IN MEMORIAM

Reimund Kvideland
(† 6 June 2006)

With fond memories of the Freiburg conference still fresh in our minds as we were drafting this newsletter came the shocking news of Reimund’s sudden and untimely death. Our colleague and friend was struck by a heart attack while on his way to the bus stop in his home town, Paradis, outside Bergen (Norway), aged 71.

In those of us who were lucky enough to attend our latest meeting, sadness at least was softened by the grateful and vivid memories of seeing Reimund there apparently unaffected by age or ailment but perfectly true to himself – modest, keen, humorous and friendly – as we had always known him.

Although retired for many years, Reimund was still actively connected to his Institute in Bergen and to the numerous colleagues and friends which his international career and empathetic personality had won him worldwide. To see him in Freiburg (after Riga and Leuven) was no surprise either for he was unlikely to miss any of our conferences!

One of the earliest and most active members of the KfV, Reimund leaves a lasting contribution to our association and to other related ones, particularly the Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore and the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, which his scientific and personal qualities led him to serve simultaneously as President.

His interests and competences extended far and wide: Märchen, ballad and song, modern legend, children’s folklore, folkloristic history and biography, Nordic, Baltic and German traditions, socio-historical and individual contexts, function, repertoire, gender and performance issues, to allude to but a few of his essential (and multilingual) publications.

Reimund was not the kind of person who would seize the conversation at any opportunity, but whenever he spoke it was with deliberation and clarity. “Ask Reimund” had become a catchphrase when it came to solving archival issues or documenting some obscure area of folklore; it never proved a vain call. Neither would he neglect discussing any different point of view.

As Reimund’s scholarly legacy will be more suitably discussed and appraised elsewhere, let us be confident that he would not disapprove of this modest acknowledgment to the generous friendship and discreet help he dispensed within the KfV and beyond.
Minutes of the Business Meeting of the KfV, Freiburg im Breisgau, 7 April 2006, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, 15.00 – 17.30pm

1. Present
Sabine Wienker-Piepho (KfV President), Marjetka Golež Kaučič (KfV Vice-President), Isabelle Peere (KfV Vice-President), Barbara Boock (KfV Secretary/Treasurer), Teresa Catarrella, Jürgen Dittmar, David Engle, Sara Garcia, David Gregory, Rosaleen M. Gregory, Louis Grijp, Lene Halskov Hansen, Sabina Ispas, E. Wyn James, Eckhard John, Reimund Kvideland (†), Thomas A. McKean, F. Gulay Mirzaoglu, Alexander Morozov, Tatyana Morozova, Eberhard Nehlsen, Bill Nicolaisen, Gerald Porter, Sigrid Rieuwerts, Maria Samokovlieva, Michèle Simonsen, Helga Stein, Brone Stundžienė, Larry Syndergaard, Jurgita Ūsaitytė, Erich Wimmer.

2. Obituary
Sabine Wienker-Piepho informed those present of the decease of Eleanor R. Long-Wilgus on 8 May 2005 and evoked her warm personality and eminent contribution to the KfV. A moment’s silence was observed in commemoration of our distinguished fellow member.

3. Greetings from absent friends
Greetings were read out from members unable to attend this year, including Matilda Burden, Katherine Campbell, Anne Caufriez, Stephanie Crouch, Luisa Del Giudice, Ate Doornbosch, Sheila Douglas, Bengt Jonsson, , Zmaga Kumer, Emily Lyle, Bill McCarthy, Günter Noll, Roger Renwick, Ian Russell, Wilhelm Schepping, Hermann Strobach, Barre Toelken and Natascha Würzbach.

4. Election and Nominations for the positions of KfV Secretary (2007-12)
The term of David Atkinson and Barbara Boock as KfV Secretary (2001–06) came to an end at this meeting. The KfV executive expresses thanks to them both on behalf of all for their vital role in KfV communication: to Barbara for translating all mailings (conference circulars, newsletters, etc.) into German (besides acting as KfV Treasurer and Archivist), and to David for editing and circulating KfV newsletters etc. to our sizeable membership (some 330 to date).

Barbara and David were nominated for a second term by Isabelle Peere; her nomination of the former was seconded by David Engle and that of the latter by Sabina Ispas.
Other nominations for these positions can be received from KfV members who have attended at least two of the last five conferences (Leuven 2002, Austin 2003, Riga 2004, Kiev 2005 and Freiburg 2006) and made to: <S.Wienker-Piepho@vkde.fak12.uni-muenchen> before 15 September 2006.

5. SIEF
Marjetka Golež Kaučič reported briefly on SIEF’s proposal (to come into effect in 2008) of requiring KfV members to pay € 20,00 SIEF membership fees. Michèle Simonsen drew attention to KfV members’ affiliation to other SIEF societies and questioned the implications in regard to the proposed fee. It was resolved to ask SIEF to clarify this point.


6. KfV Publications
General Editor Sigrid Rieuwerts presented an outline of the Ballads and Songs – International Studies (B.A.S.I.S) series, published by Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier (WVT), and its planned shape over the next few years. Each volume features an essay by the editor on the ballad and song traditions of the host country.

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

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

(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 also introduced the new Ballads and Songs – Engagements (B.A.S.E) series of monographs:

B.A.S.E. 1: Emily Lyle. *Fairies and Folk: The Scottish Ballad Tradition* (September 2007). All interested in submitting projects for publication in the series are invited to contact Sigrid Rieuwerts at ballads@rieuwerts.de.

The publication of the Kiev conference papers is in preparation. These will be edited by David Atkinson and published by the Rylsky Institute, possibly in 2007.

Eckhard John requested Freiburg conference speakers to submit their papers for publication no later than 31 August 2006. The requirements are the same as for the Leuven, Austin, and Riga papers.

After some discussion, it was agreed that BASIS should be offered as a publication option to each conference organizer, in which case the organizer will be expected to source the subsidy required by WVT.

7. KfV circular on ‘KfV Conference Organization’ - calendar - future meetings

The KfV executive has felt the need to produce a circular on ‘KfV Conference Organization’ for the attention of all future KfV conference organizers. The document aims to serve the interest of all by encouraging close collaboration between the KfV executive, organizers and their host institution, and will be addressed to all interested and concerned. An important decision concerns the ‘conference invitation procedure’, which henceforward kindly invites the convenor’s host institution to acknowledge the convenor’s initiative and to submit a detailed outline of the conference project to the KfV President in consultation with the other KfV executives.

2007: The projected Zagreb conference has had to be cancelled for reasons of force majeure; as a replacement, Thomas McKean proposed to organize next year’s meeting in the Scottish Highlands in August.

Andy Rouse offered an alternative possibility to meet in Pécs (Hungary) at the end of June.

After due consideration of both projects, the KfV executive has decided to retain the former and looks forward to reconsidering the latter in future.
The 2007 conference, therefore, will take place in Ullapool (Scotland) (closest airport: Inverness) from 13 to 18 August. Further details will be circulated shortly.

The following invitations have been received orally but remain to be confirmed in accordance with the terms of the new procedure:

2008: Cardiff (E. Wyn James) (projected in the 3rd week of July).

2009: Minsk (Alexander Morozov and Tatyana Morozova)

2010: Amsterdam (Louis Peter Grijp), (projected in the 2nd week of April).

8. Treasurer’s report – membership concept and fee
Treasurer Barbara Boock announced that the balance in the KfV account following the Kiev conference was € 938.90. After expenses for the website, phone calls, bank charges, and membership fees collected in Freiburg (€ 490.00), the current balance stands at € 1,268.89. She reported that the executive had considered amending the current KfV membership concept (further to a member’s suggestion) to make this payable yearly regardless of conference participation, but explained that banking fees (on top of the extra demands implied on the treasurer’s time) render this proposal scarcely worthwhile. She also explained the KfV executive’s decision to raise the KfV membership fee to € 10,00 (starting in Freiburg).

9. Online KfV Archive:
Entries to the articles published in the Budapest, Leuven and Austin conference proceedings can now be consulted in the online catalogue of the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv: http://www.dva.uni-freiburg.de/katalog as well as in that of Karlsruhe: http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk/kvk/easykvk.html

10. International Congress on Medieval Studies
Ballad Sessions Sponsored by Kommission für Volksdichtung at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 4-7 May, 2006.

Larry Syndergaard reports that there were three interesting and successful KfV-sponsored sessions at this year’s Medieval Studies Congress; the session titles and papers are given below. As usual, audiences ranged from very ‘modest’ to ‘respectable’ (depending partly on time of day), and productive discussion developed in each session. The handout I distributed at Freiburg included four papers not listed here; these were withdrawn for various reasons. One of those papers, in the South Slavic session, had in fact won the Congress Travel Prize (only three of which are awarded) but unfortunately had to be withdrawn, in part because of the hurdles involved in gaining a visa from the US Embassy. I’m pleased to note that three colleagues in these KfV-sponsored sessions have also read papers at recent KfV conferences: Anne Caufriez, Stephanie Crouch, and Sandra Straubhaar.

In addition to these three KfV-sponsored sessions a session called ‘The Pan-Hispanic Ballad Tradition’ was organized by our colleague Sarah Portnoy (Oberlin College), who read at the 2003 KfV conference at Austin.

A reminder that KfV ‘sponsorship’ of sessions at the ICMS involves no financial connection. The Kommission simply lends its name to sessions I would usually be organizing anyway and thereby gains a certain amount of exposure. The sponsorship does not involve subsidies to support travel to the ICMS.
I am proposing two ballad sessions for the 2007 International Congress on Medieval Studies and will know later this summer if the Congress Committee has accepted them. As always, I’m glad to try to answer your questions (<larry.syndergaard@wmich.edu>) about the ICMS.

1. **The Ballad: Traditions, Texts, Treatments**  
   Presiding: Richard Firth Green (The Ohio State University)

   ‘Heer Halewijn,’ Its Continental Analogues, and the Continental Tradition  
   Samuel Armistead (University of California-Davis)

   Murder in the Name of Honor: Child Ballads and Old Norse Literature  
   Stephanie Crouch (University of Texas at Austin)

2. **The South Slavic Epic Ballad**  
   Presiding: Mark Amodio (Vassar College)

   The Burgarštica Revisited: Diachronic History or Metrical Ecology?  
   Aaron Phillip Tate (Cornell University)

   Immanent Characterization in South Slavic Oral Epic  
   John Miles Foley (University of Missouri)

3. **Medievalism, Medieval Sources, and the Ballad**  
   Presiding: John D. Niles (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

   A Fragment of the French *Chanson de Roland* in the Portuguese Tradition  
   Anne Caufriez (Université Catholique de Louvain)

   ‘A relic from ancient times’: The Continuing Appeal of the Norwegian Visionary Ballad  
   ‘Draumkvedet’ (The Dream Ballad)  
   Sandra Straubhaar (University of Texas at Austin)  
   (report by Larry Syndergaard)

11. **Other conferences**  
    Cozette Griffin-Kremer provided information on two events dealing with human-animal musical interactions: Ox-ploughing Chanters/European Competition, FAIR, Rambouillet (near Paris), France, 23–24 September 2006. During the 2006 FAIR (Festival Animalier de Rambouillet) held annually in the Bergerie Nationale (National Research Breeding Station) in Rambouillet, outside Paris, the organizers are holding a competition for ox-ploughing chanters, a traditional song art typical of many regions and already thoroughly documented for the Vendée area (see Arexcpo website at [http://www.arexcpo.org](http://www.arexcpo.org)). The FAIR needs to recruit ox-chanters from other European countries (or persons with archive recordings) and will assist in expenses. Please let them know, if there are ox-chant specialists in your home area. The 2006 event is a prelude to the organization of an international colloquium in 2008 on bovine/human communication. Contact: Cozette Griffin-Kremer <griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr>.

    A conference on ‘The Culture of Lace-making’, organized by David Hopkin, is scheduled to take place at Hertford College, Oxford, on 28–29 September 2007 Contact: <david.hopkin@hertford.ox.ac.uk>

    Paper proposals are invited for an International Conference on Advances in Oral Literature Research (AELO35) in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Spanish Department at the University
of Belgrade. The Conference will take place from 24–26 November 2006 at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro). The central topic of the Conference will be ‘Theoretical and Practical Contributions to the field of Oral Literature Study’. Guest speakers will include Alexis Díaz-Pimienta, Ana Vigara Tauste, Aurelio González Pérez, David C. Rubin, David R. Olson, Jesús Antonio Cid Martínez, John Miles Foley, Maximiano Trapero Trapero, Oro Anahory Librowicz, Ruth Finnegan, Samuel G. Armistead. Abstracts should be submitted before 24 July 2006. All presented papers will be published in the conference proceedings. For further information please contact Jasmina Nikolic, or check the conference website: <http://www.jasminanikolic.net/aelo35>

12. Newsletter, website and brochure, KfV members list,
Special thanks are given to Barbara Boock and Michèle Simonsen for the German and French versions of this newsletter, and to Tom McKean for his work on the KfV website (KfVweb.org) and KfV leaflet. Contact: <T.A.McKean@abdn.ac.uk> or <kfweb@aol.com>. Members are kindly reminded to communicate all changes in their personal details (especially email addresses) to: <isabelle.peere@ulg.ac.be>

13. Resolution of gratitude
Sabine Wienker-Piepho, on behalf of all, expressed heartfelt thanks to Barbara Boock, Eckhard John, Simone Meyer and Tobias Widmaier, the organizing committee of the Freiburg KfV conference, and to the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv as host institution, for the excellent organization and collegial atmosphere of the conference, and this was reiterated in Larry Syndergaard’s own words praising the team.

(report by Isabelle Peere)

Conference report
The 36th International Conference of the Kommission für Volksdichtung was held in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany), 3-7 April 2006. The home city of the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv and cradle of the KfV could not have been more appropriate to celebrate the year’s double anniversary: the bicentennial of the first edition of Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano’s Des Knaben Wunderhorn (1806–08) and, no less important and closer to us, the 40th anniversary of the KfV.

‘Birthday’ guests answered the call in an unusual (though unsurprising) number, with over seventy participants coming from Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Finland, France, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New-Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States.

The conference organizing committee (Barbara Boock, Eckhard John, Simone Meyer, and Tobias Widmaier, with the valued collaboration and advice of KfV Honorary Secretary Jürgen Dittmar) issued personal invitations to the KfV’s earliest members, and while many had to send regrets, delegates had the pleasure of celebrating the KfV’s jubilee in presence of two of the ‘founding fathers’: Prof. Dr. Rolf Wilhelm Brednich, first KfV Honorary President, and Prof. Dr. Lutz Röhrich, former Director of the DVA.

On the day of arrival, we received a most gemütlich welcome in the cosy, wooden-floored rooms of the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv and DVA librarian Barbara Boock in English, Dr Waltraud Linder-Beroud in French, and Dr Jürgen Dittmar in German offered successive ‘guided tours’ of the archive. To complete their introduction, participants were offered an acoustic portrait of the DVA comprising extracts from various radio broadcasts and interviews (some song recordings as well) from DVA researchers by founder Prof. Dr. John Meier to the present day (Das Deutsche Volksliedarchiv: Ein Akustisches Portrait zusammengestellt von Anton Bleiziffer, 2006).
After warm words addressed by Max Matter, Director of the DVA, Sabine Wienker-Piepho and Eckhard John, the DVA was to disclose even more (and surely less publicized) resources out of its kitchen and cellar . . .

This was a remarkably focused conference, and one which, as its title, ‘From Wunderhorn to the Internet: Perspectives on the conception of ‘Folksong’ and the scientific presentation of popular songs’, suggests, succeeded in effectively addressing cross-cultural concerns from the input of various culture-specific insights. Papers were of a high academic standard, and a particular feature of this conference was the evening panel discussion, themed ‘Ballad, Romance, Corrido, Dumka . . .’ held in the prestigious conference room of the Haus zur Lieben Hand of the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. This original initiative provided an opportunity to look back at the work of the KfV and to consider its future direction. The panel, led by Sabine Wienker-Piepho, featured contributions from Rolf Brednich, Sabina Ispas, Bill Nicolaisen, Marjeta Pisk and Stefaan Top. The speakers weighed up the achievements of the initial project to classify ballads and broadly welcomed the current multiplicity of approaches to ballads and folk songs that is now represented at KfV conferences.

Equally new and fruitful was Bill Nicolaisen and Sigrid Rieuwerts’ synthesis of the conference’s contributions to the crucial issues of ballad and song definition, classification, and editing. Their mapping and projection (in the literal sense) of the various problems inherent to our basic tools – terminology, typologies, editions, all of which are conditioned by their own time, culture, ideology, and language – not only underlined our first and foremost task – to historicize, contextualize, criticize, and reassess all resources – but set our common course and agenda: How to classify songs into typologies without ‘killing people’ (i.e. respecting the creative forces in tradition)? How to record a ballad as the sum total of the memories of all its singers, as virtual discourse preserved in memory? How to transcribe any single performance as a holistic experience (Sitz im Leben), whether in print (Sitz im Buch) or in digital form (Sitz im Internet)? How to do justice to its language, text and music? What to expect from editors? Who should they edit for? How creative can editing be? Or, to sum it all up, how to study the ballad (as oral art) without destroying it?

On the Wednesday evening we enjoyed a pleasant stroll (hopping over the Bäche [little brooks] flanking the cobbled streets) in the old town on our way to the colourful ‘Gerichtslaube’, where the warmth of the reception offered by the City of Freiburg soon repaired the April showers’ damage to our evening dress… On leaving, some of us were suddenly reminded of the late hour of night (and early closing of the town’s restaurants) only to even more appreciate the nec plus ultra tram service linking Bertoldsbrunnen to the St Lioba’s guest house. Its beautiful setting at the foot of the Schwarzwald, friendly hosts and breakfast table laid with serviette covers printed with our names (!) and home-made jams are surely enough to evoke the comfort and charm of our retreat . . .

Then, on a dry and sunny Thursday afternoon we crossed the Rhine, with Barbara Boock and Simone Meier as trilingual guides. After a glance at the city walls and main square of Neuf-Brisach (vividly evocative of Bonaparte’s army quarters), we visited Colmar’s Unterlinden Museum housing, among other medieval exhibits, the breath-taking ‘Isenheim Altar’, painted by Matthias Grünewald. From there, we walked on to the Dominican Church to view the town’s other masterpiece, Martin Schongauer’s ‘Madonna of the Rose Bower’, which Simone’s explanations helped us appreciate.

The evening was to take us back across the Rhine and to more worldly pursuits; having had our tongue whetted (wetted?) by a drive through the celebrated Kaiserstuhl vineyards, we found ourselves, as by enchantment (or fiendish bargain) in the Faust city of Staufen (Breisgau), and seated at a wine-tasting and banquet – never meant to be resistable. The host of the wine cellar was of little help either in rescuing our souls, which, except for our singing, would have been lost there. A narrow escape maybe, but a good time was certainly had by all!

For those who might have still doubted that Alsace and Baden-Württemberg are sister souls (if not sisters tout court), the last day of the conference saw us as guests to the ‘Centre culturel français Freiburg’ for our farewell meal and party: another occasion for singing, and a première /
Probe of our KfV President’s own singing voice (in an unheard version of ‘Es waren zwei Königskinder’).

Our organizers had more in store still for the weekend: a guided visit of the Freiburg University Museum and of the Cathedral (not to be missed), an excursion to the nearby town of Breisach, thoughtfully prepared by Dr Waltraud Linder-Beroud (and providing us with a panoramic view on the region), and rounding off with a discovery walk of the less known parts of town under leading of Dr. Peter Kalchthaler, the curator of the City’s Historical Museum.

All in all, a superbly organized conference, a double anniversary duly honoured and a unique ‘Freiburg experience’!

(conference report by Isabelle Peere)

NEWS

We are delighted to announce that Katherine Campbell has a daughter, Isobel Frances Sutherland, born 20 May 2006 in Edinburgh (7 pounds 10½ ounces); and Piotr Grochowski also has a new daughter, Ania, born 23 May 2006. Congratulations and best wishes to both families.

Awards

The KfV proudly announces the following distinctions awarded to some of its members and extends warm congratulations to them:

Prof. Alexander Morozov has received the 2006 ‘scholar of the year’ award from the National Belarussian Academy.

Dr. Vaira Vīks-Freiberga, President of Latvia, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Université de Liège.

Prof. Hanna Skrypnyk, director of the Rylsky Institute of Arts, Folklore and Ethnology (Kiev) has been made a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Dr. Andrew C. Rouse has received an award from the County Seat of Pécs for services rendered to the arts.

New Publications


most famous Hungarian ballads. The epilogue gives a representative view of Transylvanian ballads and their international connections. Illustrations include four glass windows made in 1912 from the Palace of Culture in Targu Mures (Romania), depicting some episodes from four different ballads in art nouveau style.

(report by David Atkinson)