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What Are You Reading?

The newsletter you hold before you represents an extension of Canada's longest running bilingual folklore journal, *Culture & Tradition*. Spurred by an apparent lack of communication amongst students of folklore and practising professionals in Canada, it is hoped this newsletter will serve as a means of communication for those interested or involved in Canadian folklore studies. While Memorial graduates willingly accept responsibility for the publication of *Culture & Tradition*, they recognize the need to hear from other voices regarding research and interests in other areas of Canada. They recognize too that perhaps with changing times there is a need for students and folklore professionals to have other, perhaps less formal, spheres in which to communicate, contribute, and otherwise interact.

Culture & Tradition has provided a national scholarly forum for students to present papers, in many cases their first ever published pieces. Unfortunately, contributions to the journal have tended to originate primarily from the institutions responsible for the publication of the journal, Memorial University of Newfoundland and l'Universite Laval de Quebec. As such, we hope that TRANSMISSION will not only broaden the base from which the journal can draw upon, but that it will also fulfil a need.

Following in the footsteps of *Culture & Tradition*, TRANSMISSION will deal with items of relevance to those studying Canadian folklore. Topics generally covered by the journal have included the traditional arts, music, cuisine, architecture, beliefs, cultural psychology, and the sociological structure of regional ethnic, religious, and industrial groups. The newsletter will include short papers relating to these and other areas of interest. As well, it will feature abstracts from students and professionals pertaining to their own research interests and initiatives. Other features may include funding notices, reviews, conference notes, and other items of general folkloric interest. As we become more aware of what readers want to see and what is happening in the rest of Canada, the newsletter will evolve and change to better reflect what is going on in Canadian folklore studies. Unfortunately, Laval's recent withdrawal from the production of *Culture & Tradition* has left the journal, as well as this newsletter, without a means of maintaining a consistent bilingual content.

However, one of our goals for both the journal and the newsletter is to present to readers the choice of being able to read either publication in French or English. Whether this is achieved through a computer language translation program or with the aid of a fluent French speaking associate, we do not know. But, we are working on a solution.

TRANSMISSION

As we all know, the study of folklore in Canada suffers a variety of ills, the greatest of which have been incurred by geographic, linguistic, and economic constraints. It is our hope that this newsletter can act as a much needed link between folklorists in Canada, at the very least overcoming some of the problems of geographic disparity. So, have a look. Let us know what you think. And, most of all, please contribute.

-Chris Lewis, MUN

Culture & Tradition Goes To Montreal: A Report on C & T's Panel at FSAC

Culture & Tradition, the publication owned and operated by Folklore graduate students at Memorial and Laval since 1977, has recently been experiencing problems. We suspect that due to lack of interest and difficulties in communication, editorship has reverted solely to MUN. While Memorial students are willing to accept responsibility, they perceive this change as broadening the communication gap for graduate students and Canadian Folkloristics, as a whole.

Traditionally, Laval and Memorial have supported this journal and, thus, have played a pivotal role in providing a much needed forum for student publication. But given the number of folklore studies programs offered in other institutions across the country, perhaps students need other communication opportunities. There are other student voices across Canada. Where are the Canadian students of folkloristics (outside of MUN and Laval) and what are they studying? Beyond such opportunities for publication, perhaps the time has come for students to have a forum to discuss issues pertinent to their needs such as the job market within Canada. Can we use new technology to improve communication amongst graduate students? Can we overcome language barriers imposed by these new technologies? Could we

benefit from a graduate student conference? The main purpose of this forum is to gain a fresh student perspective on these issues.

We see this as being an open panel discussion, offering debate and focusing on student concerns. We hope to create a panel with student representation from across the country. Suggestions brought up will be used to formulate an action plan for responding to and providing a voice for student concerns.

Panel discussants will present papers focusing on ways in which communication across Canada might be more easily achieved. Current discussants include Christina Barr, Mikel Koven, and Rachel Gholson.

-Rachel Gholson, MUN

Hi-Tech Folkloristics

Culture & Tradition has gone hi-tech, and the time is now right to introduce our brand new Home Page. This facility has several functions: (1) to serve as an immediate method of distributing information about *Culture & Tradition*, i.e. calls for papers, publication announcements, etc.; (2) as a site for access to the most recent *Culture & Tradition* newsletter, TRANSMISSION, and as an archive for past issues of TRANSMISSION; (3) as a forum for sharing information about graduate studies in folklore in Canada; (4) and as a connection to other WWW sites which may be of interest to graduate students in folklore, such as the Acadian Archives/archives acadiennes, the American Folklife Center, and the Harvard University Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology.

As this site is new, we are always open to suggestions as to how the service can be expanded. Currently, the site offers a call for papers, a contents list of *Culture & Tradition* by volume, an archive for TRANSMISSION, and a brief survey for Canadian folklorists (after com-

pletion, we will archive the results of this survey on site).

The site can be accessed by the following address:

<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~mkoven>. Log-on and then tell us what you think. Comments, suggestions, questions, abstracts, or submissions for TRANSMISSION can be e-mailed either to culture@kean.ucs.mun.ca or mkoven@morgan.ucs.mun.ca. As always, our snail-mail address is Culture & Tradition; Box 115; Arts and Administration Building; Memorial University of Newfoundland; St. John's, Newfoundland; A1C 5S7.

-Mikel Koven, MUN

Call For Papers

The next volume of *Culture & Tradition* will be going to press shortly. We are therefore putting out a call for papers. The deadline for papers is July 1, 1995. These should be scholarly articles of ten to twenty typed, double-spaced pages, and may be accompanied by photographs or drawings.

Abstracts may be e-mailed to culture@kean.ucs.mun.ca. Three copies of your manuscript should be sent to Culture & Tradition; Box 115; Arts and Administration Building; Memorial University of Newfoundland; St. John's, Newfoundland; A1C 5S7.

Abstracts of Current Research

[The publication of abstracts will be an ongoing feature of TRANSMISSION. So please send us YOUR abstract for publication.]

"Off-Roaders: A Discussion of the Cohesion of Western Folk Groups"

by J. David Neal, MUN

The "hard-core" off-road community is maintained and built through their

mythic view of the West, their festivals, and their unique usage of language. Adhering to these aspects of the group signals membership within the community. The importance of this study lies in the fact that these precepts can be applied to other Western communities. Many groups - like the off-roaders - utilize world-view, festivals, and language usage to give shape to their group. By studying specific groups through the lenses of folkloric theory, students can learn general principles which may be applied to many groups. The outcome of such research is an increased understanding of our Western culture.

"Historic Moravian Architecture in Labrador"

by Dale Gilbert Jarvis, MUN

In July and August of this year, I will be conducting field research on historic Moravian church mission buildings in communities, some of them abandoned, along the northern coast of Labrador. This research is in part funded by the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the Northern Scientific Training Programme, and the Mary A. Griffiths Bursary for Folklore Field Research. By far the most important aspect of this field work are the buildings at Hebron and Hopedale. Buildings, where they exist, will be photographed and mapped out, and where buildings no longer exist, the remaining foundations (such as those at Okak) will be mapped out, and model floor-plans constructed.

The history of Moravian settlement and activity in Labrador is an extremely long one, and is an important part of the cultural heritage of Labrador. The first Moravian missionaries visited Labrador in 1752, and their first school was established in Nain in 1791. The construction of the great building in Hebron was started in 1831, and finished in 1838. Work was undertaken at Hopedale in 1782, and again in 1865. In many instances, buildings were prefabricated in Europe, shipped to Labrador in pieces, and reassembled. In both

Hopedale and Hebron, some of these buildings still survive, but although they have been declared historical sites, little research has been done to fully explain their importance.

The architectural design of the buildings in Hopedale and Hebron are remarkably different from those of the early English and French colonial buildings, and are unique in Canada. Much of the early Moravian architecture in Labrador has already been lost, such as the structures at Nain, Okak, Ramah, Zoar, and Port Burwell. My work is intended to supplement the conservation work being done further south, in Hopedale, where the church has had architectural preservation work done as recently as last summer. My goal is to increase what is known about these edifices, and the important place they hold in the cultural mosaic and heritage of Northern and Atlantic Canada. The research project will explore the social, cultural, and religious heritage of one group of early European settlers in northern coastal Labrador, and, ultimately, will study what these Moravian buildings say about the Moravians themselves.

"Schindler's List as Jewish Rite"

by Mikel Koven, MUN

[The following paper was presented on a special panel devoted to Steven Spielberg's 1993 film, *Schindler's List*. The panel was co-presented by FSAC at the 1995 Learned Conference in Montreal on June 3, 1995]

This paper will attempt to demonstrate that Steven Spielberg's 1993 film, *Schindler's List*, functions ritually to validate the persistence of Jewish culture and belief by the retelling of the Nazi Holocaust and the Jewish survival thereof. Within the Jewish tradition there exists a story-telling tradition which is directly linked to the self-validation of the faith. The sub-genre of the "Holocaust Film", to which I would argue Spielberg's film belongs, functions as a reminder of both the Nazi atrocities in general, and the survival of the Jewish people (by virtue of their living long enough to watch

Spielberg's film) more specifically, in this way. *Schindler's List* is part of a whole series of Holocaust-themed films, all of which function both as reminders of what the Jews suffered at the Nazi's hands, and as a validation of the Jewish faith and culture. The paper falls into three parts: the tradition of story telling in the Jewish calendar as cultural validation; the Holocaust film as sub-genre and its relationship to the validation of Jewish culture; and *Schindler's List* as the prime example. In this way, not only do I hope to demonstrate my reading of *Schindler's List* as ritual, but also hope to help demonstrate, in part, how folkloristics can approach cinema.

Next Issue Out

October 1995.

Submissions for next issue should be sent by September 15, 1995.

E-mail us:

culture@kean.ucs.mun.ca

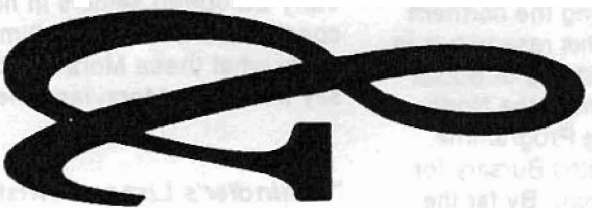
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CULTURE

Culture & Tradition is published annually with the cooperation of the Folklore Students Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland and the students of Ethnologie du Québec et des Francophones d'Amérique du Nord de l'Université Laval à Québec. Annual subscription fee is \$8.00 (\$15.00 institutional). Editors welcome manuscripts on any subject of interest to folklorists, such as traditional arts, music, foodways, architecture, beliefs, oral literature, cultural psychology, and sociological structure of regional ethnic, religious, and industrial groups in Canada. Studies based on original fieldwork in Eastern Canada and reviews of relevant books, films, or recordings are appropriate to the journal's focus. Scholarly articles (submitted where possible on IBM or Macintosh diskette) should be 10-20 typed, double-spaced pages and may be accompanied by photographs or drawings. Correspondence may be sent to *Culture & Tradition*, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Box 115, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7.



TRADITION

La revue *Culture & Tradition* est publiée une fois l'an par des étudiants en Ethnologie du Québec et des Francophones d'Amérique du Nord de l'Université Laval à Québec et par l'Association des étudiants en Folklore de l'Université Memorial de Terre-Neuve. L'abonnement annuel est de 8,00 \$ (15,00 \$ institutionnel). Le Comité de rédaction acceptera les articles traitant d'ethnologie ou de folklore portant sur des sujets aussi variés que l'art populaire, la musique, l'alimentation, l'architecture, la littérature orale, les coutumes et la structure sociale des groupes régionaux, ethniques et religieux du Canada. Les comptes rendus de livres, disques et films dans les mêmes champs d'intérêt seront également bien accueillis. Les textes sur disquette (IBM, Macintosh) et sur papier en un (1) exemplaire seront de dix à vingt pages dactylographiés à un interligne et demi. Ils doivent être d'un bon niveau scientifique et peuvent être illustrés de dessins ou de photographies. Adresser toute correspondance à *Culture & Tradition*, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7.

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