

# FOLKLORE FORUM

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One of the more interesting discussions that we had the opportunity to attend at the recent AFS convention was that entitled "Problems in Studying Folklore; A Student Point of View." Though the discussion was scheduled at an unreasonably early hour, considering how late our party of the previous night broke up, by the time we arrived the room was filled with students and faculty alike.

The discussion began rather slowly and we found ourselves checking the program to be sure we had understood correctly the topic to be discussed. The panelists who had the floor for the early part of the discussion raised few if any problems encountered in the study of folklore. More problems were raised by the later speakers. One of the last panelists to make a presentation was Indiana's Tom Burns.

Tom did not limit himself to mere descriptions of course offerings in the graduate school catalogue. Obviously, he had done his homework. He reported accurately and fairly the problems of strained faculty-student relationships present in his department. He also reviewed what action had been taken on the part of the students to initiate constructive change: a faculty and course evaluation and a series of formal meetings between student representatives and faculty members.

Shortly after Tom's presentation the discussion was opened to the floor. A question was asked of June Biggar, the representative from Cooperstown, and of Lucy Turner, of Berkeley, how the excellent student-faculty relations that they described for their departments maintained themselves and how changes were initiated in the departments. From their replies, we discerned that the factors contributing to the good relations were  
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Cover design by Lynn Johnson

The books are reproduced by Gale in facsimile by offset lithography, a process which retains the format and interesting appearance of the original pages but allows "blow-ups" and margin expansion for increased readability. Much effort is often necessary to obtain the original. Shepard, in fact, spends most of his time at the company's London office which is literally a stone's throw from the British Museum where he researches volumes which in the United States could be studied only by catalogue entry. A good number of hours, however, are spent poking around second-hand bookstores; it was in one of these that Shepard found a copy of the third edition of Percy's Reliques--with a manuscript note by a previous owner who had discovered and loved the Folio Manuscript before it was found by Bishop Percy. Bio-bibliographical notes on this find were incorporated in a new introduction to the Singing Tree Press reissue of this major work, due to be published in early 1969. Since the inception of the reprint program, the company has welcomed suggestions from librarians and scholars in the field on titles that deserve republication; this, especially in view of plans to expand greatly the folklore and social history catalogue. The object of developing the program, according to Ruffner and Shepard, is to make easily available to researchers all the much sought key works in those fields.

James Geradi  
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dependent on the availability of faculty and an apparent lack of severe personality conflicts. While it did not surprise us that these students, the best of their respective departments, do not feel the hardships of an over-worked faculty with too little time and less patience, we could not help but wonder how the other students of the departments fared. Unfortunately, only Tom Burns and Jay Anderson, the representative from the University of Pennsylvania, seemed to have polled student opinion to support their presentations.

Toward the end of the questioning from the floor, it was Ellen Stekert who so accurately pinpointed that which is needed to create and maintain workable lines of communication between faculty and students. She said the present situation of relations based on personality is not sufficient for the task, what is needed is a formal structure which can withstand the pressures of conflict. To us it seems that if the students of Indiana and Pennsylvania pursue their initial efforts, they may have the inside track.

The Editors

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STOP IMPOSING YOUR ORDER ON MY REALITY! -- A folk

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