



American Folklore Society News

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AFS, Fund for Folk Culture Plan Professional Development Workshops for Society's 2003 Annual Meeting

Like many arts and humanities disciplines, folklore is experiencing a shortage of new leadership and young people entering the field. The applied or public sector is finding it increasingly difficult to identify qualified and willing applicants for job openings. The expansion of jobs and programs outside of academia in the 1980s may not be able to sustain itself in the coming decade. Academic folklore programs are experiencing smaller enrollments and, in many cases, are losing political ground with university administrations.

Students and young professionals coming up through the ranks, on the other hand, are often concerned about the perceived lack of jobs and opportunities that make full use of their training. Some simply don't know about the range of resources (both academic and applied) that exist and some complain about a lack of guidance and mentorship to help them explore the options available for shaping a career in the field. Opportunities and future careers are there for the asking, some in obvious places, and some in new and unexpected areas. One thing, however, is certain: if we hope to attract and retain new generations of folklorists, those new folklorists need to feel that there is a future for them to pursue.

To respond to this situation, the American Folklore Society (AFS) and the Fund for Folk Culture (FFC) are working in collaboration to design a day-and-a-half-long series of panels, roundtable discussions and forums on resources and opportunities in the field of folklore, open to anyone but targeting young professionals and graduate students in the field, to take place at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in October 2003 in Albuquerque. This project is supported by the AFS and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Panels and discussions will address resources and opportunities in both academic and public or applied sectors of the field. Folklorists from throughout the field, as well as representatives from other fields, will make presentations and lead discussions and lunchtime roundtables. Ample time will be set aside for open discussion in each session. The AFS and FFC will also compile a resource manual suitable for students, young professionals, and other cultural professionals entering the field for online publication on the AFS and FFC websites.

INSIDE....Hotel registration forms for the 2003 AFS Annual Meeting, October 8-12, Albuquerque, New Mexico (see p. 4.) The deadline for room reservations at the conference rate is **September 7, 2003**. For all meeting information, see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet. The preliminary program will be posted there on **July 1, 2003**.

In order to make these sessions accessible (especially to students) at no additional cost, we are scheduling those sessions to take place during, rather than before, the annual meeting. We plan to make such professional development activities (perhaps on a smaller scale) a regular, and if possible yearly, feature of AFS annual meetings.

For information, please visit www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/ProDevSessions.cfm.

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SIEF Plans Marseille Conference

The SIEF (Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore) is one of the sponsors of an international congress entitled "Among Others: Conflict and Encounter in European and Mediterranean Societies," to be held in Marseille on April 26-30, 2004. Other congress sponsors are the Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée in Marseille (MCEM), the Association d'Anthropologie Méditerranéenne (ADAM), and the Institute for Mediterranean and Comparative Ethnology in Aix-en-Provence (IDEMEC/MMSH).

In 2008, the new Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MCEM) will open its doors in Fort Saint-Jean in Marseille, France. The MCEM is the new formulation of France's Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions (MNATP), for many years located in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. Relocating and in the process reformulating the museum's focus and mission have provided an opportunity to reflect on the interrelationship of ethnological fields of inquiry and museums as institutions communicating research to the public at large. SIEF and ADAM have accepted the MCEM's invitation to bring together their two international congresses, both broadly situated within the field of ethnology, for a joint meeting in Marseille.

The deadline for paper proposals is *June 30, 2003*. Visit http://adam.mmsch.univ-aix.fr/amongothers/presentation/presentation_eng.htm for conference information, or visit the SIEF web site at <http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/sief/>.

Center for Popular Music Receives Grant to Digitize Goldstein Collection BroadSides

The Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University has received a grant of \$46,636 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the cataloging and digitization of the Kenneth S. Goldstein Collection of American Song BroadSides. The Goldstein Collection, acquired by the Center in 1994, consists of approximately 3,300 broadsides, and is one of the largest such collections in the country.

Song broadsides (sometimes called "song sheets") were a common and inexpensive medium

through which popular songs and ballads were commercially disseminated from the sixteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Broadsides normally contained only lyrics, as simple text was much easier and cheaper to typeset and print than was musical notation, according to Paul Wells, the director of the Center for Popular Music. "They were sold to people who were not affluent enough to own a piano or who were not musically literate," Wells said. "Broadsides offer a window into the musical tastes of a different class of people than those who were buying sheet music of the same period." Most of the items in the Goldstein collection date from the nineteenth century.

Numerous older traditional ballads were printed in broadside form, as were contemporary narrative songs that documented natural disasters, battles, political events, tragic accidents, and other aspects of daily life. Because much of the song material printed on broadsides was topical in nature, they provide source materials not only for the examination of the creation and consumption of popular song in the United States, but for research into a broad spectrum of American culture. They are of interest to scholars in many disciplines including folklore, musicology, social and cultural history, popular culture, and sociology.

The Goldstein collection was put together over a period of eight to ten years through some very active, aggressive collecting on the part of the late Kenneth Goldstein, one of the country's leading folklorists. Goldstein headed the program in folklore at the University of Pennsylvania for many years, and recognized the importance of broadsides in his own study of American and Canadian folksong.

In carrying out the grant-funded project, Center staff will scan each item in the Goldstein collection, enhance existing bibliographic records to add the full text of the song lyrics and provide subject access, convert existing database records into the proper format for entry into the OCLC/WorldCat system, and create a website that will permit access to the collection via the Internet.

The project was designed and the grant proposal written by Lucinda Cockrell, the Center's archivist, and Mayo Taylor, former coordinator of research collections at the Center. This project will serve as the first step in a larger plan to digitize and present materials from the Center's extensive holdings through the Internet, making them more accessible to scholars and members of the general public.

For more information, contact Paul Wells or Lucinda Cockrell at 615/898-2449.

Society for American Music Project Funding Available

The Society for American Music (SAM) has a small endowment set-up for non-print projects such as sound records or films relating to American music. Awards are usually in the \$500-\$1,000 range. If you have such a project and are looking for a publication subvention, please visit <http://www.american-music.org/awards/AwardInformation.htm> for more information. The deadline for submitting an application is 1 December.

The current chair is Kip Lornell; contact him at Department of Music, The George Washington University, Phillips Hall B-144, 801 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20052; e-mail klornell@gwu.edu.

**Hyatt Regency Albuquerque Hotel Reservation Request Form
2003 American Folklore Society Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 8–Sunday, October 12, 2003**

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE: *SEPTEMBER 7, 2003*

Reservation requests will be accepted until the AFS's room block fills or until the cut-off date, whichever comes first.

Please reserve: Single \$125.00 Double \$135.00 Non-Smoking
 Triple \$155.00 Quadruple \$175.00 Smoking

- *Rates are subject to state and local occupancy taxes of 10.8125%.*
- *Accommodations are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed in advance.*

Name: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Gold Passport Number _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP or Postal Code/Country: _____

Email or Fax for Confirmation: _____

Roommates' Names: _____

- Your credit card number or pre-payment will be needed to guarantee your reservation.
- Please note that check-out time is 12:00 noon. Check-in time is 3:00 pm.
- A confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your reservation. You may have confirmation sent by email or fax. Any changes to this reservation within 48 hours of arrival date (including early departure) are subject to an administrative fee.

Deposit Amount: _____ Check Money Order Visa MC Amex Discover Diners Club

Name on Card (print): _____ Signature: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please return this form to:
Hyatt Regency Albuquerque
330 Tijeras NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Fax: 505/766-6768 Phone: 505/842-1234 or 800/233-1234

(Ask for the American Folklore Society convention rate.)

AFS Datebook

2003

- June 6-8 “Words and Things and Music” Conference, Bloomington, Indiana (see April 2003 *AFSN*, p. 10)
- June 16-25 University of Maine Atlantic Canada Faculty Institute, Newfoundland and Labrador (see February 2003 *AFSN*, p. 19)
- June 24-28 33rd International Ballad Conference, Austin, Texas (see April 2003 *AFSN*, p. 10)
- June 25-28 2003 Perspectives on Contemporary Legend Conference, Corner Brook, Newfoundland (see December 2002 *AFSN*, p. 7)
- August 5-8 Fifth International Conference on Environmental Aesthetics, Hämeenlinna, Finland (see April 2003 *AFSN*, p. 10)
- October 8-12 AFS 2003 Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, New Mexico (see February 2003 *AFSN*, p. 3, or www.afsnet.org/annualmeet)

2004

- April 26-30 “Among Others: Conflict and Encounter in European and Mediterranean Societies” Conference, Marseille (see story, p. 2)
- June 3-5 Mountain West Symposium on Song, Logan, Utah (see April 2003 *AFSN*, p. 11)
- October 13-17 AFS 2004 Annual Meeting, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

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