



American Folklore Society News

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AFS Announces Two New Member Benefits

85% Discount on the *MLA International Bibliography Folklore Volume*. The Society, in an effort to expand the benefits of AFS membership, has entered into an agreement with the Modern Language Association through which AFS members will be able to order copies of the folklore volume (Volume V) of the *MLA International Bibliography*, the most comprehensive annual international bibliography of folklore scholarship, for \$20, an 85% discount from the retail price of \$135.

The 2004 volume, produced by a team of folklore bibliographers supported by MLA and AFS, will be available in November 2005. Beginning September 1, AFS members may order copies of the 2004 volume until October 31 at the pre-publication price of \$20. After November 1, post-publication copies of the 2004 volume will be \$35. Orders for copies of back issues (2000 through 2003) will be \$35 at any time.

To order at these prices, you must use the form available on the AFS web site at www.afsnet.org/aboutAFS/MLAbibliography.cfm. Submit your orders by mail, with payment by check or credit card (American Express, MasterCard, or Visa), to: Customer Service, Modern Language Association, 26 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York NY 10004-1789. Remember, to be eligible for these specially reduced prices, you must use the AFS order form and mail your order so that it is *received* by MLA no later than October 31.

Our thanks go to the MLA for agreeing to this partnership, to the Indiana University folklore and ethnomusicology program for its work to manage the bibliographic effort for this volume, and to the many folklore bibliographers who prepare entries for the volume each year.

Directory of Promotion and Tenure Reviewers. AFS is also happy to announce the availability, to AFS members only, of the first edition of a online directory of folklorists willing to serve as reviewers for folklorists' promotion and tenure reviews. To view the directory, please visit www.afsnet.org/aboutAFS/TenureReviewersRoster.cfm.

To be added to this directory, please e-mail your name and contact information; the date, institution, and field of your highest degree; your present academic rank; and a summary of those areas of scholarship, teaching, and service in which you could serve as a reviewer to AFS at lloyd.100@osu.edu.

Two New AFS Sections Begin Work

In March of this year, the Executive Board approved the creation of new AFS sections for Eastern Asia Folklore and Folklore and Creative Writing. For information on both sections, please visit their web pages on the AFS site, available via links from www.afsnet.org/sections/.

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AFS Website: www.afsnet.org

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AFS Offers the 2005 Benjamin A. Botkin and Américo Paredes Prizes

The AFS Executive Board and Public Programs Section invite nominations for the 2005 **Benjamin A. Botkin Prize**, given each year for lifetime achievement in public folklore.

In the words of folklore historian Jerrold Hirsch, Benjamin A. Botkin (1901-1975), who served “as national folklore editor of the New Deal’s Federal Writers’ Project (1938-39), as chief editor of the Writers’ Unit of the Library of Congress Project, (1939-1941), as head of the Archive of American Folksong at the Library of Congress (1942-45), and as the author of numerous folklore treasuries, beginning with *A Treasury of American Folklore* (1944)...continuously sought new ways to achieve his vision for the role of folklore and the folklorist in American culture.”

The criteria for the Prize are: engagement of a broad public audience in the materials of folklore; impact on the field of public folklore through the development of models, methodology, visibility, and/or advocacy; impact on communities/constituents and their traditional culture; contributions to the body of materials of folklore/public folklore; quality of artistry in presentation (writing, photography, stagecraft, etc.); quality of scholarship; and impact on the discipline of folklore, its theories and methodology. In addition, the committee considers the thoroughness of the nomination itself, including the letters from community members and non-folklorists in addition to folklore colleagues. The Prize, awarded by AFS since 1994, has in the last three years gone to Robert Baron and Nick Spitzer (2002), Alan Jabbour (2003), and Jens Lund (2004).

Nominations should include a primary letter of nomination, a one- to two-page biography or resume of the nominee, and three to five letters of support for the nomination, ideally including community members who have benefited from the nominee’s work as well as people outside the field of folklore. These letters should specifically address the above review criteria and should explain how the nominee has brought folklore to a broad public audience. All nomination materials should be submitted in electronic format by *August 1* to Botkin Prize review committee chair Cindy Kerchmar at ckerschmar@earthlink.net. Nominations are kept active for three years.

The AFS Executive Board and Task Force on Cultural Diversity, along with the AFS Chicana/Chicano and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Sections, invite nominations for the 2005 **Américo Paredes Prize**, given by the Society each year to recognize excellence in one or both of the following achievements: integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, and teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities.

Américo Paredes (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, worked relentlessly throughout his life, in the words of Olga Nájera-Ramírez, "to better understand, represent, and respect the rights, lives, and culture of U.S. Latinas and Latinos." Dr. Paredes contributed significantly to the formation of various intellectual trends and in particular to the scholarship on "native" folklorists and anthropologists; indeed, he trained several generations of "natives." Dr. Paredes was the first Mexican American to receive a PhD at the University of Texas, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

The prize can be awarded for many forms of accomplishment, including products such as a book, article, software package, or exhibit; or on the basis of the overall impact of the nominee's engaged teaching and scholarship, or her/his fostering of folklore work in one's own community or culture. William A. Wilson, Brigham Young University, *emeritus*, received the first Paredes Prize in 2002; Norma Cantú of the University of Texas at San Antonio received the 2003 Prize; and in 2004 Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell of the Michigan State University Museum shared the Prize.

Nominations, in the form of a letter describing how the nominee has achieved excellence in either or both of the achievements the Prize recognizes, must be *received* via e-mail by AFS Executive Director Tim Lloyd (lloyd.100@osu.edu) by *August 31, 2005*.

This year's Botkin and Paredes prizes, along with other Society prizes, will be awarded at the opening ceremonies of the 2005 AFS annual meeting on Wednesday evening, October 19, in Atlanta.

University of Ulster Announces Ethnology and Folk Life Research Studentship

A research studentship, attached to the Chair of Comparative Ethnology and Folk Life (Prof. Ulrich Kockel), is available at the University's Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages. Applications are invited from United Kingdom, European Union, and overseas students. Applicants must have or expect to obtain in summer 2005 the minimum of an upper second class honors degree (or its equivalent) including an appropriate discipline, such as European ethnology, cultural/social anthropology, folkloristics, or cultural studies, and should be able to demonstrate skills and experience in field and/or archival work at or above the level expected of a good final year dissertation in the respective subject area. Successful candidates will enroll in September 2005 on a full-time program of research studies leading to the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The studentship will comprise fees and an annual stipend of £12,000 [just over \$21,800 as of May 26, 2005] and will be awarded for a period of up to three years subject to satisfactory progress. The studentship is tenable in the Faculty of Arts at the Magee Campus.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is *June 17, 2005*, and interviews will be held in early July. Applicants should submit a completed research application form together with a research proposal on no more than two pages, outlining their initial research questions, sources, and methodology. Proposals should address one or more of the following themes, and comparative projects will be particularly welcome: cultural encounters in the context of historical and contemporary migrations within the British Isles, and between the British Isles, Europe and North America; religious heritages in Ireland, and among the Irish Diaspora; heritage, tradition and identity in

border regions and other ethnic frontiers; sustainable development of communities, localities and regions, involving heritage/traditions as resources; economy as culture, including informal economy relationships; alternative lifestyles, including the cultural impact of “countercultural” immigrants; and the history of ideas in Irish and European ethnology.

Application materials are available at <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/rps/forms/rs1.pdf> and completed applications should be returned to [Hazel Campbell](#), Research Office, University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine, BT52 1SA, United Kingdom. For a preliminary discussion of their project, applicants may contact Professor Kockel via e-mail at g.thornton@ulster.ac.uk.

SIEF Conference on the Ritual Year, Malta
Nan McEntyre, Indiana State University

I am grateful to the American Folklore Society for giving me an international travel grant to present a paper at “The Ritual Year,” the first international conference of the SIEF (Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore/International Society for Ethnology and Folklore) working group focused on this topic. The conference lasted from March 20-24, 2005, and it was held in Malta. The idea for the conference, as stated by the president of SIEF, Regina Bendix, came from Scottish folklorist and president of the SIEF Ritual Year Working Group, Emily Lyle. With the framework of the year as the guide for the conference, possible research topics included “...aspects of civic ritual and processions, community identity, masking and drama, carnival and reversal, sports, dance and music, ecclesiastical practice, contemporary popular use of religious images, interfaces between the secular and the religious and between the pagan and the Christian, festival foods, and symbolism linked to the economic bases of society, especially as concerns agriculture” (SIEF General Meeting, July 11, 2004; reprinted in *The Ritual Year Abstracts* 2005: 8).

The conference itself delivered in many of the above categories with ethnographic riches from Eastern and Western Europe and North America. Paper topics included celebrations of family identity in Iceland; olive festivals in France, past and current functions of ancient musical instruments in Malta; the ritual year as reflected in Russian proverbs; New Year's Eve visiting customs on the western isles of Scotland; current Christmas mumming traditions in Labrador, Canada; Midsummer celebrations in Denmark; and charms connected to the ritual year in Sweden. With 65 participants and 42 papers within the course of five days, the conference offered time for comments and questions for each presenter, as well as opportunities for international scholars to become acquainted. “The Ritual Year” was timed to coincide with Easter week, and the participants were grateful to the conference director, Dr. George Mifsud-Chircop of the University of Malta, and his organizing committee for arranging transportation to Hal Gharghur for a locally produced passion play and traditional processions on March 20th. Also, conference participants who stayed in Malta for Easter weekend were able to observe Good Friday evening and Easter morning processions. In the middle of the week, all conference participants went on guided tours of the Hal Safflieni Hypogeum, a multi-chambered underground temple dating back to 4000 B.C.; and huge above-ground stone temples, Mnajdra, Haġar Qim, and Tarxien, also from the same period.

With pre-historical, historical, and present indicators of customary practices surrounding us for nearly a week, all of us who participated in “The Ritual Year” went back to our countries and institutions fortified with new knowledge, new insights, and business cards from new folklore colleagues—always a bonus of a successful conference. The SIEF Ritual Year Working Group is planning a second international conference for June 7-11, 2006, in Göteborg/Gothenburg, Sweden. For more details, visit www.ritualyear.com.

American Folk Art Museum's Library Catalog Now Available Online

The American Folk Art Museum's Shirley K. Schlafer Library has completed the conversion of its card catalog to an online database and is now available for searching via the museum's website (www.folkartmuseum.org; the Library page can be accessed under "Information").

More than 9,000 records representing the entire book collection—including all cataloged books, periodicals, pamphlets, videotapes and DVDs— have been converted from the old card catalog and loaded into an Internet-accessible database using Caspr Library Systems' LibraryCom service. All records can be searched by author, title, and subject, with advanced features for combining multiple fields.

This project is the second major step in the American Folk Art Museum's plan to upgrade its library facilities and services. Announcements of additional software enhancements and digital imaging initiatives will follow. For more information contact the librarian, James Mitchell, phone 212/265-1040, ext. 110; e-mail jmitchell@folkartmuseum.org. For press information, please contact Susan Flamm, phone 212/265-1040, ext. 113; e-mail sflamm@folkartmuseum.org.

De Caro Seeks Folklorists' Creative Writing Submissions

Folklorist Frank de Caro of New Orleans invites submissions for a projected book-length collection of "creative writing" (fiction, poetry, literary non-fiction) by folklorists. His preference is for writing that stems from being a folklorist or which is otherwise related to folklore interests and connections. You may submit both unpublished and previously-published materials. Send submissions and inquiries to Frank de Caro, 2848 Camp Street, New Orleans LA 70115; inquiries only to fdecaro@lsu.edu. The proposed deadline for final submissions is *April 1, 2006*, but please send information about possible submissions as soon as possible.

National Endowment for the Humanities Offers 2006 Summer Stipends

The National Endowment for the Humanities will be offering summer research stipends for 2006. The program supports two full-time months of full-time research on a project in the humanities. The award is \$5,000 and the nationwide campaign has an *October 15, 2005* deadline. (NEH received 870 applications last year and made 115 awards for 2005 summer research.)

Although regular faculty members of colleges and universities must be nominated by their institutions for these stipends, and each institution may nominate a maximum of two applicants, independent scholars and adjunct or part-time faculty may apply for these stipends without nomination. Applications are submitted online through the NEH web site. For information, please go to www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/stipends.html, where you will also find a list of 2005 awards.

National Humanities Center Offers 2006-2007 Fellowships

The National Humanities Center offers 40 residential fellowships for advanced study in the humanities during the academic year, September 2006 through May 2007. Applicants must hold doctorate or have equivalent scholarly credentials, and a record of publication is expected. Senior and younger scholars are eligible, though the latter should be engaged in research beyond the revision of a doctoral dissertation. Scholars from any nation may apply. In addition to scholars from all fields of the humanities, the Center accepts individuals from the natural and social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life who are engaged in humanistic projects. Fellowships up to

\$50,000 are individually determined, the amount depending upon the needs of the Fellow and the Center's ability to meet them. The Center provides travel expenses for Fellows and their dependents to and from North Carolina.

Applicants submit the Center's form supported by a *curriculum vitae*, a 1000-word project proposal, and three letters of recommendation. You may request application material from Fellowship Program, National Humanities Center, Post Office Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2256, or obtain the form and instructions from the Center's website. Applications and letters of recommendation must be postmarked by October 15, 2005. For more information, visit www.nhc.rtp.nc.us or e-mail hc@ga.unc.edu

Meeting News

The School of Welsh at Cardiff University will host a conference on "Folklore and Identity in Celtic Cultures" at the University on *July 20-23, 2005*. Keynote speakers will be Diane Goldstein (Memorial University, Newfoundland), Patricia Lysaght, (University College Dublin) and Sioned Davies (Cardiff University), and there will be presentations and sessions on a variety of topics within the theme. The official languages of the conference will be Welsh and English, and simultaneous translation will be provided from Welsh to English.

The School of Welsh at Cardiff University is a leading center for folk studies. It offers an MA in Welsh Ethnological Studies in collaboration with the Museum of Welsh Life in St. Fagans, the first national folklore museum in Britain. Delegates will have an opportunity to visit St. Fagans during the conference. The registration fee is £75, £40 (concession), £20 (1 day).

To register, contact the School of Welsh (cymraeg@caerdydd.ac.uk) or the Celtic Folk Studies Conference, School of Welsh, Cardiff University, Humanities Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EU, Wales, United Kingdom; telephone +44 29 20874843; or for information, visit www.caerdydd.ac.uk/cymraeg.

The 2005 annual meeting of the Hoosier Folklore Society will be held on *November 10 and 11* on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Several invited folklorists will be speaking on the topic of men and masculinity in folklore, to coincide with the publication of a book on this topic, edited by Simon Bronner (Indiana University Press). There is space for a few more papers. Interested presenters should send a brief abstract to Nan McEntire at Indiana State University (ejmcent@isugw.indstate.edu) no later than *August 15, 2005*.

AFS Datebook

2005

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| June 17 | Deadline for applications, University of Ulster Ethnology and Folk Life Research Studentship (see story, p. 3) |
| July 20-23 | Folklore and Identity in Celtic Cultures Conference, Cardiff, Wales (see story, p. 6) |
| August 1 | Deadline for nominations, AFS 2005 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (see story, p. 2) |

2005 (continued)

- August 3-10 International Council for Traditional Music 38th World Conference, Sheffield, UK (see www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/ICTM/2005uk/homepage.html for details)
- August 31 Deadline for nominations, AFS 2005 Américo Paredes Prize (see story, p. 3)
- September 8-10 Bluegrass Music Conference, Bowling Green, Kentucky (see February 2005 *AFSN*, p. 15)
- September 20-23 Charms, Charmers, and Charming Conference, London, England (see April 2005 *AFSN*, p. 7)
- October 15 Deadline for National Endowment for the Humanities 2006 Summer Stipends and National Humanities Center 2006-2007 Fellowship Applications (see stories, p. 5)
- October 19-23 AFS 2005 Annual Meeting, Renaissance Atlanta Downtown Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia (see February 2005 *AFSN*, pp. 2-13, and www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm)
- November 10-11 Hoosier Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Terre Haute, IN (see story, p. 6)
- November 16-20 Society for Ethnomusicology 2005 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia (see February 2005 *AFSN*, p. 16)

2006

- June 7-11 SIEF Working Group on The Ritual Year 2nd International Conference, Göteborg/Gothenburg, Sweden (see story, p. 4)
- July 20-23 International Society for Oral Literature in Africa 6th Conference, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (see April 2005 *AFSN*, p. 3 and p. 7)
- October 18-22 AFS 2006 Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

--Please see the next page for special AFS 2005 Annual Meeting Notices--

AFS 2005 Annual Meeting Notices

The preliminary program schedule for the AFS 2005 Annual Meeting (Atlanta, October 19-23) will be available on www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm on July 5. We will make every effort to make the schedule changes you request, or the corrections you note, before July 19, but no changes to the text of the official program book will be possible after July 19.

The August issue of the *American Folklore Society News* will contain information on tours and special events for the meeting, including the Wednesday, October 19, "Pottery Traditions of North Georgia" and "Atlanta's Civil Rights Trail" pre-meeting tours, and the special Saturday night, October 22, concert of NEA National Heritage Fellows from the southeastern US. The deadline for online registration for these events will be *August 31*. Hotel reservation forms for the Renaissance Atlanta Downtown Hotel will also be available in the August *AFS News* and on the web site as of August 1.

The deadline for advance registration for the meeting, which must be done online (www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/nextAMreg.cfm), is also *August 31*. You may register on site at the meeting in October, but on-site registration requires the payment of higher fees.

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