

FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM  
FOLKLORE  
FORUM

Number 17 Volume 2 1984

**CONVERSATIONAL FOLKLORE**

Edited by

Moira Smith and Regina Bendix

**Folklore Forum**

A Communication for Students of Folklore

1984

### Editorial Staff

#### Co-Editors:

Regina Bendix and Martha Norkunas

Managing Editor, Forum:

Lisa Moody

Book Review Editor:

Mary Beth Stein

Film Review Editor:

Harry Gammerdinger

Copy Editors:

John Bendix & Tim Evans

Record Review Editor:

Bruce Harrah-Conforth

Translation Editor:

Hanna Griff

Managing Editor, FPG:

Garry Barrow

### Staff

Cornelia Fales

William Guinee

Mary Koske

Tom Passananti

Robbin Lee Zeff

Katie Foy

Matthew Humiston

Kelly McCarty

Kenneth Pimple

### Corresponding Editors

Regina Böhme, Freiburg i. Br., West Germany

Elke Dettmer, St. John's, Newfoundland

Joseph Holman, Los Angeles, California

Pat MacLaughlin, Eugene, Oregon

Rita Ross, Berkeley, California

Patricia Sawin, Austin, Texas

**Folklore Forum** welcomes manuscripts, comments, and other communications from readers. Articles should not exceed 30 pages in length. All submissions should be made in duplicate in order to be considered. The style for manuscripts should be that of the **Journal of American Folklore** (style sheet issued in **JAF**, No. 373). The editors do not accept responsibility for the personal opinions of the contributors. The contents of **Folklore Forum** are subject to the protection and rights set forth in the United States Copyright Law.

ISSN 0015-5926

© Folklore Forum, Inc.

## FRIENDS OF FOLKLORE FORUM

We are delighted to report that our fundraising efforts are beginning to be successful. Though we are still far from our goal--raising sufficient funds to convert to word processing--we are hopeful to see our fundraising account grow further. Many thanks to all contributors and special thanks to the managers of the Richard M. Dorson Memorial Fund who have pledged \$.50 for every dollar we raise up to \$300.00.

### Best Friends

John Ashton Fellowship Award  
Hasan El-Shamy  
Chancellor Herman B Wells

### Dear Friends

Linda Dégh  
Elaine C. Emmi  
Oral History Research Center, Indiana University  
Elliott Oring

### Good Friends

African Studies Program, Indiana University  
Priscilla Denby  
Bruce & Jeanne Harrah-Conforth  
Sandy Ives  
William Lightfoot  
E. Jean M. MacLaughlin  
Kathleen Manley

### Student Friends

Regina Bendix  
Yildiray Erdener  
William Guinee  
Sabina Magliocco  
Martha Norkunas  
Kenneth Pimple  
Mary Beth Stein

Tim Cochrane  
Hanna Griff  
Matthew Humiston  
Lisa Moody  
Anne Phipps  
Alice Reich

Please address all correspondence to:  
Folklore Forum  
504 N. Fess  
Bloomington, IN 47405

FOLKLORE FORUM

A Communication for Students of Folklore

Volume 17

Number 2

Fall 1984

CONTENTS

Preface.....119

**John H. McDowell**, Introduction: Conversational Genres of Folklore.....120

**James Stewart**, "Hello! My Name is Abdul. How Are You?"...126

**Enoch Timpunza-Mvula**, Nicknaming in Conversational Context Among the Chewa of Malaŵi.....134

**Cheryl L. Keyes**, Verbal Art Performance in Rap Music: The Conversation of the 80s.....144

**Takayuki Wakatake**, "Play Words": Chinese Characters in Japanese Conversational Joking.....153

**Thomas Walker**, Some Interrogative and Ludic Dimensions of a Riddling Session.....161

**Will Wheeler**, A Puzzling Conversation.....176

**Bruce Harrah-Conforth**, Be Here Now: Experientiality in the Narrative.....186

**Maira Smith**, The Kernel Story: A New Conversational Genre?.....199

**Regina Bendix**, Playing the Joker: Personal Biography and Attitudes in the Study of Joke Performance.....209

**Kwesi Yankah**, The Folktale as "True" Experience Narrative.....220

Bibliography.....230