

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.



Deborah Diduck and Martin Rossander of the Unitarian Fellowship of Powell River, BC, otherwise known as the Log Cabin Gang, sent us notice that their new premises have been launched at 6828 Cranberry Street in Powell River with an open house, pot luck supper, and music and dance evening. Martin, identified as the Grand Poo Bah of the Fellowship, has written several times in the *Bulletin* about the extensive and friendly musical activities of Powell River, activities which he has had no small hand in promoting. The original Log Cabin was the site of many of these events for many years, at least those which the Fellowship promoted, but the property became too valuable and was sold; hence the new location. We wish them success and many years of joyful racket in the new joint!



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's 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. [GWZ]



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.np>.

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 do 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.