

From our president....

We Didn't Explode in Calgary!

Greg Brunskill

The Canadian Society for Musical Traditions had a good time at their 26-28 October 1990 annual meeting in Calgary. The view of the Rocky Mountains was clear, and I liked Alberta's own Traditional Ale! Members and Directors from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia arrived on Friday to join Calgary folkies in the party. Friday afternoon sessions at the University of Calgary School of Music presented lectures and demonstrations of the musical traditions of Asia, a history of a Moroccan traditional dancer now living in Toronto, Mennonite hymnody, and a talk & film about Rufus Guincharde's house party dances in Newfoundland. That evening we were invited to a Contra Dance with a live six-piece band and a good dance instructor.

Performance workshops and lectures on Saturday covered an amazing territory: Inuit, Cree, and Kwakiutl songs & dances, Canadian sources of traditional music (LaRena Clark of Ontario, Omar Blondell of Newfoundland), Dalmatian Klapa singing, music from Central & South America, Caribbean dance music, a discussion of First Nations Cultural Research, Canadian versions of the Child Ballads, teaching multicultural music for the recorder to school kids, and songs & poetry of cowboys & farmers. Video films about Helen Creighton and Rufus Guincharde were shown. We joined a large crowd at the Irish Cultural Centre that evening for Irish Stew and more ale, and an extremely varied program of folk music sponsored by our Society and Calgary's Celtic Folk: we heard some Irish jigs & reels, some gaelic ballads, a musical

saw playing Red River Valley, bowed psaltery, sitar & sarangi duets, singer-song writers, bluegrass fiddle & banjo, a cowboy song, a hammered dulcimer, an unaccompanied English ballad about street brawling, and Moroccan Sephardic Jewish songs. After the concert, the tables & chairs were pushed back to make way for the dancing.

The business meeting of the Society was held on Sunday, wherein the President recommended that the first priority of the Society was to boost our membership to at least 1000, by means of our Bulletin and the Mail Order Service. General Secretary, Alan Thrasher (BC), created working groups to coordinate conferences, establish multicultural projects, and to pursue sponsors & granting agencies. Membership Secretary, James Prescott, reported that membership was at an all time low. Treasurer, Diane Myers (Ontario), faxed her year-end financial report & 1990-91 budget to David Warren (Ontario), who reported that we had a cash flow of over \$15,000 last year, and that the budget for the coming year has firm support for an ambitious Bulletin and Mail Order Service.

Journal Editors, Edith Fowke and Jay Rahn (Ontario), reported that our scholarly publication will now be printed in Brandon, Manitoba. Bulletin Editor, Lynn Whidden (Manitoba), reported that she has the Canadian Folk Music Bulletin back on schedule, and that she wishes to present more news items from the folk clubs, festivals, and music research groups across the country. Both editors requested more input from members and directors, and anticipated rising costs of

publications if ambitious plans for expansion were followed. Gary Gregory (Alberta) reported on the Mail Order Service, which has been successfully organized into a catalogue for distribution, and which has been making money for us, largely from institutions and libraries. Bill Sarjeant (Sask) reported that our Society is now depositing our archival material in the University of Calgary Library.

The potentially divisive issue of our name change was settled during spirited discussions: we will retain our current name, but the Bulletin and Mail Order Service are to feature the phrase "folk music" in their titles. The Journal title will be retained for now, but it will likely change in future years, to better reflect the interests of ethnomusicologists. We wish to retain a link with our creation in 1957 as the Canadian Folk Music Society. Constitutional revisions (to broaden the scope of our Society) published in the Bulletin by Jan Rahn were accepted with few modifications. With these two actions, a group of Canadian ethnomusicologists was warmly welcomed into our Society.

Nominations Committee John Leeder (Alberta) presented a slate of officers and Directors, which was accepted. A tribute to Barbara Cass-Beggs (died 13 September 1990)

was given by Phil Thomas (BC). Due to the death of Helen Creighton, our Honorary President position is vacant, and we are accepting candidates for this office. We also have a vacant position for Honorary Life-Member. Our Society decided that we wish to re-apply for affiliation with the International Council for Traditional Music, and the North American Folk Song & Dance Alliance. A new logo and letterhead will be selected by President Brunskill, and David Warren will revise the seal of the Society. Monique Desroches (Quebec) requested that funds be allotted for better quality French translations in our publications. Members voted to increase individual membership fees from \$18 to \$20. Tentative invitations for the 1991 AGM were received from Halifax and Montreal.

Warm thanks were given to John Leeder for leading the local organization committee for this meeting, to Alan Thrasher for securing travel funds, to Regula Qureshi & Jay Rahn for organizing the lecture sessions, to French translators Joe Wilderson and Andre Gareau. The full text of the minutes of this Annual General Meeting are available from Recording Secretary Judith Cohen (751 Euclid Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6G 2V3, 416-533-2666).



Journal editor, Edith Fowke, discusses folk songs with cowboy poet Don Wudell and Gregg Brunskill, a deranged bronc buster, after a workshop on cowboy songs and poems.