

Kommission für Volksdichtung (KfV)

International Ballad Commission

Commission internationale pour l'étude de la chanson populaire

(Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore, SIEF)

www.KfVweb.org

Electronic Newsletter no. 11 (August 2010)

(editor: David Atkinson)

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the KfV, Willem Barentsz Maritime Institute, Terschelling, Netherlands, 8 July 2010, 11.30–12.30

1. Present

Thomas A. McKean (President), Isabelle Peere (Vice President), Marjetka Golež Kaučič (Vice President), Barbara Boock (Treasurer), David Atkinson (Executive Secretary)

Ingrid Åkesson, Simon Bronner, Matilda Burden, Teresa Catarella, Anne Caufriez, Martine de Bruin, Metin Eke, J. J. Dias Marques, Frances J. Fischer, E. David Gregory, Rosaleen Gregory, Cozette Griffin-Kremer, Louis Grijp, Lene Halskov Hansen, Sabina Ispas, Christine James, E. Wyn James, Eckhard John, Katalin Juhász, Marija Klobčar, Hans Kuhn, Imola Küllős, Marieke Lefeber, George W. Lyon, Peter Jan Margry, F. Gülay Mirzaoğlu, Oksana Mykytenko, Gerald Porter, Astrid Nora Ressem, Sigrid Rieuwerts, Inna Shved, Michèle Simonsen, Christopher Smith, Larry Syndergaard, Helga Stein, Larysa Vakhnina, Jerneja Vrabič, Peter van Kranenberg, Dieuwke van der Poel, Anne Marieke van der Wal, Sabine Wienker-Piepho, Erich Wimmer

2. Greetings from absent friends:

Simona Delić, Jürgen Dittmar, Inna Golovakha, Ildikó Kríza, Alexander and Tatyana Morozov, Bill Nicolaisen, Roger Pinon, Stefaan Top.

3. SIEF

Peter Jan Margry gave a short introduction to SIEF, mentioning in particular improvements to the organization's website and newsletter, as well as the forthcoming congress in Lisbon, 18–21 April 2011, on the theme of 'People make places – ways of feeling the world'. Two panels have been proposed and accepted by KfV members: Panel P307 'Places where and when species meet'; and Panel P317 'Creating worlds: ballad, song, and environment'.

While KfV members are not obliged to be members of SIEF, we are keen to promote cooperation between the groups, and members are encouraged to visit the SIEF website at <http://www.siefhome.org/> and to consider offering papers for the SIEF congress. Closing date 15 October 2010.

4. Treasurer's report

Prior to the conference in Terschelling the balance stood at €1174. After collecting €550, and contributions of €250 towards the Kiev proceedings and €200 to the organizers of the Terschelling conference, the balance stands at €1597.

5. Publications

The volume in the BASIS series, *From "Wunderhorn" to the Internet: Perspectives on Conceptions of "Folk Song" and the Editing of Traditional Songs*, emerging out of the Freiburg conference (2006) was launched at the business meeting. Congratulations are due to the editors Eckhard John and Tobias Widmaier, and series editor Sigrid Rieuwerts, on the appearance of this excellent volume.

It was reported that publications in the wake of the 2007 (Balmacara) and 2008 (Cardiff) conferences are in progress and should be available in 2011. There was no news concerning publication of papers from Minsk (2009). Papers on the water theme from the 2010 conference will be published in BASIS. As is now the regular practice, these will be peer-reviewed before publication. Further details will follow and the deadline for submissions is likely to be 1 December 2010.

6. Election

Isabelle Peere's term as Vice President ends at the end of 2010 and she has indicated her intention not to stand for re-election. The executive and membership wish to offer Isabelle heartfelt thanks for all that she has contributed over the past 10 years.

Information concerning the election process is being circulated.

7. Future conferences

- **2011** The 41st KfV conference will be held in Faro, Portugal, in late June 2011, organized by J. J. Dias Marques and Sandra de Jesus Boto. The theme will be 'Oral poetry and the relationships between nations', with an emphasis on comparative approaches to ballad types across at least two cultures. Further details will follow shortly.
- **2012** Turkey, probably in September 2011.
- **2013** Probable Stellenbosch, South Africa.

8. Fellows of the KfV

The executive proposed that Fellows of the KfV be appointed, as a means of honouring eminent KfV members, especially those who for various reasons are no longer able regularly to attend conferences. The proposal was approved by the meeting and the executive will discuss how best to proceed.

9. Ballad CD

The suggestion for a CD of ballads from several countries, originally made some years ago, was revived and it is hoped that progress can be made on this project. Members who might be able to offer contributions – a ballad that they find compelling and/or representative of their country's ballads, and with copyright clearance – are urged to contact Tom McKean

10. Financial support

In 2010 the KfV made €200 available to the conference organizers to use at their discretion to support delegates wishing to attend. It is proposed to make €300 available in 2011.

11. Website

A new KfV website is under construction, and will include links to PDF files of the early Arbeitstagungen of the KfV. If members can assist in completing this task, please let the executive know. There are early publications of which we do not currently have PDF copies, and would like to include tables of contents for later publications which cannot be provided in full as PDFs.

Members are also urged to send photographs from current and past conferences to Tom McKean for inclusion on the website.

12. International Congress on Medieval Studies

Larry Syndergaard thanked members for their sympathy expressed following the death of his wife Ardis in 2008. He then reported on the 2009 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, with two sessions sponsored by the KfV:

The Ballad: Medieval and Modern, chair Richard Firth Green (Ohio State University):

- ‘Ballad Performance and the Question of Improvisation: The Repertoire of Anna Gordon Brown’, James Moreira (University of Maine–Machias)
- ‘*Bevis of Hampton* and the Hispanic Ballad of *Celinos*’, Samuel Armistead (University of California-Davis)

The Nordic Ballad, chair Sarah Harlan-Haughey (Cornell University):

- ‘Ballad Images and Church Paintings in Medieval Scandinavia’, Sigurd Kværndrup (Växjö University)
- ‘The Lost Shoe: A Symbol in Medieval Scandinavian Ballads and Church Paintings’, Tommy Olofsson (Växjö University)
- ‘Hervor, Hervard, Hervik: The Metamorphosis of a Shieldmaiden’, Sandra Ballif Straubhaar (University of Texas-Austin)

The first two papers were linked to each other and were linked to the Växjö ballad project, about which there have been several presentations at the International Ballad Conference.

In addition, ‘From Epic to Ballad Poetry: A Journey to Uncertainty’, Melanie Briese (Boston University), was presented in a session on Hispanic literature. Despite both of our sessions being scheduled in the ‘Siberia’ of Congress time slots (Sunday morning), the audiences were engaged and discussion was lively and substantive. A very good sign was the presence of able undergraduate students who were already well read in some areas of ballad study.

13. Other conferences

- ‘Death in Legend and Tradition’, The Folklore Society, 4–5 September 2010, London. Contact: jharte@epsom-ewell.gov.uk
- ‘Childlore’, The Folklore Society, 15–17 April 2011, University of Worcester.
call for papers: mjkoven@googlemail.com caroline.oates@folklore-society.com
- ‘Celebrating Scot(t)s Voices’, Germany, 26–29 May 2011
- International Council for Traditional Music Study Group on Historical Sources, Vienna, Spring 2012

14. Resolution of gratitude

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the Terschelling conference for their splendid efforts in making the event so successful: Martine de

Bruin, Louis Grijp, Marieke Lefeber, Annemieke Arendsen, Miek Houben, Hetty Garcia, Mariet Kaptein, Ies Muller.

We also wish to thank Isabelle Peere for her long and valued contribution as KfV Vice President which is coming to an end this year.

Conference report

The 40th International Conference of the *Kommission für Volksdichtung* was held on the island of Terschelling in the north of the Netherlands. Delegates attended from the Netherlands, Scotland, Belgium, Slovenia, Germany, England, Sweden, the USA, South Africa, Sweden, Portugal, France, Wales, Turkey, Canada, Denmark, Romania, Hungary, Australia, Ukraine, Finland, Belarus, Norway.

The conference began on the Monday at the Meertens Institut in Amsterdam, with three papers on work going on in the Netherlands, after which we were given a tour of the institute and lunch. Then we embarked on the coach journey to Terschelling, taking in a detour to the Zuiderzee Museum at Enkhuizen. Here we were treated to some fine singing in the church and a guided tour of the folklife museum, with the chance to sample smoked herrings straight from the smokery, as fresh as it is possible to get. Continuing the coach journey to the harbour at Harlingen we were offered a typical Dutch treat of cheese and mustard to tide us over until the buffet dinner on the ferry. With several of us having made an early start in order to travel to the Netherlands the same day, we were glad finally to arrive at our accommodation after a long and satisfying day.

The conference itself provided a very full programme, which was tied more closely than usual to a particular conference theme, that of water. While some of us had to labour to bring out the watery side of our research, the breadth of the theme meant that everyone was able to contribute a perspective on the subject. This gave a particularly focused feel to the conference, underwritten by its being held in the Willem Barentsz Maritime Institute on the island of Terschelling. Water, in the form of the sea, was never far away, the weather smiled upon us, and the Netherlands won their football World Cup semi-final.

A rich programme of evening events included a concert of 'Ballads and Complaints of French Sailormen' featuring Michel Colleu and Pascal Servain; a display of folk dancing in the village of Formerum, at which conference delegates were invited several times to join in; and a concert of 'Shanties of the Dutch East India Company'. These last were performed by Camerata Trajectina, directed by our very own conference organizer Louis Grijp, in the remarkable setting of the Westerkerk in West Terschelling. The content of the songs is best described as eye-opening!

We were given free time to visit the town of West Terschelling and further afield (bicycles were readily available for hire on the island), and the excursion on the Friday also took us across the island, where we took in the museum of shipwrecks and then transferred to horse-drawn wagons to go to the beach, where ballad scholars disported themselves in the agreeably warm sea. The conference banquet took the form of a barbecue at the hostel where several delegates were staying. But we all managed to be in bed at a sensible time so as not to miss the ferry the next morning.

The scholarly standard we have come to expect of the KfV meetings was fully maintained. Besides the general theme of water in ballads, particular topics covered included symbolism and topoi, printed sources, insular and coastal musical cultures, rivers, fishermen's and sailors' songs, and gender questions. There were many

comments heard about how superbly well the conference was organized, and our colleagues Louis Grijp, Martine de Bruin, Marieke Lefebber, and their able assistants should all feel very proud of this. Newly elected President Tom McKean offered thanks on behalf of the meeting. He also expressed our gratitude to Sabine Wineker-Piepho, President for the last five years, and to Isabelle Peere, now standing down as Vice President after ten years.

NEWS

Margaret Bennett has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Music (Honoris Causa) by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, for scholarship and services to traditional music.

Margaret Bennett, *Dileab Ailein: The Legacy of Allan MacArthur: Newfoundland Traditions across Four Generations* (Grace Note Publications, 2009). ISBN 978-0-9552326-8-8. 96 pp. + 2 CDs.

The following journals are now free to access online:

Keystone Folklore: <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000496431>

Keystone Folklore Quarterly: <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006090454>

Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review: <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006931628>

Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Newsletter:

<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006929769>

The Living Process of Traditional Singing: Nordic Studies of Stability and Change, Repetition and Variation, ed. Lene Halskov Hansen, Astrid Nora Ressem, Ingrid Åkesson (Oslo: Novus forlag, 2009). 211 pp.

http://www.visearkivet.no/pdf_filer/prosjektbeskrivelser/English_summaries.pdf

Georgina Boyes, *The Imagined Village: Culture, Ideology and the English Folk Revival*, new edition. £12 + p&p. ISBN 978-0-9566227-0-9. www.nomasters.co.uk

Jean-Nicolas De Surmont, *La Poésie vocale et la chanson québécoise* (Québec: L'instant même, coll. 'Connaître', n°6, 2010). 168 pp. €15. ISBN 9782895020059.

<http://www.fabula.org/actualites/article37582.php>

Jean-Nicolas De Surmont, *Chanson: Son histoire et sa famille dans les dictionnaires de langue française, Étude lexicale, théorique et historique* (Berlin: De Gruyter, coll. 'Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie', 2010). €49.95. ISBN 9783484523531.

<http://www.fabula.org/actualites/article37581.php>

Roy Palmer, *Working Songs. Industrial Ballads and Poems from Britain and Ireland, 1780s–1980s* (Herron Publishing, 2010). <http://www.herronpublishing.co.uk/>

The Society for the Popularisation of English Culture and of Hungarian Culture in the English Language (SPECHEL) has been established by Andy Rouse and colleagues to promote English-language culture and Hungarian culture in English. Andy has translated 'The Gallant Cloakmaker', a selection of tales collected/written by Benedek Elek (Publikon Publishers). www.idresearch.hu

CrosSections: Selected Papers in Literature and Culture from the 9th HUSSE Conference has been issued, with contributions from Gerald Porter, 'The Hardest Step: Songs of the Displaced in Britain and Ireland' and Andy Rouse, 'The Turk in English Song'.

Luisa Del Giudice, 'Rituals of Charity and Abundance: Sicilian St. Joseph's Tables and Feeding the Poor in Los Angeles', in *California Italian Studies*, ed. Lucia Re, Claudio Fogu, Regina Longo, 2010 <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/56h4b2s2>

Luisa Del Giudice, 'Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in American', in *Oral History, Oral Culture and Italian Americans*, ed. Luisa Del Giudice, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010

Luisa Del Giudice, 'Ethnography and Spiritual Direction: Varieties of Listening', in *Rethinking the Sacred*, Proceedings of the Ninth SIEF Conference in Derry 2008, ed. by Ulrika Wolf-Knuts, Department of Comparative Religion, Åbo Akademi University, Religionsvetenskapliga skrifter, 2009: 9-23.

Luisa Del Giudice has been nominated convenor of the Los Angeles chapter of the Italian Academy of Cuisine.

Boock, Barbara: "Der Spuk von Lübbenau" Eine literarisch-theatralische Liedgeschichte. In: *Der Ring wird geschlossen, der Abendwind weht. Festschrift für Helmut (helm) König*. Hrsg. von Roland Eckert, Joachim-Felix Leonhard, Jürgen Reulecke und Klaus Wettig. Berlin, Verlag Berlin-Brandenburg, 2010. S. 201 – 207, Ill., Noten.

Grosch, Nils: Lied und Liebesdiskurs in der Gutenberg-Galaxis: Zur Funktion von Liebesliedern in der Frühzeit der Populären Musik in Deutschland, in: '*Amor docet musicam – musica docet amorem*': *Musik und Liebe in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Hg. von Dietrich Helms und Sabine Meine.

Grosch, Nils: "Es wollt ein Maidlein...": Zu einem erotischen Lied von Heinrich Isaac'. In: *Heinrich Isaac*. Hg. von Ulrich Tadday (Musik-Konzepte NF 148/149; IV/2010). S. 38 – 46.

Grosch, Nils: "Heil Dir im Siegerkranz": Zur Inszenierung von Nation und Hymne, in: *Reichsgründung: Ereignis–Beschreibung–Inszenierung*. Hg. von Michael Fischer, Christian Senkel und Klaus Tanner. Münster, Waxmann, 2010. S. 90 – 101.

Grosch, Nils: 'Überlegungen zu einer Geschichte der Mobilen Musik'. In: *Fremdheit – Migration – Musik. Kulturwissenschaftliche Essays für Max Matter*. Hrsg. von Nils Grosch, Sabine Zinn-Thomas. Münster, Waxmann, 2010. S. 381 – 390.

John, Eckhard: 'Das Gedächtnis der Lieder'. In: *Vom Minnesang zur Popakademie. Musikkultur in Baden-Württemberg; Große Landesausstellung Baden-Württemberg 2010 im Badischen Landesmuseum Schloss Karlsruhe, 16.4. - 12.9.2010*. Hrsg. vom Badischen Landesmuseum Karlsruhe. Projektleitung: Markus Zepf. Karlsruhe, Badisches Landesmuseum, 2010. S. 351 – 357, Ill.

John, Eckhard: 'His Matter's Voice. Miniatur zum großen „Värslischmid“'. In: *Fremdheit – Migration – Musik. Kulturwissenschaftliche Essays für Max Matter*. Hrsg. von Nils Grosch, Sabine Zinn-Thomas. Münster, Waxmann, 2010. S. 345 – 353.

Linder-Beroud, Waltraud: 'Das Eisenbahnzeitalter in Lied und populärer Kultur. Zur Mentalitätsgeschichte der Mobilität am Beispiel der Eisenbahn'. In: *Fremdheit – Migration – Musik. Kulturwissenschaftliche Essays für Max Matter*. Hrsg. von Nils Grosch, Sabine Zinn-Thomas. Münster, Waxmann, 2010. S. 307 – 344, Ill.

Linder-Beroud, Waltraud: 'Die "Rastatter Liederhandschrift" Ein privates Liederbuch als Spiegel literarischer Mode und individuellen Geschmacks'. In: *Vom Minnesang zur Popakademie. Musikkultur in Baden-Württemberg; Große Landesausstellung Baden-Württemberg 2010 im Badischen Landesmuseum Schloss Karlsruhe, 16.4. – 12.9.2010*. Hrsg. vom Badischen Landesmuseum Karlsruhe. Projektleitung: Markus Zepf. Karlsruhe, Badisches Landesmuseum, 2010. S.332 – 340.

Romania Occidentalis - Romania Orientalis. Volum omagial dedicat prof. univ. dr./Festschrift für Ion Taloş. Editat de/Herausgegeben von Alina Branda, Ion Cuceu. Editura pentru Studii Europene, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca 2009. 704 p.

John McDowell, 'Coaxing the Corrido: Centering Song in Performance', *Journal of American Folklore* (Spring 2010).