Treasures from Our Archives

John Leeder

Twenty Years Ago
Bulletin 25.4 (Winter 1991). George W. Lyon got his feet wet as guest editor of this monumental issue devoted to cowboy poetry and songs. “Words from the Range: Canadian Cowboy Poetry” was the feature article; songs and poems were too numerous to list. Lots of photos, too, including a photo essay, “Home on the Range, Home on the Stage”. In addition to the cowboy material, there was the Cumulative Table of Contents covering 1982-89, plus reviews of Gallaher & Galbraith’s Home to the Island, fiddle recording Emma Lake Live and Ken Hamm’s Floodtide.

Fifteen Years Ago
Bulletin 30.4 (December 1996). This issue was a memorial to the late Edith Fowke, with articles by Phil Thomas, Robert Rodriguez and Vera Johnson, the playlist of Steve Fruitman’s Great North Wind radio tribute, biographical notes and a publications list. Songs either collected by Edith or particular favourites of hers were included: “The Rosy Banks So Green” as sung by O.J. Abbott, Hamish Henderson’s “Freedom Come-All-Ye” and Vera Johnson’s “The Housewife’s Lament”. There was also a montage of Bill Sargent’s pictures from the recent AGM in Toronto and, as always in this period, there were lots of reviews.

Ten Years Ago
Bulletin 35.3-4 (Fall-Winter 2001-2002). This was a double issue, under editor Lorne Brown. Judith Cohen’s article “Following Alan Lomax’s Footsteps in Spain” was the leadoff; a shorter article, “The Healing Power of Music” by Ruth Shushan, came further along, and Leon Kossar was memorialized by Kevin Budd. The Ballad of the Month, “MacPherson’s Farewell”, was given an intensive treatment by Andrew Kuntz, while Maureen Chafe contributed two shipwreck songs from Newfoundland, “Loss of the John Harvey” and “Union of St. John’s”, and Derek Lofthouse gave us two session tunes of Canadian origin, “Reel de Montréal” and “The Grand Chain (La grande chaîne)”. The A Mari Usque… column was filled with news from across the country and from various contributors, while Jean Mills authored The Back Page. Lots of reviews, as usual, and a presidential report by Leslie Hall, completed the issue.

Five Years Ago
CFM 40.4 (Winter 2006-7). Conrad Laforte’s article “French Songs in North American Oral Tradition” was the kickoff to this issue; also, co-editor Rosaleen Gregory wrote about her musical roots in “The Song’s the Thing”. The minutes of the 2006 AGM, plus numerous reviews, made up the balance of the issue.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are now available from CSTM, c/o folkwaysAlive!, 347 Arts Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E6. For pricing, see the Mail Order Service catalogue or website (www.yorku.ca/cstm and follow the links), or contact cstm@ualberta.ca. Cumulative Tables of Contents of all issues since 1982 are available on the website as well. [JL]