

## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

Thirty years ago, on 27 August 1981, the International Folk Music Council became the International Council for Traditional Music. The twenty-sixth conference of the IFMC, held in Seoul, was simultaneously the first of the ICTM (although no one today counts them separately). Poul Rovsing Olsen was the Council's president; Dieter Christensen was Secretary General. In the same year, the first *Yearbook for Traditional Music* appeared, but continued the volume numbering of its predecessor, the *Yearbook of the International Folk Music Council*. Normal McLeod edited both the last *YIFMC* and the first *YTM*; there was never a *YICTM* (if it were ever to be pronounced, a rather unattractive acronym).

Presumably such changes were undertaken after serious deliberations among Board members, if not with the general membership. During an informal discussion among today's Board members, it was suggested that perhaps it is time for an ethnography of those events. Participants in these changes could be asked to reminisce; documents in the ICTM archive at the National Library of Australia (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.ms-ms10017>) could be consulted, etc. Are ICTM members interested in these events? What can you contribute to such a project?

The 2011 *Yearbook for Traditional Music* was an open one, not tied to any theme or conference. The result is a diverse mix of subjects, highly representative of the present-day concerns of our disciplines.

The "Information for Authors" (p. v) notes that essays offered for possible publication should not have been previously published. We generally strictly adhere to this principle, but have broken it in the case of the present issue where we publish an English translation of an article by Gilbert Rouget, which originally appeared in French. When the translator approached us about the possibility of publishing it, the Secretary General and I decided that it would only be possible if it were subjected to anonymous peer review, just like all submissions to the *Yearbook*; furthermore, the reviewers had to agree that the translation was well done and that the article itself was an exceptional contribution which should be translated to reach a larger audience who does not read French. The article appears in this issue precisely because the reviewers felt that it met these requirements.

Nevertheless, a translation creates special challenges for publication. Revisions are really only practical for issues of translation, not concerning the content of the original. Other journals have different layout concerns or bibliographic styles and guidelines; I have tried for consistency with *Yearbook* practice, but some minor differences remain.

While the *Yearbook* will continue to focus on the publication of previously unpublished materials, the publication here does at least establish the possibility for publishing further translations of important articles. I look forward to your thoughts about this subject.

Once again, I have been honoured to be a visiting fellow in the Department of Anthropology, School of Culture, History, and Language, of the Australian National University. The work of editing the *Yearbook* continues to benefit from the access to wonderful electronic resources coming as a result of this attachment.

With this issue, Sydney Hutchinson, Byron Dueck, and Barbara Alge have begun their work as reviews editors for books, audio, and websites, respectively, while Lisa Urkevich continues as film/video reviews editor. Sincere appreciation is extended to all authors, referees, reviewers, publishers, and individuals who have recommended items for review. Everyone's cooperation is necessary to bring about such a publication. For this issue, I also appreciate the keen editorial eye of Dorothy Hall; the sound advice of Zdravko Blažeković; the significant efforts of Kristin Harris Walsh and Adam Becker to meet a revised deadline; and the key assistance of Trần Quang Hải in helping make publication in the present form possible.

Since my first issue as general editor in 2006 until the 2010 issue, the printing and distribution of the *Yearbook* has been overseen in Canberra by the executive assistant, Lee Anne Proberts. I very much valued Lee Anne's efforts throughout the whole process of bringing the *Yearbook* to you. All of us wish her the very best in all her future activities.

During the preparation of this issue, the Secretariat moved from Canberra to Ljubljana, where Carlos Yoder is now executive assistant. From the very beginning, he was interested to learn about the production of the *Yearbook* and the task ahead of him. He is now part of the group working together to try to ensure the best possible content, presentation, and distribution of our journal.

As always, all of us involved in the production of the *Yearbook* welcome your comments about it.

**DON NILES**