

Kommission für Volksdichtung (KfV)

International Ballad Commission

Commission internationale pour l'étude de la chanson populaire

(Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore, S.I.E.F.)

www.KfVweb.org

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Invitation and Call for Papers, 32nd International Ballad Conference, Leuven, Belgium, 22-29 July 2002

The Announcement and Call for Papers for the 32nd International Ballad Conference will be placed on the KfV website www.KfVweb.org as soon as possible.

The main information is that conference sessions will take place on 23 to 27 July 2002 inclusive, with excursions on 25 and 28 July. Participants attending the whole conference would expect to arrive on Monday 22 July and leave on Monday 29 July.

The conference will take place in the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KULeuven). Leuven is situated 25 kilometres south-east of Brussels.

Accommodation will be in student rooms, *or* in the Leuven Holiday Inn.

Conference themes will include:

Horror and sensation in traditional song

Children's song culture

Traditional song, gender and power

Traditional song and ethics

Traditional song in relation to dance

Politics of song collecting and performance

Research Methods

The names of all participants (including accompanying relatives) and abstracts are requested as soon as possible, and before 15 April 2002.

Please check the KfV website www.KfVweb.org for more detailed announcements.

NEWS

After the events of 11 September, several members posted messages of concern by e-mail, with American colleagues especially in mind. On behalf of all American colleagues, the president Luisa Del Giudice sends her sincerest thanks to all members of the KfV who expressed solidarity and concern during this period of national crisis. These messages were much appreciated.

SIEF: The new SIEF leadership is making great efforts to get their website updated and functioning as a source of information regarding its sections (among other things). As a recently elected member of the executive board of SIEF, Luisa Del Giudice has been co-ordinating this effort on behalf of the sections. This is a great opportunity for getting our information (meetings, call for

papers, publications, etc.) out to a larger audience and we hope to make the best use of this in the future. The SIEF is also seeking to increase its membership and to make the association a more active and efficient one.

Dianne Dugaw's book **Deep Play: John Gay and the Invention of Modernity** has been published by University of Delaware Press. The book provides a historical context for Gay's satire by examining its relation to traditional and popular literature.

John Niles has taken up a new position in the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin, where he plans to revive a course on the Ballad which has not been offered there for some years. His new address is c/o Department of English, Helen C. White Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706, USA; email jdiles@facstaff.wisc.edu

Latvian Dainas: The Latvian *Dainu Skapis* ('Latvian Cabinet of Folksongs') has been selected for inclusion in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. Vaira Vikis Freibergs and Imants Freibergs have been instrumental in the drive to preserve and make available this treasury of Latvian cultural heritage, which will be invaluable to academics, folk song enthusiasts, and the public at large.

Recently published by the (Flemish) Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature, Ghent, and the Meertens Institute of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam is a **Repertory of Dutch Songs until 1600** compiled by Martine de Bruin, Johan Oosterman and others, with a preface by Louis Peter Grijp and Frank Willaert. The publication is a catalogue in two volumes of 7621 song texts and 1158 melodies, in about 20,000 versions from 800 sources. It includes ballads and other secular songs, religious songs and psalms, beggar and other political songs, from manuscripts, books, and broadsides. The double volume includes a CD-ROM with 2000 song texts, plus audio files. The introduction is in Dutch and English. For further information visit <http://www.kantl.be> or e-mail info@meertens.knaw.nl

Sabine Wienker-Piepho's Habilitation has appeared in book form as '**Je gelehrter, destoverkehrter?** **Volkskundlich- Kulturgeschichtliches zur Schriftbeherrschung**, published by Waxmann Verlag. She is organising an international congress on 'Storytelling between the cultures' at the University of Augsburg, 1-5 September 2002. A preliminary programme is available from sabine.wienker-piepho@uni-bayreuth.de

John H. McDowell's **Poetry and Violence: The Ballad Tradition of Mexico's Costa Chica** has been published by University of Illinois Press / Urbana and Chicago www.press.uillinois.edu. Taking as its subject a body of poetry that takes violence as its subject, the Mexican corridos of the Costa Chica region, the book addresses questions such as: does art that depicts violence generate more violence? Through interviews with corrido composers and performers, both male and female, and a sampling of ballad texts, McDowell discusses a living vernacular tradition that amounts to a chronicle of local and regional rivalries. The book comes with a 70-minute CD of corrido music taken from live performances.

A project is under way, based at the University of Sheffield, to compile an online catalogue of the **James Madison Carpenter Collection**. Carpenter was an American, a student of Kittredge's at Harvard who collected folklore materials in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland in 1928-35, and also did some collecting in America. Initially researching shanties, he then turned his attention to ballads and songs, traditional drama, tunes, tales, etc. The collection is held at the Library of Congress, and the international team involved in the project is headed by Julia Bishop and includes Tom McKean, Eddie Cass, Elaine Bradtke, Bob Walser, and David Atkinson, with additional

support from Ian Russell, Mike Heaney, and Steve Roud. The hope is eventually to produce a critical edition of the collection.

A traditional singing weekend, organised by Ian Russell, will be taking place at Cullerlie Farm Park in rural Aberdeenshire, 28-30 June 2002, with free camping, traditional singers and many ballad activities.

Deutsches Volksliedarchiv (German Folksong Archives) has announced the first volume of a new series: **Albrecht Classen: Deutsche Liederbücher des 15. und 16. Jahrhunderts** Volksliedstudien, 1, (Münster: Waxmann, 2001), 354 pp. The volume describes the content of the twenty most important songbooks of the 15th and 16th centuries, and their literary-historical importance analysed. Every single ballad or song is described and discussed; the book is fully indexed.

A brief reminder of two books by KfV members, which had scarcely appeared at the time of the last newsletter although they were mentioned there: **Imagined States: Nationalism, Utopia, and Longing in Oral Cultures**, edited by Luisa Del Giudice and Gerald Porter (Utah State University Press), a collection of essays, mainly by KfV members, on ways in which folklore and balladry have been employed in the construction of ethnic identities; and **William Motherwell's Cultural Politics**, by Mary Ellen Brown (University Press of Kentucky) a literary/historical/ethnographic study of one of the key figures in the Scottish ballad revival and one of the most highly regarded of the early Scottish collectors. Both have been received with acclaim by the scholarly community.

A collection of papers dedicated to the Bulgarian professor of folklore and literature, Prof. Petăr Dinekov, who died in 1992, has been published by the Akad. izd. "Prof. Marin Drinov" in Sofia. The book is titled (in translation) **In Memory of Petăr Dinekov. Tradition, Continuity, Innovation**, and is collection of seventy-two papers from Bulgarian and foreign authors in the field of literature, linguistics and folkloristics.

The Elphinstone Institute in Aberdeen has announced the publication of **The Bedesman and the Hodbearer: The Epistolary Friendship of Francis James Child and William Walker**, edited and introduced by Mary Ellen Brown. The book brings together the two halves of Child and Walker's correspondence from the Houghton Library at Harvard and from Aberdeen University's Historic Collections, Special Libraries and Archives, and sheds light on Child's method of working, as well as the friendship the two men established. The publisher is Aberdeen University Press: www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/

Finally, Tom McKean and Lisa have just had a new baby daughter, Rebekah Layla Marieva, weighing 10 pounds ½ ounce. **Congratulations** from ballad scholars worldwide!

David Atkinson