

## **American Folklore Society Monthly News Bulletin**

**December 2009**

[A monthly e-mail update from AFS to fill the gap between the *AFS News* and the new AFS web site.]

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### **Glassie Awarded ACLS Haskins Prize**

Henry Glassie, College Professor Emeritus at Indiana University, has been awarded the Charles Homer Haskins Prize of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), one of America's major awards for a lifetime of scholarly achievement. Glassie, the first folklorist to be awarded this Prize, will deliver the Haskins Prize Lecture at the ACLS 2011 annual meeting in Washington, DC.

The ACLS is a private nonprofit federation of 70 national scholarly organizations (including the American Folklore Society) and is the pre-eminent organization representative of humanities scholarship in the United States. Named for the first chairman of ACLS, the Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture series celebrates scholarly careers of distinctive importance. In announcing Glassie's selection, the ACLS called Glassie "one of the intellectual leaders who broadened the discipline of folklore from a study of the texts of ballads and tales into a kind of descriptive and interpretive ethnography."

"Deeply gratified by this prize, I am proud to be the first folklorist so honored, amazed to find myself in the company of such past recipients as Yi-Fu Tuan, Helen Vendler, Clifford Geertz, and Bill Labov and pleased to have won it as a member of the faculty of Indiana University," Glassie said.

Jason Baird Jackson, chair of Indiana's Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, noted that the Haskins Prize recognizes Glassie's extensive body of work. "With this prize, the ACLS is recognizing both a lifetime of transformative work by our colleague Henry Glassie and the crucial role that the discipline of folklore studies plays linking the humanities and the social sciences," Jackson said. "His works and his leadership have permanently enriched our field and the human worlds that we study."

In making its selection, the ACLS noted Glassie's unique commitment to traditional art and artists. "The formidable comprehensiveness of his first book, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1969) demonstrated that material culture studies had to take in the history not only of objects, but also of the human artists who produced

them," ACLS said in its announcement.

Glassie has written five books about Irish culture, including *Passing the Time in Ballymenone* (Indiana University Press, 1995), in which he presented a comprehensive review of folklife in the Ulster community. It won the Chicago Folklore Prize and the Haney Prize in the Social Sciences, and it was named a notable book of the year by the New York Times. In 2006, he produced a follow-up work, *The Stars of Ballymenone* (IU Press, 2006).

"His first major ethnography, *Passing the Time in Ballymenone*, demonstrated the centrality of folklore to people's lives in times of dreadful crisis, and pioneered the interdisciplinary breadth of folkloristics by embracing Irish vernacular architecture, folksinging, material culture, storytelling, oral history, and farming practices," the ACLS observed.

Throughout his career, Glassie has studied the cultures of traditional communities around the world. He has documented his fieldwork in award-winning books on life in rural Virginia, Turkey, and Bangladesh. He also has been the recipient of the Award of Honor for Superior Service to Turkish Culture from the Ministry of Culture of the Turkish Republic and the Friend of Bangladesh Award in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution toward Bangladesh from the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America.

Glassie's latest book, a biography of the Nigerian artist Prince Twins Seven-Seven, will be published in January 2010 by IU Press.

Glassie began his career as the state folklorist of Pennsylvania, then taught at the University of Pennsylvania and at Indiana. At both universities, he served as chairman of the folklore department. He has also served as president of the American Folklore Society and of the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

### **Fund for Folk Culture Publications Available Online Through Indiana-AFS Partnership**

The Indiana University Bloomington Libraries and the American Folklore Society, in partnership with The Fund for Folk Culture and the Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, are pleased to announce the availability of a series of policy publications created by The Fund for Folk Culture.

The Fund, which was created in 1992 and suspended its programs in early 2009, supports the creation, conservation, innovation, and value of traditional culture and folk arts in community life through grantmaking, convenings, the creation of networks, and research and publications, all focused on issues critical to artists,

tradition bearers, and the organizations supporting their work. Its goal is to "create a world in which diverse cultural heritages are honored and all people have the right and resources to exercise preservation of their cultural traditions and to create new traditions for the times."

The body of Fund for Folk Culture publications now available includes a three-part *Issues in Folk Arts and Traditional Culture Working Paper* series; reports on three meetings devoted to the examination of issues facing refugee and immigrant communities, and individual folk artists, in the US; a report on the "Folklore's Futures: Scholarship and Practice" symposium sponsored by the Fund and the American Folklore Society in 2006; and two monographs, *Culture and Commerce: Traditional Arts in Economic Development* and *Envisioning Convergence: Cultural Conservation, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Livelihoods*. Other Fund publications will be made available in the near future.

These published works are being made available in digital form as part of the IUScholarWorks Repository. In this form, each published work has a durable URL (web address) that will remain stable, insuring that future citations to this work will lead back to the full source itself. This published work is fully open access and documents are provided in PDF format. The IUB Libraries are committing to the migration of these materials to future file formats so as to preserve the availability of these works. The IUScholarWorks Repository uses standard metadata protocols, insuring that the works included in it are easily findable through such services as Google Scholar and OAIster, the Open Archives Initiative database, a union catalog containing records for millions of digital scholarly resources.

Now available and searchable in IUScholarWorks Repository, the publications of The Fund for Folk Culture join a growing corpus of fully accessible publications in folklore studies, including the full back files of *The Folklore and Folk Music Archivist* and *Folklore Forum*. The IUB Libraries and the American Folklore Society are exploring the possibility of other partnerships to create greater accessibility for important classes of publication in our field that are presently without a long-term digital home.

Find the publications of The Fund for Folk Culture online here:

<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/3850>

### **AFS Archives at Utah State University Library Seeks AFS Papers**

The official papers of the American Folklore Society are housed at the Utah State University Library (<http://library.usu.edu/specol/manuscript/collms206.html>). The timely deposit of official AFS-related materials that document the actions and

activities of the society (minutes, publications, official correspondence, etc.) keeps this collection current and comprehensive. Current and past AFS officers, board members, section conveners, editors and others who have AFS official materials should deposit these materials at USU shortly after their term is completed. To discuss the transfer of your items, please contact Steve Sturgeon (USU Manuscript Curator and AFS Collection Manager) at [stephen.sturgeon@usu.edu](mailto:stephen.sturgeon@usu.edu) or Randy Williams (USU Folklore Curator and AFS Archival Liaison) at [randy.williams@usu.edu](mailto:randy.williams@usu.edu).

### **ACLS Humanities E-Book**

The American Folklore Society is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies. The ACLS offers individual annual subscriptions to [ACLS Humanities E-Book](#) to current American Folklore Society members. By early 2010 HEB will be offering unlimited access to nearly 3,000 full-text, cross-searchable titles across the humanities and social sciences, from the 1880s through the present.

Individual subscriptions are an attractive option for those whose institutions don't already have a subscription to HEB or for American Folklore Society members who might not be affiliated with a subscribing institution. Individual annual subscriptions are \$35.00. Please visit [www.humanitiesebook.org/subscribinginsts.html](http://www.humanitiesebook.org/subscribinginsts.html) to see whether your institution subscribes. You may purchase an individual subscription to HEB at [www.humanitiesebook.org/subscription\\_purchase.html](http://www.humanitiesebook.org/subscription_purchase.html). Please choose American Folklore Society from the "Society Affiliation" pull-down menu and, in the space that says "Society Membership Number," provide your American Folklore Society membership number. If you do not know this information, you may request it by emailing the society. For inquiries about HEB, please e-mail [subscriptions@hebook.org](mailto:subscriptions@hebook.org).

### **10th SIEF International Congress**

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of SIEF (the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore) will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, on April 17-21, 2011. The theme of the meeting is "People Make Places: Ways of Feeling the World," and the Congress announcement, information on the Congress theme, and the Call for Panels are available at [www.siefhome.org/sief2011](http://www.siefhome.org/sief2011). By mid-February 2010 the call for panels will close and the review and selection process will take place until the end of April. In the beginning of May 2010 the call for papers, workshop participation, posters and film festival participation will be open. The board of SIEF would like to invite American colleagues to participate in the Congress and to respond to the calls for panels and individual presentations.