

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. 8 (November 2007)

(editor: David Atkinson)

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the KfV, Kyle of Lochalsh, 2 September 2007, Balmacara Hotel, 17.30–19.00

1. Present

Sabine Wienker-Piepho (KfV President), Marjetka Golež Kaučič (KfV Vice-President), Isabelle Peere (KfV Vice-President), Barbara Boock (KfV Secretary/Treasurer), David Atkinson (KfV Secretary)

Ingrid Åkesson, Sandra Boto, Matilda Burden, Anikó Daróczi, Velle Espeland, Frances Fischer, David Gregory, Rosaleen M. Gregory, Louis Grijp, Lene Halskov Hansen, Joseph Harris, María Herrera-Sobek, Sabina Ispas, E. Wyn James, Eckhard John, Katalin Juhász, Martin Lovelace, William B. McCarthy, Thomas A. McKean, Alexander Morozov, Tatyana Morozova, John Moulden, W. F. H. Nicolaisen, Gerald Porter, Sigrid Rieuwerts, Ian Russell, Michèle Simonsen, Yvette Staelens, Bronë Stundžienė, Jurgita Ūsaitytė, Ineke van Beersum

2. In Memoriam

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Reimund Kvideland, Tom Munnely, Lutz Röhrich, and Alexander Friesen (Sasha), Helga Stein's partner.

3. Greetings from absent friends

Greetings were read out from members unable to attend this year, including Rolf Brednich, Luisa Del Giudice, Simona Delić, J. J. Dias Marques, Jürgen and Ursula Dittmar, Gerlinda Haid, F. Kirsten Kearney, Gulay Mirzaoglu, Valdis Putelis, Helga Stein, Larry and Ardis Syndergaard, Stefaan Top, Larysa Vakhnina, and Natascha Würzbach

4. Vice-Presidential Election (2008–13)

The term of Marjetka Golež Kaučič as Vice-President terminates in 2007. Marjetka was thanked for all the work she has done for the KfV. Marjetka indicated her willingness to stand again and was proposed as a candidate by Isabelle Peere and seconded by Barbara Boock. In the absence of any further nominations, Marjetka has been re-elected.

5. SIEF Membership

SIEF now requires members of its constituent commissions to pay a membership fee of €20 to SIEF by 1 March each year. SIEF will retain two thirds of this sum and return one third to the commission in question. In spite of representations, SIEF has appeared unwilling to reconsider this requirement.

The matter was discussed, with members present pointing out that the KfV was founded forty years ago without this condition, and that the KfV had long functioned without any input from

SIEF. The KfV is not a legally constituted body and would be unable to provide SIEF with its mailing list.

A vote was taken indicating unanimous rejection of the SIEF requirement. The Secretary and President were mandated to draft a letter to SIEF stating that if the requirement is not rescinded then the KfV is prepared to leave SIEF altogether.

6. SIEF Congress

There will be a ballad panel at the SIEF Congress in Derry, Northern Ireland, in 2008, organized by Marjetka Golež Kaučič and with nine participants already registered.

7. BASIS Publications

B.A.S.I.S. 1 (Belgium, Leuven 2002):

Ballads and Diversity: Perspectives on Gender, Ethos, Power and Play. Ed. Isabelle Peere and Stefaan Top. Trier: WVT, 2004. xvi, 271 pp., Ill., Notes – includes a Study Guide written by Stefaan Top: 'The Collecting of Popular Songs in Belgium and the Netherlands in the Nineteenth Century'.

B.A.S.I.S 2 (USA, Austin 2003):

Ballad Mediations: Folksongs Recovered, Represented, and Reimagined. Ed. Roger deV. Renwick and Sigrid Rieuwerts. Trier: WVT 2006. xi, 200 pp., Ill., Notes – includes a Study Guide: 'Traditional Balladry in the united States of America: An Overview'.

(2006)

B.A.S.I.S 3 (Latvia, Riga 2004):

Singing the Nation. Ed. Dace Bula and Valdis Muktupāvels (forthcoming)

B.A.S.I.S 4 (Germany, Freiburg i. B. 2006):

From the Youth's Magic Horn to the Internet. Ed. Barbara Boock and Eckhard John (forthcoming)

BASIS volumes are available from the editors for € 19,50 each (or € 15,00 at KfV conferences).

Sigrid Rieuwerts gave a presentation on future publications planned in the BASIS series, in collaboration with publishers WVT. Members are urged both to purchase and to publicize these books, so as to make the series financially viable.

A companion series BASE is to be launched which will enable the publication of monographs, collections of single-author essays, and unified edited volumes falling within the same general subject area as the BASIS volumes.

It was agreed that members giving a paper at a KfV conference must in the first instance offer it to the conference organizer for publication. Papers must not be published on the Internet prior to or for at least two years after publication in a KfV volume, and subsequently permission must be sought from the General Editor.

There was no further definite information available concerning the proceedings of the Kiev conference.

8. Future Conferences

2008 Cardiff, Wales, 28 July–2 August. Information will be circulated separately. The deadline for paper proposals will be 29 February 2008.

Those looking for funding for 2008 conference attendance in Cardiff should look at the British Academy's resources. In some cases the Academy's and the delegate's home institution can share the costs. Members are advised to begin the process as early as possible. On the British Academy site, you will find:

- a list of British Academy partner institutions (<http://www.britac.ac.uk/intl/partners.html>),
- the European Exchange Scheme (<http://www.britac.ac.uk/intl/ees.html>)

- and their funding for International Activities page (<http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/index.html>).

2009 Minsk, Belarus. Alexander Morozov issued an official invitation and indicated that the likely date will be at the beginning of July.

2010 Amsterdam or elsewhere in the Netherlands.

9. Treasurer's Report

Prior to the conference the balance stood at €1208. €420 was collected in membership fees. After expenses the balance stood at €1518.

10. International Congress on Medieval Studies

Larry Syndergaard reports that it was a good year for the ballad at the 2007 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, with two sessions sponsored by the KfV.

Papers included: Slavica Rankovic, Center for Middelalderstudier, University of Bergen, "On Aesthetic Selection and Survival of the 'Fittest' Text: Tradition and the Individual Talent in Serbian Epic Ballads"; David Gregory, "Grubbing for Moderate Jewels and the Victorian Debate on Ballad Origins and the Value of Broadside Balladry"; Keith Kelly, Kutztown University (Pennsylvania), "The Early Outlaw Ballad as an Oral Resistance Movement"; Sarah Harlan-Haughey, Cornell University, "'To Bydde a Man to Dynere': Food and Feasting in *The Gest of Robin Hood*"; Tracey Sands, University of Colorado, "Views of the Convent in Early Danish and Swedish Ballads".

In addition, three papers were read in other sessions. Bente Velle Hellang, Agder University College (Norway), "Bodies Crossing Borders: Humans and Non-Humans in the Scandinavian Medieval Ballad"; Valerie B. Johnson, University of Rochester, "Habitat for Humanity: Naming Wilderness in the Early Robin Hood Ballads"; Lynn Wollstadt, "Teaching Traditional Ballads in the Introductory Literature Classroom".

No fewer than six papers were by colleagues who had recently completed their degrees or are now completing graduate school. A ballad-mongers' dinner at our house for the participants in the ballad sessions and other friends of the ballad has become a tradition.

11. Newsletter

Special thanks were offered to Barbara Boock and Michèle Simonsen for their work translating the newsletter.

12. Resolution of gratitude

The Kyle of Lochalsh conference welcomed eight new members to the KfV.

The meeting thanked the organizing committee from the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen: Thomas A. McKean, W. F. H. Nicolaisen, Ian Russell, Fiona-Jane Brown, and Martha Stewart, who were all present at the conference, and also Alison Sharman, Sara Reith, and Frances Wilkins in Aberdeen. Gifts were presented to Tom McKean, whose tireless energy made the conference such a success.

Conference report

The 37th International Conference of the *Kommission für Volksdichtung* was held at the Balmacara Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh, Scotland, 29 August–3 September 2007, organized by the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen. Members attended from Scotland, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, USA, Wales.

The west of Scotland is not renowned for the clemency of its weather, but in fact we were favoured and experienced very little heavy rain, while the constantly changing view of the Isle of

Skye from the hotel was endlessly fascinating and gave us a flavour of the landscape in all its moods. Having put in just one day's work in the conference room, the Friday was taken up with a full day's excursion to Skye. Shortly after breakfast we visited the Talisker whisky distillery, before driving on to the Dùn Beag broch, a prehistoric circular stone fortification of a kind once common in Scotland, where a brief shower caught out those of us who had left our coats on the bus. We proceeded along narrow roads (with frequent stops at passing places) to the Skye Museum of Highland Life, with its reconstructions of the island's blackhouses and displays of aspects of island life, and views across to the isle of Harris. Windy in summer, we gained just an inkling of how tough life must have been the year round. After lunch at the Duntulm Castle Hotel, we proceeded back down the coast, passing the Old Man of Storr and stopping at the Kilt Rock, which features the same geological formation as the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and at Portree (to visit the cash dispenser). Throughout the trip Tom McKean directed our attention to points of interest (including the ruder meaning of the Gaelic name of the Old Man of Storr), got us singing, and infected us with his evident love of the island.

Each evening of the conference was taken up with singing and music making. Highlights included an introduction to the bagpipes of Scotland with maestro bagpiper Dougie Pincock and Gaelic singer Margaret Bennett, and a concert of Gaelic song and music with Rona Lightfoot from South Uist and students from the Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd (the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music). In addition, our own members sang late into the evenings (very late in some cases).

But back to work: the conference was notable for the extent of its adherence to the themes that had been previously announced. Many speakers stuck to the broad theme of 'songs on the move' – songs of people on the move, immigration and emigration; songs as carriers of minority culture; songs about aspects of travel; and the travels of songs themselves. Other session topics included orality, the functions of songs, aspects of performance, aspects of meaning in songs, and the history of ballad scholarship. Tributes were paid to our late colleagues Reimund Kvideland and Lutz Röhrich with a session devoted to their interests and legacy, and ballads that reflected some of Reimund's interests came up again in other sessions. These themes proved particularly informative, with many papers telling us about aspects of balladry that may not have been familiar. As ever, the academic standard of the conference was high and left us feeling invigorated for our own subsequent efforts.

The Balmacara Hotel looked after us well, being both friendly and efficient. A special treat was to find that several of the waiting staff were also students of the ballad and Gaelic song, and were singers in their own right. Needless to say, they were persuaded to sing for us on more than one occasion, which was a delightful experience.

Another hugely successful conference of the KfV.

NEWS

Obituaries of Tom Munnely can be found online at

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article2448364.ece>

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/theatre/obituary/0,,2163069,00.html>

Since the Kyle of Lochalsh conference we have also heard of the deaths of Lajos Vargyas, who passed away on 11 October at the age of 94, and of Kirill V. Chistov, who passed away on 29 October at the age of 87.

Conference

31st Indian Folklore Congress and International Folklore Conference

Santiniketan, West Bengal, India, 18–21 February 2008. The main theme of the Congress is:

Folklore in the Context of Globalization. Please send proposals for papers by 15 December 2007 to

Prof. Kailash Pattanaik folkconf@gmail.com or Prof. Jawaharlal Handoo jlhandoo@dataone.in

Publications

The two-volume collection of ballad tunes published in the late nineteenth century by Dean William Christie (1817–85) of Fochabers in North-East Scotland is now available online at <http://www.celtscot.ed.ac.uk/ballad.htm>

Simona Delić, 'Oral Translation and Culture: New Metamorphoses of the Procne and Philomela Myth in the Traditional Ballads of Southern Europe', *Narodna umjetnos* 44/1 (2007), 115–152.

Natalie Kononenko, *Slavic Folklore Handbook*, Greenwood Press Folklore Handbook Series, forthcoming; 'Folk Orthodoxy: Popular Religion in Contemporary Ukraine', in *Letters from Heaven: Popular Religion in Russia and Ukraine*, ed. by John-Paul Himka and Andriy Zayarnyuk (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006), pp. 46-75; 'Borat as Trickster: Folklore in the Media', *Slavic Review*, forthcoming.

Luisa Del Giudice, 'Interpreting Treasure: Oral Tradition, Archaeology and Horace's Villa', in *The "Horace's Villa" Project: 1997-2003*, ed. by Bernard Frischer, Monica De Simone, and Jane Crawford, 2 vols (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2006), I, 345–74.

Anne Caufriez: 'La transmission féminine de l'épopée médiévale dans le Portugal d'aujourd'hui' in *Le voci inascoltate delle donne* (Rome : Fondazione Atkins-Chiti de Rome, 2006), pp. 131–38; 'Les instruments de musique traditionnels de l'Europe : essai de synthèse', in *Feltschrift (Mélanges)* (Tokyo: Département de Musicologie de l'Université Ochanomizu, 2006), pp. 21–28; 'Des polyphonies sauvées des eaux (Portugal), *Estudos de Literatura Oral*, 10/11 (2007); 'Female polyphony and ritual of the cereal growth (North Portugal)' *Musiké* (2006), pp. 147–56.

Marjetka Golež Kaučič: 'Slovene folk song at the crossroads of influences, contacts, and oppositions of East, West, North, and South', *Slovene Studies*, 29 (2007), 3–18; 'La tradition de la chanson folklorique, de la musique et de la danse dans les Alpes slovenes', in *Cultures alpines*, ed. by Reto Furter, Anne-Lise Head-König, Luigi Lorenzetti, *Histoire des Alpes*, 11 (Zürich: Chronos, 2006), pp. 13-25; Marjetka Golež Kaučič, Marija Klobčar, Drago Kunej, Urša Šivic, Marjeta Pisk, Mirko Ramovš, *Regiment po cesti gre (The regiment is on the march)*, Iz arhiva Glasbenonarodopisnega inštituta, CD (Ljubljana: ZRC SAZU, 2007); Marjetka Golež Kaučič et al., *Slovenske ljudske pesmi/Slovenian Folk Song*, Vol. V: Družinske balade/Family ballads (Ljubljana: Založba ZRC SAZU and Slovenska Matica, 2007), ISBN 978-961-254- 004-3.

David Atkinson, 'From Text to Work: Reconceptualizing Folk Songs as Texts', in *Dear Far-Voiced Veteran: Essays in Honour of Tom Munnely*, ed. by Anne Clune (Miltown Malbay: Old Kilfarboy Society, 2007), pp. 1–14.

Michèle Simonsen: "The Fortoul Collection of French Folksongs", *Estudos de Litteratura oral* 11-12, Algarve, Portugal

Matthias Schmidt (Hg.) *Echoes from Austria. Musik als Heimat. Ernst Krenek und das Österreichische Volkslied im 20. Jahrhundert*. Schliengen, Edition Argus, 2007. (Ernst Krenek Studien ; 3) ISBN978-3-931264-32-1 - darin: Nils Grosch, 'Dem Volke zur Benützung als Volkslied?' Ernst Krenek und das „Moderne Volkslied“ der 1920er Jahre, S. 99-117

Barbara Stambolis / Jürgen Reulecke (Hg.) *Good-Bye Memories? Lieder im Generationengedächtnis des 20. Jahrhunderts*. Essen, Klartext, 2007. ISBN 978-3-89861-769-7 - darin: Eckhard John, 'Der Kaiser ist ein lieber Mann' Schulische Sozialisation im Kaiserreich, S.

25-42; Eckhard John, ‚Brüder zur Sonne zur Freiheit‘, S. 51-78; Barbara Boock, ‚Wir sind jung, die Welt ist offen‘ Zur Überlieferungs- und Melodiegeschichte eines Liedes, S. 137-146