

# President's Message

On Friday, June 11, **Edith Fowke** was presented with an honorary **Doctor of Letters** degree by York University. She also had the honour of delivering the convocation address. The citation biography for the degree read, in part:

Edith Fowke is one of Canada's leading authorities on the subject of Canadian folklore and folk music. She joined York University's Faculty of Arts in 1971 as Professor of English. Professor Fowke has written and edited numerous books on Canadian folklore and folk music and has contributed several articles to "The Encyclopedia of Music in Canada". Her recent publications include: "Sea Songs and Ballads from Nineteenth Century Nova Scotia" (1981) and a "Bibliography of Canadian Folklore in English" (1981). Professor Fowke has edited "The Canadian Folk Music Journal" since 1973. She was named a Fellow of the American Folklore Society in 1974 and was awarded the Order of Canada in 1978.

All of us are very much aware of the contributions that Edith has made to Canadian folk music over the years. It gives me great pleasure to see that her work has been recognized by the academic community. This is no small honour - particularly as it was her home university that granted the degree. Congratulations Edith - the honour is well deserved and we all offer you our sincere good wishes.

Another seminal figure in Canadian folk music was honoured recently as well. **Conrad Laforte**, who is one of our members and an influential researcher at Laval University, has been awarded the **Luc Lacourcière Medal** for his publication "Survivances médiévales dans la chanson folklorique". The medal, named in honour of the founder of the folklore archive at Laval, is awarded annually to the author of the most important publication in the field.

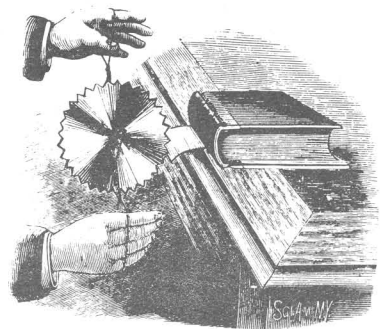
Cet honneur qui échut à M. Laforte couronne trente ans de recherches, d'études et de publications dans le domaine de la chanson traditionnelle. C'est en 1978 que le CELAT (Centre d'études sur la langue, les arts et les traditions populaires des francophones en Amérique du Nord) décidait d'attribuer, annuellement un prix pour l'auteur qui est le plus signalé par la publication d'un ouvrage en ethnologie et d'instaurer la remise d'une médaille à laquelle on donna le nom de

"Luc Lacourcière" en hommage au fondateur des Archives de folklore de l'université Laval en 1944.

The Society congratulates M. Laforte on this fine achievement, and thanks him for his continual contributions to folk music research in Canada.

The honouring of both Professors Fowke and Laforte by the university community indicates that the study of folklore and folk music is gaining respectability and visibility. While Canada may be a bit behind other countries in researching its own folklore (most countries had active Societies by the 1890's - we didn't start until 1954) these recent honours indicate that we are making some progress. While we have a long way to go, these honours do indeed signal significant progress toward an awareness and valuing of our own, unique, Canadian traditions, lore and song. To the two people who received the honours, we again offer our congratulations. To the movement the honours represent, we offer hope that this is part of a continuing trend toward respect for and love of our own traditions and the persons dedicating their lives to documenting them.

Tim Rogers, President



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**Typing:** Brenda Spilsbury, Allison Wiggs

**Proof Reading:** Patty Rogers, John Leeder

THANK YOU ALL!