaelic songbook prepared by them for a school heritage fair. It was one of five winners, and competed in the National Heritage Fair in Ottawa in July. (Anyone know how they did?) Check out <www.geocities.com/an_cruinne> to find lyrics for your favourite Cape Breton Gaelic songs.

A Peak in Darien

You noticed that the listing in the June issue was sooner than usual? Once more, computer gremlins prevented the arrival of a file, and three months’ worth of receptions were omitted.

Books

Sheree King Gilchrist. Wandering Spirits & Restless Hearts. Sheree Artes десау Co., 81 Blackburn Square, North Brunswick St, Dublin 7, Ireland; <shereeireland.com>; <www.geocities.com/sheretcg>.


Robert D. Woenner (convenor & editor) From Chamber to Disk: Centennial Traditions in Canada.

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., P.O. Box 3100, Sta. B, Hull, QC 18X 4B2; <publications@cmivil.ca>; <cyberboutique.civilization.ca>.

Scott Macmillan. Scooby Tunes (A Family Fiddle Frenzy): Cape Breton Style Fiddle Tunes Composed by Scott Macmillan. Scooby Music Productions, 5543 Sebastian Place, Haines, N.S. B3K 2K5; <scooby@ns.sympatico.ca>.
Canadian Folk Festival Directory

We try to produce a listing of all festivals in Canada with significant traditional music content, with as much information on them as possible given our space constraints, but realistically we fall short of our goal. Some festivals we don’t know about, some don’t respond, some have personnel changes and we lose touch. We get information from other agencies, but these vary widely in the amount and kind of information they give us. In particular, some provincial tourist bureaus don’t make their events lists available until March, too late for us to include the information in our March issue.

Please let us know about festivals which should be included and aren’t. Also, we’re still looking for people to help out with compiling the directory. If you have a flat-rate long distance number to help out, we’d be happy to share the load.

[IL]