

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

Electronic Newsletter no. 6 (August 2005)

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the KfV, Kiev, Ukraine, 9 July 2005, The Rytsky Institute of Arts, Folklore and Ethnology, 16.30-18.30pm

1. Present

Sabine Wienker-Piepho (President), Isabelle Peere (Vice-President), Marjetka Golež Kaučič (Vice-President), David Atkinson (Secretary/Editor), Valentina Bold, Katherine Campbell, Anne Caufriez, Simona Delić, J. J. Dias Marques, Frances Fischer, Alexander Friesen, Inna Golovacha, Sabina Ispas, E. Wyn James, Eckhard John, Viktorija Juzvenko, Oskar Kriger, Hans Kuhn, William B. McCarthy, Tom McKean, F. Gulay Mirzaoglu, Alexander Morozov, Tatyana Morozova, Oksana Mykytenko, Svetla Petkova, Jean-Marie Privat, Ian Russell, Natalia Shumada, Hanna Skrypnyk, Helga Stein, Brone Stundžienė, Larry Syndergaard, Jurgita Ūsaitytė, Larysa Vakhnina, Erich Wimmer.

Sabine Wienker-Piepho, chair, opened the meeting with a request for a one-minute silence in commemoration of the victims of the bomb-attacks perpetrated in London on 7 July. This was observed by all present.

The conference organizers, Hanna Skrypnyk, Larysa Vakhnina, Inna Golovacha, Viktoriya Juzvenko, Oksana Mykytenko, were warmly thanked for an excellently organized conference and were presented with various gifts. The President spoke of Larysa Vakhnina's efforts as a long-standing member of the KfV to bring us together in Ukraine, and presented the organizers with a portfolio of German press cuttings about the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. This was gratefully acknowledged with an indication that the contents will be deposited in the Museum of the Orange Revolution.

2. Greetings from absent friends

Greetings were read out from members unable to attend this year, including Barbara Boock, Dace Bula, Rolf Wilhelm Brednich, Mary Ellen Brown, Tom Cheesman, Jürgen Dittmar, Vaira Vike-Freiberga and Imants Freibergs, Cozette Griffin-Kremer, Ildiko Kríza, Maria Herrera Sobek, Reimund Kvideland, Valdis Muktupavels, W. F. H. Nicolaisen, Gerald Porter Roger Renwick, Lutz Röhrich and Natascha Würzbach.

3. Presidential Statement

Sabine Wienker-Piepho introduced the executive committee for the benefit of new members, and Isabelle Peere congratulated her on behalf of the executive and membership on her election as KfV President. Thanks were given to Tom McKean and E. Wyn James for their candidacy, and to David Atkinson and Barbara Boock (KfV Secretaries) for conducting the election.

Sabine Wienker-Piepho, who was formally taking office at the meeting, gave a statement. She thanked KfV President Luisa Del Giudice for her remarkable contribution to the KfV over the past

presidential term (1999–2004), and to the executive committee for the work carried out in the past year.

4. Vice-Presidential Election and Nominations

The term of Isabelle Peere as Vice-President (2000-05) came to an end at this meeting. The procedure, requirements and 'call for nominations' for the Vice-Presidential election (2006-11) has been circulated via email and the website. Isabelle expressed thanks for the members' confidence and encouragement received over her past term and for her colleagues' collaboration on the executive committee.

Isabelle was nominated for a second term by Marjetka Golež Kaučič and this nomination was seconded by Sabine Wienker-Piepho. Isabelle indicated her willingness to stand for a second term.

5. KfV Conference Proceedings

Roger Renwick has completed editorial work on the proceedings of the Austin conference (2003), which will comprise BASIS 2, and is working on a cover illustration. He is to put in a grant application towards the cost of publication.

The Riga conference (2004) proceedings (BASIS 3) are also in train.

The Rylsky Institute has expressed its wish to publish the proceedings of the 2005 conference in the Ukraine.

6. KfV calendar - future meetings

2006: The 2006 conference will take place in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Germany, hosted by the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv. The year marks the bicentennial of the influential folk song collection *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* by Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano. The conference is fixed for 3–7 April.

A suggestion was made to the organizers to consider the possibility of organizing a thematic workshop in addition to the paper sessions, in order to facilitate attendance by those not giving formal papers.

2007: The KfV has now received an invitation from Zagreb for 2007, and Simona Delić will keep the executive informed as to developments.

2008: The 2008 conference will take place in Cardiff, probably during the last week in July, and will celebrate the centenary of the Welsh Folk-Song Society.

7. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was read and updated by Isabelle Peere on behalf of Barbara Boock. The balance in the KfV account prior to the Kiev conference was €1075,00. After expenses (debit) totalling €228,00 for the website, phone calls, gifts, and membership fees (credit) collected in Kiev (€145,00), the current balance stands at €992,00.

8. KfV Archive:

Barbara Boock reported that she has received material collected from Helga Stein in relation to her dissertation for the KfV archive (Deutsches Volksliedarchiv, Freiburg). Barbara also reported that she entered the titles of articles published in the proceedings of the Budapest (2001) and Leuven (2002) KfV conferences, and will proceed with other KfV publications. Entries for these articles can be found in the international online-catalogue of the University of Karlsruhe:

<http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk/kvk/easykvk.html>

9. International Congress on Medieval Studies

The session sponsored by the KfV at the 2005 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, was interesting and successful, though not without some problems. The session on 'The Ballad: Traditions, Texts, Treatments', included three papers: 'Blancaflor y Filomena: Rape and Resistance in a Pan-Hispanic Ballad' by Sarah Portnoy (University of California-Berkeley); 'Hispanic and Scandinavian Balladry: Parallels and Congeners' by Samuel Armistead (University of California-Davis); 'The Earliest Evidence for the Ballad of Glasgerion' by Richard Firth Green (Ohio State University). The session on 'The South Slavic Epic Ballad' initially had three papers, but two had to be withdrawn because of last-minute difficulties. The remaining paper was 'The Emergent Realism and its Distributed Author in South Slavic Oral Epic' by Slavica Rankovic (University of Nottingham). Larry Syndergaard, session organizer, reported that the four papers discussed different ballad traditions, ranging from medieval to contemporary, with two papers by young scholars employing fresh approaches, and that the KfV can be proud of having sponsored the sessions.

The KfV will again sponsor a session at the 2006 Congress. A call for papers has already been circulated separately. To propose a paper, please submit an abstract of about 300 words to Prof. Larry Syndergaard by 15 September 2005. All papers must be read in person. Proposals must indicate the thesis of the paper, its methodology and conclusions, specifically accept a 20 minute time limit, and indicate whether AV equipment will be needed. larry.syndergaard@wmich.edu

10. Other conferences

Marjetka Golež Kaučič reported on the 70th anniversary of the Slovenian Institute of Ethnomusicology and the 'Folk Song as Social Challenge' conference. The Scientific Research Centre SASA and Nova Gorica Polytechnics have established a postgraduate programme in intercultural studies which includes a module on Slovene studies and it is also initiating a common postgraduate programme on Slovene and Scottish Studies in conjunction with the University of Glasgow within the EU Erasmus Mundus programme for student exchange (see <http://isik.zrc-sazu.si>). Valentina Bold and Katherine Campbell have both visited the institute in the last year.

Our fellow member, Cozette Griffin-Kremer, co-organized a colloquium on the theme of 'Cattle at Work' on 23–24 October 2004, at the Ecomusée d'Alzen (near Foix, Ariège, France). The Alzen Group means to encourage research into the use of cattle in work as well as contact between already existing networks interested in this subject, including museums seeking cooperation on a European level and groups wishing to further local and European patrimonial projects. The group also prepares an international colloquium on the subject including comparison with other species and would be happy to broaden study of the subject to include a song component. Further information available from Cozette: griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr

Our specialists on anglophone traditions may be interested to know that a colloquium on the theme of 'cultures savantes, cultures populaires dans le monde anglophone' is to be held in Strasbourg (France) on 4 and 5 Nov. 2005. Further details available on: <http://www-umb.u-strasbg.fr/anglais.html> under 'colloque'.

Barbara Boock and Eckhard John co-organized a symposium in honour of Wolfgang Steinitz together with the organizers of the TFF Rudolstadt (the Dance and Folklore Festival in Rudolstadt is the most important international folk festival in Germany) and the support of the Woody Guthrie Foundation and Archives (New York) on 1–2 July 2005. Steinitz's 'collection of German folk songs of democratic character out of six centuries' (1954–1962) was highly estimated by the German folk song revivalists of the 1970s and 1980s in both parts of Germany. The programme of the symposium focused on Wolfgang Steinitz as a person: his research in the field of folk song, folklore and his political activities; song and war as a topic of interest in history and today; and songs of social criticism in the 20th century in an international context. More information about the participants of the meeting and abstracts of the papers can be found on the home page of the German Folksong-Archive: <http://www.dva.uni-freiburg.de/akt/>

11. SIEF

Marjetka Golež Kaučič reported briefly from SIEF, which has produced a brochure and a newsletter, which is also available on the SIEF website: www.siefhome.org SIEF plans to hold a conference in 2008 in either Bristol or Ulster.

12. Website

Tom McKean was thanked for his work as webmaster and reported that the website, which is functioning well but may need to move to a different host. He is calling for pictures of the Kiev conference for posting on the website.

13. Membership fee

The possibility of raising the KfV membership fee from €5 to €10 was discussed, the idea being to raise sufficient funds to enable some assistance to be given to scholars wishing to attend conferences.

14. Translations

Barbara Boock Isabelle Peere and Michèle Simonsen were thanked for their translations of the past newsletter and other official KfV communications in the past year.

15. CD

The KfV's proposed CD is making progress and anyone else who can offer recordings for inclusion is urged to contact Tom McKean. The aim is to present performances that really grab the listener. We already have material from Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Britain and Ireland, Slovenia, Romania, Germany, but would still like to receive ballads from Norway, Finland, Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Czech, Slovakia, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Serbia/Montenegro, France, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, the Netherlands, and anywhere else where ballads are sung and studied.

16. AOB

It was recommended, for the sake of optimal understanding and response from all participants, that conference papers be written out and read rather than improvised.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Skrypnik presented each participant with a prestigious two-volume 1931 publication of the *Académie des Sciences d'Ukraine. Commission pour la poésie populaire historique*, subtitled as *Les chansons épiques ukrainiennes 'douma'*, a CD copy of professional photographs taken during the conference and a CD sampling the repertoire of the Ukrainian bard, Stephan Shtsherbak, whom we had occasion to hear and appreciate in live performance earlier in the week.

The meeting was followed by an informal performance by the same artist and a congenial buffet reception.

Conference report

The 35th International Ballad Conference in Kiev was attended by around fifty scholars from Australia, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Wales. Papers were read in all three of the official languages of the KfV, English, French, and German.

The conference was ably organized by the Rytsky Institute of Art Studies, Folklore and Ethnology, and the National Academy of Sciences Ukraine. Following the momentous events of the Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004, this was a particularly exciting time for scholars to visit the country and to meet up with old friends, particularly long-standing KfV member Larysa Vakhnina, and to meet new Ukrainian colleagues whom we hope to see at future conferences.

The conference, which took place in glorious summer weather throughout, began with an informal walking tour of Kiev, including the St Michael's Cathedral of the Golden Domes followed by an informal reception held at the Rylsky Institute and our first introduction to Ukrainian song. The conference itself took place over four days and lived up to the usual high standards of scholarship and wide range of interest that characterize the KfV. Topics included mythology and ritual; manuscripts and other written texts; calendar customs; tradition and innovation. There was singing, too, by Ukrainian performers, including members of the Rylsky Institute staff.

During the conference itself there was time for a visit to the open-air museum at Pirogovo, where we saw traditional Ukrainian architecture and crafts. Our afternoon walk enjoyed in 'the open' was crowned by a sumptuous banquet enhanced by the singing voices of various ethnologists affiliated to the Rylsky Institute. From there, we pursued our enchanting discovery of Ukrainian nature and countrylife with sharing in the celebration of the amazing folk holiday of 'Ivan Kupala' or St John's Eve. Here we witnessed courtship customs, singing and dancing, garlands woven from meadow flowers, and couples jumping over a bonfire.

We also visited the magnificent National Opera Theatre in Kiev for a performance of a folk opera. This was a highly colourful show, with accomplished singing and spectacular Cossack-style dancing. We had a chance to witness more of this close-up when we were welcomed on behalf of the Mayor of Kiev, Mr. O. Omelchenko, who addressed us a letter. The Ukrainian bard Stephan Shcherbak performed epic songs, accompanying himself on the bandora. Cossack dances with swords, colourful female dancers, singing and instrumental music, and a traditional drama made for a wonderful display. Members of the executive and others were presented with generous gifts and flowers on behalf of the Mayor and we felt truly honoured to be greeted so warmly. At the ensuing stylish reception, we had the pleasure of being joined by our new KfV President, freshly arrived from the airport, and of toasting her with Crimean Champagne!

Other visits included the National Museum of St Sophia Cathedral, the National Museum of Folk Arts, and the catacombs at Petcherskaja Lavra. Our whole-day outing was to Chernigiv for more magnificent churches, icons, saints, and catacombs, and an excellent lunch in a restaurant. The closing banquet took place on a glorious boat trip down the majestic River Dneiper. Following our thanks for a splendid conference expressed by Isabelle Peere, Larysa Vakhnina presented her with a *rushnyk*, a embroidered or printed rectangular scarf-like linen cloth, which we had been introduced to earlier as a symbol used in wedding ceremonies. Isabelle responded with the suggestion that this would accompany us on every future KfV conference to remind us of our *tie* to the Ukraine and of that binding all KfV members. On coming ashore, bilingual bard Bill McCarthy produced 'the ballad of Kiev', reaching a poetic peak with the following finale:

'Quelle est cette vision qui émerge de la souterraine église?
Un ange d'orthodoxie? Non, c'est l'éblouissante Larysa!'

In the course of a scholarly but relaxed conference there was ample time to wander around Kiev, visit restaurants, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere in Independence Square. Some of us managed also to visit the exquisite Bulgakov Museum. The experience was of a nation coming into its own with a bright future to look forward to, and for the KfV a whole new field of song and scholarship opening up for us. We hope to see much more of our new Ukrainian friends in the future!

(Report by David Atkinson – during the conference we heard news of the bombings in London and I would like to express my personal gratitude for all the kind thoughts expressed by KfV members when this occurred)

NEWS

The following publications have recently appeared:

E. Wyn James's article on Dafydd Iwan, 'Painting the World Green', which began life at the Aberdeen Conference, has appeared in *Folk Music Journal*, 8 (2005), 594–618.

Louis Peter Grijp, Herman Roodenburg, *Blues en balladen: Alan Lomax en Ate Doornbosch, twee muzikale veldwerkers* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2005), includes music CD. Contents include: Country blues, La partenza Rosie, Jesus on the Main Line, Didn't Leave Nobody but the Baby, Toen ik stond op hoge bergen, Jan Alberts stond op en hij zong er een lied, Vaarwel bruidje schoon, En de ruiter metter zijn blanke zwaard, Er waren eens drie broeders, Ik kwam eens bie een groot groot groot boerenhoes. ISBN 90 5356 754 2. €14.50. www.aup.nl/

Heda Jason writes:

I am working on a song and am looking for variants. The summary of the song runs as follows: 'A rider [horseman?]/warrior comes to a water hole. A girl is also drawing water there, and the rider [horseman?] asks her some questions, praises her beauty, etc. The girl gets angry that a stranger should talk to her in this manner and goes home ruffled. The man follows her. Reaching home, she complains to her father or mother that the man has been harassing her. Her parents recognize the man as the man to whom the girl has been betrothed.' This version is from Rajasthan (North India). I have two more versions from Punjab (North India) and found 4 more South Slavic versions from the 18th century. I would be grateful for more versions or any hint about this song.

Heda Jason, POB 7328, Jerusalem 91072, Israel heda_2004@yahoo.com

The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2006, 'Connecting Cultures', will take place on 26-30 July 2006 at the University of Aberdeen, organized by the Elphinstone Institute in partnership with SCaT (Scottish Culture and Traditions) and in conjunction with other local, national and international arts and cultural organisations. The event will combine an international conference with performances and workshops. If you are interested in attending, contributing, or offering an academic paper, please contact the Elphinstone Institute: ian.russell@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/

The following publications are available from the Elphinstone Institute (please consult website):
Folk Song: Tradition, Revival, and Re-Creation, ed. by Ian Russell and David Atkinson, 555pp. £25.00 (inc UK p&p).

The Flowering Thorn: International Ballad Studies

ed. by Thomas A. McKean, 388pp. £20.00 (inc UK p&p).

Binnorrie – double CD of songs, ballads, and tunes featuring Elizabeth Stewart, ed. by Alison McMorland. £16.

Northern Folk: Living Traditions of North East Scotland, CD-ROM, ed. by Valentina Bold and Tom McKean. £20.00 (inc UK p&p).

Celebrating the Life and Times of Hugh Miller, ed. by Lester Borley, 352pp. £13.50 (inc UK p&p).

After Columba – After Calvin: Religious Community in North-East Scotland, ed. by James Porter, 188pp. £12.50 (inc UK p&p).

The Bedesman and the Hodbearer: The Epistolary Friendship of Francis James Child and William Walker, ed. by Mary Ellen Brown, 117pp. £11.00 (inc UK p&p).

North-East Identities and Scottish Schooling: The Relationship of the Scottish Educational System to the Culture of the North-East of Scotland, ed. by David Northcroft, 182pp. £11.00.

John Skinner: Collected Poems, ed. by David M. Bertie, 436pp. £12.00.

Luisa Del Giudice, director of the Italian Oral History Institute in Los Angeles, is organizing: *Italian Los Angeles: Celebrating Italian Life, Local History, and the Arts in Southern California* (multimedia festival), October-November, 2005, and chairing the international conference, *Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in America* (38th annual meeting of the American Italian Historical Association), 3–6 November. The IOHI has also recently launched Web

site: www.ItalianLosAngeles.org (*The Italian Resource Guide to Greater Los Angeles*), a collaborative, community-based research project. For more information on festival and conference go to: <http://www.iohi.org/aiha/index.html>

Just published is *Performing Ecstasies: Music, Dance, and Ritual in the Mediterranean*, ed. Luisa Del Giudice and Nancy van Deusen, Ottawa, Canada: The Institute of Mediaeval Music, 2005. Proceedings of the UCLA conference, organized by the Italian Oral History Institute, in 2000. To order: Institute of Mediaeval Music, 1270 Lampman Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 1P8, Canada. Website: <http://ca.geocities.com/mediaeval1@rogers.com>; E-mail: mediaeval1@rogers.com, or FAX to 613-225-9487.

Andy C. Rouse has published *The Remunerated Vernacular Singer. From Medieval England to the Post-War Revival*. Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 2005. € 39.00 ISBN 3-631-53305-5. www.peterlang.com

Prof. Dr. Rolf W. Brednich (Goettingen/Wellington), former president of the KfV, has received the Brother Grimm Award 2004 of the Philipps University of Marburg, Germany for his lifetime achievements in folkloristics. The prize giving ceremony took place on 3 June 2005 in Marburg during a symposium on 'Folk Narrative Research and the Internet'. The laudatory address was given by Prof. Dr. Harm-Peer Zimmermann, Marburg. The public lecture of the award winner was entitled 'Humour in the > Internet'.

Ion Taloş has published *Cununia fraţilor și Nunta Soarelui. Incestul zădărnicit în folclorul românesc și universal [Die Trauung der Geschwister und die Hochzeit der Sonne. Der verhinderte Inzest in der rumänischen und internationalen Folklore]*. Bukarest 2004. 959 S.

A provisional text of Thomas Pettitt's paper on 'The Murdered Sweetheart: Child of Print and Panic?', presented at 'The Work of Stories' conference, Media in Transition Communications Forum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, 6–8 May, 2005, is available at : <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum/mit4/papers/Pettitt.pdf>

The Institute of Ethnomusicology SRC SASA has published a CD *Odmev prvih zapisov/The Echo of the First Recordings* (Založba ZRC: Ljubljana, 2004). Several others publications are also available. Please consult the ZRC website: www.zrc-sazu.si/www/pc/engpc.htm