

News, Views, & Stuff

Something cool from the Net, to start with. I think I've got an entry—anybody else want to give it a shot? [GWL]

"This message came from the ballad-l list; maybe some people on this list have suggestions. What about mini-ballads in other languages? Apologies for cross-posting to members of both lists. From: Paul J. Stampler <pstampler@crl.com>

"Hi folks:

"I am looking for very short songs. For a while, the shortest song I knew was Robin Williamson's 'The Son of Noah's Broth-

er' (19 words). A few years later, Art Thieme taught me what he called the world's shortest ballad (14 words):

Papa loved mama

Mama loved men

Mama's in the graveyard

Papa's in the pen.

"A few days ago, I came across Barry Louis Polisar's 'My Name is Hiram Lipschitz (Oh, to be a Smith or Jones),' which at ten words holds the record so far (note that the title is longer

than the song):

My name is Hiram Lipschitz and my problem's pretty clear.

"Anyone know anything shorter? I don't count 'Peter Sellers Sings George Gershwin' or its descendant, 'Mississippi John Hurt Sings Gilbert and Sullivan.' And it should be noted that none of these songs repeats; hence, 'Wimoweh' is right out. Peace, Paul"

(The ballad listserve is a scholarly product of T. Cheesman at the University of Wales. If you think you might be interested in it, contact <ballads@mailbase.ac.uk>.)

The Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers will hold its 20th conference on Saturday, October 18, 1997, at Victoria College, University of Toronto. Entrance fee is \$95.00, and a full day is offered, including sessions by Robert Munsch, Julie Lawson, and eight other authors and artists. For more information, contact CANSCAIP, in care of K.O. Willing, 434 WInona Drive, Toronto, Ontario M6C 3T7, or phone (416) 515-1559.

An international conference to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Folksong Society will be held July 10-12, 1998, in Sheffield, England. An evening of traditional singing is planned with guest performers, the Copper Family from Sussex, plus local traditional singers. The conference fee will be about £25 (with concessions) plus £88 for full bed and board.

Abstracts of up to 350 words are invited for papers lasting no more than twenty minutes. The themes for the conference are: Revival of Folksong (United Kingdom or other), History of Folksong Scholarship, Women Collectors, Studies of Individual Songs or Singers, Melodic Traditional, Group Traditions, Folksong in the Modern World, the Future of Folksong Research.

If you plan to submit a paper (or to attend), let the conveners know by February 1, 1998 (deadline for firm proposals, with abstracts, is May 1): Ian Russell, Bridge House, Unstone, Sheffield S18 5AF, UK, phone 01246-417315, fax 01909-568466, <ian.russell@dial.pipex.com>, or Anthony Bennett, Department of Music, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK, phone 0114-222-2000; <a.f.bennett@sheffield.ac.uk>.

The conference is cosponsored by the Department of Music, University of Sheffield, the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition and the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

See the conference Website at:

<<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/cectal/folksong.html/>>.

Invitation and Call for Papers: The Ballad Commission of the SIEF (Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore) invites you to the 28th International Ballad Conference in Hildesheim (Germany) 19 to 24 July 1998. Proposed Themes:

1. Literary Translation of Folk Ballads
2. Migration of Ballads across Language Barriers
3. Song and Iconography
4. Classification

Hildesheim is in the south of the state of Lower Saxony, 40 km south of Hanover, 90 km north of Goettingen. The nearest airport is Hanover. Intercity express trains (ICE) at two hour intervals. Change in Hanover if coming from the north.

The conference venue is the Parkhotel Berghoelzchen, in attractive countryside overlooking the town. The owners have offered a very good package: double rooms at 100 DM per person, single rooms at 130 DM, including breakfast, lunch and dinner. We can also arrange cheaper accommodation in the vicinity, not including meals, e.g., for students. Conference fee: 100 DM per person, 70 DM for students and for partners.

Proposals for papers should be in by 30 May 1998. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words, in German, English, or French. If sending text of disk, please use Word for Windows if possible, and include hard copy.

Contact address:

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The IBC also has an Internet newsletter. You can get to it from the Fife Folklore Archives homepage at

<http://www.usu.edu/~folklo/folk.htm>>.

You can get to the newsletter by clicking on International Ballad Commission in the list of Folklore Hotlinks. The Fall 1997 Newsletter has been divided into several different sections which you'll find listed in the Table of Contents. You'll also be able to view previous newsletters going as far back as 1994.



The 10th Anniversary Conference of the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance will be in Memphis at the Cook Convention Centre, February 12 to 15, 1998. The theme is "Rich at the Roots." As always, artist showcases will be a major feature, with a big display area and lots of workshops and discussion groups, and the after-hours sessions are legendary! Registration fees for the weekend for non-members range from \$270 to \$490 Cdn, depending on how early you register; members' rates are lower, and single-day rates are available as well. The address for registration is: Folk Alliance, 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Best write for specifics on registration, exhibitors' rates. &c.