

Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne: Editors' Report

When we wrote last year's report we were waiting for issue 41.2 (Summer 2007), which featured John Spearn's "Canadian Songs Project", to appear. It emerged from the printers soon afterwards. Since then we have published the remaining two issues for 2007 and the first for 2008, while the Summer 2008 issue is at the proofing stage. 41.3 (Fall 2007) was devoted almost exclusively to the traditional song of French Ontario, and our thanks are due to Marcel Bénéteau for taking primary responsibility for this. It is an issue of which we are particularly proud. In 41.4 (Winter 2007-08) we paid tribute to the life and songwriting of Vera Johnson, and printed a contribution ("The Tambourine and the Salvation Army" by one of our newest editorial board members, Dr. Norman Stanfield.

For 2008 we also welcomed to the editorial board Mary Piercey and Janice Tulk. The only issue published so far this year (42.1, Spring 2008) featured two essays on songs (and the lack of them) by and about the Chinese railway workers who played such a big role in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The forthcoming issue will feature an article about Moses Asch and Folkways Records by Michael Asch, and an article on songs about the first Canadian train robber (Bill Miner) by Tim Rogers. Our regular columnists, Rosaleen Gregory and John Leeder, continue faithfully to contribute "Singing the Child Ballads" and "Treasures from our Archives" respectively. And, as always, we make as much space as possible available for book and CD reviews.

We had hoped by now to have put together a special issue on Sam Gesser. That will have to be postponed until 2009, as we do not have the needed copy available yet. Also in the offing, but at a yet-to-be-determined date in the future, is a special issue on Canadian aboriginal music, to be co-edited by Mary Piercey and Janice Tulk. We have also invited our other editorial board members to each take responsibility for a future issue.

Two potentially important developments, namely negotiations with AU Press to publish an online version of *Canadian Folk Music* (in addition to the print copy supplied to CSTM members) and with EBSCO for back issues to be placed in the latter's online databank, have yet to come to fruition. We have, however, established that these initiatives are regarded as complementary rather than competitive by the two potential online hosts. I have applied for a one-time grant of \$2,000 from Athabasca University to fund the costs of the initial translation of *CFM* to online status. I am waiting to hear the result of this request. Thanks to John Leeder's timely initiative *CFM* continues to receive modest financial support from SOCAN. This latter subsidy is paid when all four of a given year's issues have been published. For this reason we are eager to move forward with issues 42.3 and 42.4 and to thereby catch up with our production schedule. However, in attempting to do so we are entirely dependent on contributors providing their copy on time, which does not always happen. We have never been short of suitable copy, but there seem to be seasonal fluctuations in what comes in, which makes keeping to a more regular publication schedule difficult. As ever, we take this opportunity to encourage CSTM members to send us their contributions, and we thank all those (including reviewers) who have done so during the past year.

David and Rosaleen Gregory.