

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. 3 (August 2002)

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the KfV, Leuven, 27 July 2002

1. Greetings from absent friends

Greetings were read out from members unable to attend this year. These included Larry and Ardis Syndergaard, Anne Caufriez, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Sandy Ives, Ildikó Kríza, and Gerald Porter, Jean-Pierre Pichette.

2. Treasurer's report

Prior to the conference the bank balance stood at €704. After deduction of bank charges and expenses, and the payment of membership fees in 2002, the current balance is €802.

3. Administrative report

It was suggested and agreed that in future it would be worthwhile providing a telephone number(s) for use in emergency by members travelling to conferences, as well as email addresses.

The Vice-President reiterated the usual request that members inform her immediately – ipeere@hec.be – of any changes to email or postal addresses, to ensure that members do not lose contact with the KfV.

4. Newsletter

Members are encouraged to send news, especially news of publications, both books and articles, to the editor, David Atkinson, at david@atkinson1724.freeserve.co.uk

It was agreed that the newsletter should be sent to the entire membership list three times, once each in English, French, and German, in the body of three separate emails. This should avoid the potential problems posed by lengthy emails or the use of attachments.

The newsletter will continue to appear probably twice each year, but in the interim short announcements can be circulated to the membership, in the manner of a listserv or discussion list. Members should send announcements they wish to circulate in this manner to the newsletter editor at david@atkinson1724.freeserve.co.uk

5. Publications

- a) Tom McKean announced that a contract has been secured for the publication of the proceedings of the Aberdeen conference (1999) and that these should appear around December 2002/January 2003. Contributors can expect to receive proofs in the autumn of 2002.
- b) Papers from the Budapest conference (2001) have been printed in *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, and authors have received offprints of their own papers. The editor is also intending to publish the ballad conference papers in the form of an extra or special volume.

There was considerable discussion of the merits of instituting some kind of subscription publication programme as a means of ensuring the publication of proceedings where this is difficult for the conference organisers, and also possible occasional volumes. Sigrid Rieuwerts, Andy Rouse, and Helga Stein agreed to investigate this possibility further and to report back at the 2003 conference.

Stefaan Top reported that the Vlaams Centrum voor Volkscultuur hopes to be able to publish the proceedings of the Leuven conference online in the first instance, with the intention of making printed copies of the entire proceedings available to members on demand, possibly as themed publications. It was agreed that contributors wishing to have their papers published should submit them by 15 September 2002, using the Hildesheim conference proceedings as a style guide. A style guide will also be placed on the KfV website. Papers should be no more than 10 A4 pages, double-spaced, including notes and bibliography. Contributors should submit both disk and hard copies. In the meantime, Sigrid Rieuwerts has been in discussions with WVT publishers in Germany with a view to commencing a ballad series, possibly with the Leuven proceedings. Members will be kept informed of progress on this front.

The ballad CD being compiled on behalf of the KfV by Tom McKean and Luisa Del Giudice is progressing satisfactorily, with some tracks selected and others still awaited.

6. In memoriam

The death was reported of Professor Giovanni Battista Bronzini, a longstanding member of the KfV. Professor Lutz Röhrich read out a substantial tribute to our late colleague and his work which will be placed on the KfV website: www.KfVweb.org

During the year 2001/2 several other deaths of several other prominent figures in the world of folklore and folk song have occurred. These include: Hamish Henderson, the eminent Scots song collector, singer, poet, writer, and the leading figure in the post-war revival of interest in Scottish folk song and folklore; Professor Lauri Honko, the eminent Finnish folklore scholar; Laea Virtanen, former chair of the department of folklore at the University of Helsinki; and, just prior to the Leuven conference, Alan Lomax, the great American folk song collector. Some members will have known these people personally, and most will know of their influential work in the field of folklore, ballads, and folk song. They will all be missed.

7. Best wishes

Our colleague and former secretary of the KfV Barre Toelken suffered a stroke shortly before the Leuven meeting. Fortunately, Barre is making good progress and the latest report received says that he has started work again and may be able to return home shortly from the rehabilitation centre where he is currently receiving treatment. The entire membership sends Barre the very best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery and for the continuance of his already very considerable folklore scholarship.

8. Future meetings

The 2003 conference will take place in Austin, Texas, Tuesday 24 June – Saturday 28 June (arrival on Monday 23 June; departure on Sunday 29 June). Roger Renwick mentioned that among the attractions of the venue will be exhibitions highlighting the work of John Lomax and of Americo Paredes. Roger requested suggestions for conference themes by email to renwick@mail.utexas.edu and indicated that he intends to attempt to print abstracts in all three of the KfV's official languages. He also asked for volunteers willing to do some translating into English, French, and German.

The KfV has received an invitation to Latvia for 2004, through the good offices of our colleagues Vaira Vike-Freiberga, who is currently President of Latvia, and Imants Freibergs.

The conference for 2006 will take place in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, hosted by the Deutsche Volksliedarchiv. The year marks the bicentennial of the influential folk song collection *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* by Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano.

Larysa Vakhnina's offer of a meeting in Kiev, perhaps in 2005, is apparently still available, although Larysa was at the last moment unable to attend the Leuven meeting due to personal circumstances. Other possibilities for subsequent years include Maine and South Africa, with Jamie Moreira and Matilda Burden respectively keen to host a meeting.

9. KfV at Kalamazoo

Larry Syndergaard reports that the KfV-sponsored session at the International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Western Michigan University in May 2002 was a success with papers on 'Delgadina: a Cuban Children's Song', 'The Ballad and the Cante-Fable', and 'Ballad Origins' attracting an attentive audience of around twenty. The Congress for 2003 will be held on 8–11 May, and abstracts should be sent to Larry by 15 September at larry.syndergaard@wmich.edu or 113 So. Prairie, Kalamazoo, MI 49006, USA. Larry is especially keen to receive proposals for papers on ballads and iconography or the graphic arts.

Although Larry and Ardis Syndergaard were unable to come to Leuven, members will be glad to hear that Ardis is doing well after her illness.

10. Other business

Luisa Del Giudice reported that the KfV had written to support the Latvian Folk Song Collection in its successful bid to achieve listing on the UNESCO World Library of Memory site. Congratulations to the Archive on this magnificent achievement.

The next SIEF meeting is scheduled to take place in Marseille in spring of 2004. Members are urged to look at the new and impressive SIEF website: www.siefhome.org

The members present joined in expressing their immense gratitude to Stefaan Top and Isabelle Peere for their tremendous efforts in organising such a splendid conference in Leuven, with its full and very high quality academic, cultural, and social programme.

Sheila Douglas wrote and sang yet another splendid conference ballad, which will be circulated separately.

Conference report

The 32nd International Ballad Conference was hosted by the Vlaams Centrum voor Volkscultuur and the Federatie voor Volkskunde in Vlaanderen in the historic town of Leuven in Belgium, 22–28 July 2002. Stefaan Top, our Honorary President, and Isabelle Peere, our Vice-President, shared the task of organising the conference and the very full programme ran without a hitch. Around fifty colleagues attended, from as far afield as the USA, Mexico, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Scotland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, Wales, South Africa, Romania, France, England, Slovenia, Greece, Ireland, Switzerland, and Portugal.

Conference themes included perspectives on folk song research; collections and repertoires; children's singing culture; politics of editing, collecting and performing; identity and authority in ballads; horror and sensationalism; power, gender, and class; and research methods. These provided a rich mix with much overlap, and papers attained high scholarly standards with impressive contributions from newer members as well as established KfV scholars. Among the topics of lively discussion following the presentations were dragons and talking horses; the way that the history of editing and collecting has virtually become a part of the ballad tradition itself, with some

orthodoxies being vigorously challenged; the (sometimes fictitious) association of ballad stories with places; and clerics as both ballad characters and ballad collectors. For members who were unable to attend, Sheila Douglas's conference ballad provides a remarkably precise summary of many of the topics! Another feature of this year's conference was the very successful adherence to the scheduled programme.

We were guided around the beautiful city of Leuven and welcomed by Said El Khadraoui on behalf of the council as well as Marc Jacobs for the Vlaams Centrum voor Volkscultuur (VCV), whose offices in Brussels we also visited later. We also sampled more than one of Leuven's many bars and restaurants, and much of Belgium's famous beer. Our guided walk around the Beguinage and Arenberg Castle provided a most interesting insight into social life in Leuven in earlier times, followed by dinner. The day excursion took us through Breughel country to the Sint-Anne Pede church which features in the elder Breughel's Parable of the Blind; then to the beautiful castle of Gaasbeek; lunch and the collections of folk music instruments and traditional games at Gooik; the Musée des instruments de musique at the Old England House in Brussels; some time in Brussels city centre with its World Heritage site Grote Markt, and finally a splendid reception at the VCV – an exhausting but very worthwhile day.

On the Friday evening we were treated to a magnificent homemade barbecue prepared by André Dumont and Kris Top at the Genadedal Cultural Centre, and a concert of Flemish music by 'Akelei', Roger Hessel, and 'Limbrant', as well as singing by our own colleagues. The conference was lively, the company congenial, the scholarly standards high, and the surroundings most agreeable. A number of members remarked at various times on just how essential these gatherings are for providing the stimulation, encouragement, and fellowship in ballad and folk song studies that so many of us miss in our day-to-day work. Thanks once again to Stefaan and Kris Top and Isabelle Peere for making it possible.

(Report and minutes submitted by David Atkinson)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT KOMMISSION FÜR VOLKSDICHTUNG (SIEF)

Nominations for the position of Vice-President (vacated by Ildikó Kríza in 2002), may be made by members in good standing (those who have attended at least two meetings during the past five years). Please consider the following and submit your candidate's name to David Atkinson's email address (david@atkinson1724.freerve.co.uk) by **15 October 2002**. The candidate should ideally meet the following requirements: 1) have expertise in the area of ballad/folk song scholarship; 2) be available to attend the majority of annual meetings; 3) have knowledge of one or other of the KfV official languages (English, German, French); 4) have good organisational and communication skills, be able to work well with the executive, and be capable of officially representing the KfV whenever needed; 5) help promote the organisation and carry out its various functions

To nominate a candidate, please submit the following: 1) name of nominee, address (email and regular); 2) name and address of at least two KfV members making nomination 3); a message from the nominee stating the acceptance of the nomination, and making a brief statement regarding past involvement with the IBC (meetings attended, papers given/published, etc.), and any vision for the candidate's future role in this position. The statement will be made available to all voting members and should be no more than one page. Election of the KfV Vice-President will be conducted electronically and will be completed by 15 November 2002. More information on candidates and on voting procedure will follow in October. Send nominations electronically to **both** David Atkinson and Barbara Boock: david@atkinson1724.freerve.co.uk james@ub.uni-freiburg.de with 'KfV Elections' in the subject line.

The names of nominees for the position and their supporting statements will be placed on the KfV website as soon as possible: www.KfVweb.org
Voting instructions will be sent to members after 15 October 2002.

For members' information, the terms of office of the existing members of the executive are:

President: Luisa Del Giudice, 2000-2005

Vice-President: Isabelle Peere, 2000-2005

Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Boock, 2001-2006

Secretary/Editor: David Atkinson, 2001-2006

Barbara Boock is also Archivist (a permanent position determined by the location of the archive)

NEWS

Luisa Del Giudice was invited to be a guest of Latvian president, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, and her husband Imants Freiberg, in Riga, Latvia, from June 20-26, 2002. Both Vaira and Imants have been active members of the KfV for many years, before presidential life swept them into events and meetings of a completely different nature. During her time in Riga, her most gracious hosts invited Luisa into their home, and introduced her to Latvian culture, taking her to Latvian Opera, to Midsummer Night's celebrations, as well as on seaside and forest walks. A meeting with several folklore colleagues was also arranged and mediated by Imants, in order to explore the possibility of holding a KfV meeting in Riga in the near future. Among the colleagues at the meeting, held at the University of Latvia in Riga, were ethnomusicologist Valdis Muktupavels and Dace Bula of the Latvian Folklore Archives. The outcome is that a conference will be sponsored by 1) Archives of Latvian Folklore, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia and 2) Faculty of Philology, University of Latvia, with a tentative date set for **the third week of July 2004**. This date coincides with an annual folk song festival which is held at the open air museum in Riga. Luisa was very pleased by the enthusiastic response of our Latvian colleagues and looks forward to assisting the organisers in any way she can. Some photos of her visit to Latvia are now on the KfV website.

Mihai Fifor has asked us to announce that the International Conference on Ethnology and Anthropology, Anthropeast – The Anthropology of the South-Eastern Europe, will take place in Craiova, Romania, 28–30 November 2002. The conference's aim is to create a framework for academics from Romania and abroad who are concerned with the (re-)defining of the epistemological limits of the research field. Contact Mihai Fifor, manager, Centrul Creatiei Populare Dolj (Centre for Studies in Folklife and Traditional Culture of the County of Dolj), 28 Alexandru Macedonski Street, 1100 Craiova, Romania; tel/fax +40 51 124844, +40 51 123053; email: ccpdolj@yahoo.com

Svøbt i mår: Dansk folkevisekultur 1550–1700 is a four volume work edited by Flemming Lundgreen-Nielsen and Hanne Ruus, and is the product of several years of a research by a group organised by the Faculty of Arts in Copenhagen. It represents the most ambitious effort of ballad research in Scandinavia since the Second World War, apart from the edition of *Sveriges Medeltida Ballader*. It is published in Copenhagen by C. A. Reitzel, and the titles of the first three volumes are I *Adelskultur og visebøger* (1999, 428 pp.), II *Et spørgsmål om stil* (2000, 510 pp.), III *Tæt på viseteksterne* (2001, 516 pp.).

<http://www.nordisk.ku.dk/aarsberetning/folkevisekultur.htm>

Ion Talos has published a *Petit Dictionnaire de mythologie populaire roumaine*, translated by Anneliese and Claude Lecouteux (Grenoble: ELLUG, Université Stendhal, 2002), 213 pages. ISBN 2-84310-036-4 (price €19).

http://www-ellug.u-grenoble3.fr/ellug/catalogue.new/html/interrogation_frame.html

Thomas Pettitt has published two articles:

‘Ballad Singers and Ballad Style: The Case of the Murdered Sweethearts’, in *The Entertainer in Medieval and Traditional Culture: A Symposium*, ed. Flemming G. Andersen et al. (Odense: Odense University Press, 1997), pp. 101–31. <http://www.universitypress.dk/eng/hitlist.php>

‘Textual to Oral: The Impact of Transmission on Narrative Word-Art’, in *Oral History of the Middle Ages: The Spoken Word in Context*, ed. Gerhard Jaritz and Michael Richter (Krems and Budapest: Medium Ævum Quotidianum and Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, 2001), pp. 19–38. ISBN 3-90-1094-15-6.

<http://www.imareal.oeaw.ac.at/maq/Verzeichnis.html>

Liliana Bogdanova, Radost Ivanova, Stefana Stoikova have edited *Bulgarian Haidouk and Revolutionary Folksongs* (Sbornik za Narodni Umotvoreniia i Narodopis, LXI.), published in Sofia by Professor Marin Drinov Academic Publishing House, 2001. The volume runs to 872 pages, and contains bibliography; introductory studies by the authors; 853 variants of haidouk and revolutionary folk songs and ballads; vocabulary; catalogue of the plots; indexes of singers’ and collectors’ names, subjects and themes, settlements. Also compiled and edited by Stoyanka Boyadzhieva, Doroteya Dobрева, Svetla Petkova is *Folklore, Tradition, Culture: Essays in Honor of Stefana Stoikova*, from the same publishing house, 2002. This 386 page festschrift contains thirty papers from Bulgarian and foreign authors (in Bulgarian, English, German, Czech languages, with English and Bulgarian summaries) on verbal folklore, folk music, rituals and customs, folk arts, worldview, folklore in contemporary situations, communities and identities, intercultural communication, as well as a bibliography of Stefana Stoikova.

Lutz Röhrich will be celebrating his 80th birthday on the 9 October. Deutsches Volksliedarchiv is to publish a collection of his articles on folk songs and ballads in a ‘Festgabe’: <http://www.dva.uni-freiburg.de>

He has also published a new book: ‘**und weil sie nicht gestorben sind...**’ **Anthropologie, Kulturgeschichte und Deutung von Märchen** [“and because they didn’t die...” Anthropology, cultural history and meaning of fairy-tales] (Weimar, Böhlau, 2002), 368 pages, 48 illustrations. ISBN 3-412-11201-1. <http://www.boehlau.de/> This is a concise reader which demonstrates Professor Röhrich’s rich experience in the field, aimed not only at scholars but also the general public.

Heda Jason has provided publication details for her *Motif, Type and Genre: A Manual for Compilation of Indices & A Bibliography of Indices and Indexing*, FF Communications 273 (Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia/Academia Scientiarum Fennica, 2000), 279 pages. ISBN 951-41-0878-7 (hard cover) / ISBN 951-41-0879-5 (soft cover) / ISSN 0014-5815 (price: hard, FIM 160 / soft, FIM 135). The manual describes methods and procedures for classifying (indexing/typing) folk literature. It has been prepared by an ethnoepoetian at the suggestion of colleagues engaged in philological-historical research. Three kinds of indices are described: for literary motifs, for tale types of oral and folk literatures, and for ethnoepoetic genres. www.folklorefellows.org

David Atkinson’s *The English Traditional Ballad: Theory, Method, and Practice* has been published by Ashgate (Aldershot, 2002). 310 pp. ISBN 0-7546-0634-1 <http://www.ashgate.com>

Mary- Ann Constantine and Gerald Porter’s *Fragments and Meaning in Traditional Songs* is expected to appear in 2003, published by Oxford University Press.

David Atkinson