

American Folklore Society

2011 Annual Report



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The Year's Highlights

Membership

As of August 31, 2011, AFS membership was up 7% from five years ago. Student membership was up 45% from five years ago.

We received 410 responses to our 2011 member survey, up 33% from the number of 2006 responses and up 60% from those of 2002. We'll be reporting on those responses in early 2012.

Meetings

The 2011 annual meeting in Bloomington was one of the largest ever, with 753 registrants, including a record number of international participants.

The sites for the next three AFS annual meetings are New Orleans (October 2012), Providence (October 2013), and Santa Fe (November 2014).

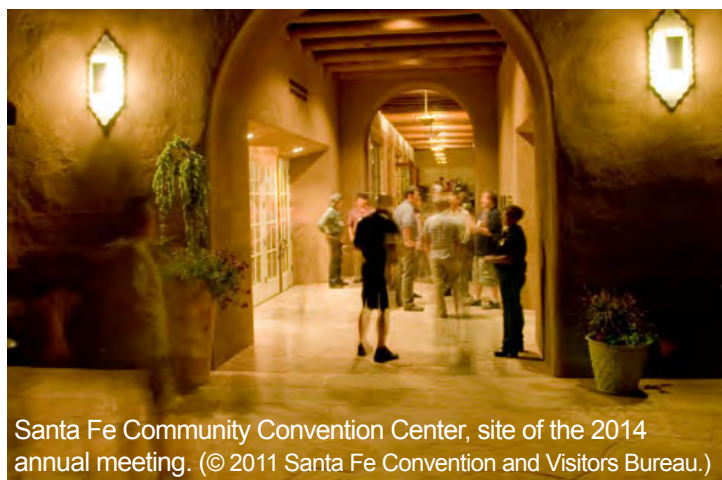
Bylaws

In June 2011, the membership approved a proposal by the Executive Board to amend the AFS Bylaws to create a permanent Cultural Diversity Committee to replace the ad hoc Cultural Diversity Task Force that the Society had maintained for a number of years.

Communications

Journal of American Folklore editors Thomas DuBois and James P. Leary successfully petitioned the AFS Executive Board to approve the creation of a *JAF* multimedia site, onto which authors can publish audio and visual materials to supplement and evidence their *JAF*-published work. This site will debut in spring 2012.

The AFS Executive Board approved a change in the author deposit policy for *Journal of American Folklore* authors that will make *JAF* materials more widely accessible and will encourage academic folklorists' use of their home universities' institutional repositories.



Santa Fe Community Convention Center, site of the 2014 annual meeting. (© 2011 Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau.)



The historic Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, site of the 2012 annual meeting. (© 2012 Oyster.com.)

The AFS-Indiana University Libraries **Open Folklore** team received an Outstanding Collaboration Citation from the American Library Association in June.

Late in the year, the AFS staff completed a design update for the **AFS website**.

Special Projects

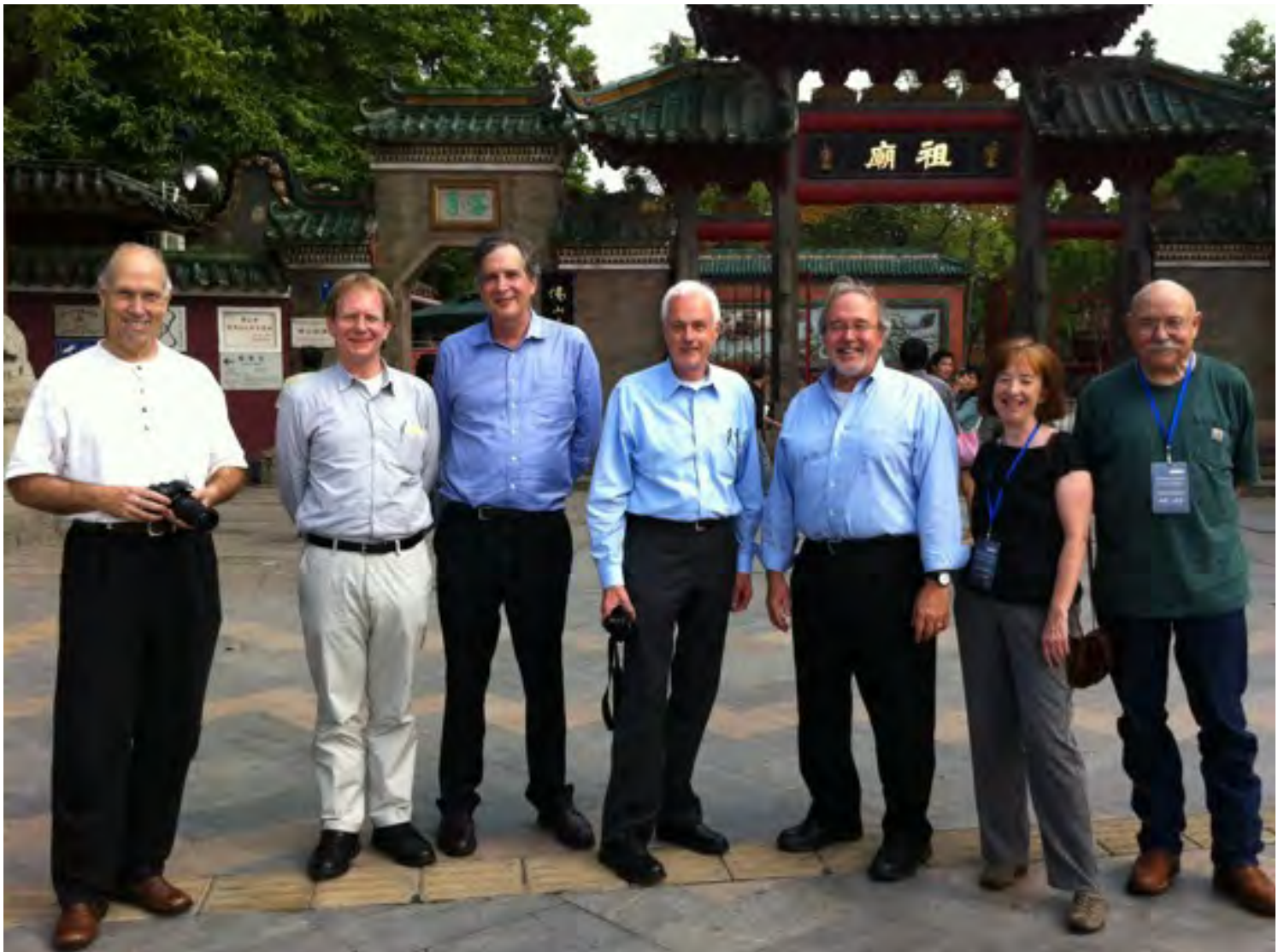
During 2011, AFS received the following grants and contracts for special projects to benefit the field:

From the National Endowment for the Humanities for the design and testing phase of the new **National Folklore Archives Initiative**, a project AFS is undertaking in collaboration with academic, governmental, and public folklore organizations across the country.

From the Henry Luce Foundation for the first two years of the **China-US Forum on Intangible Cultural Heritage**, to produce four conferences comparing US and Chinese ICH policies, and a series of professional development exchanges for younger academic, public, and independent folklorists from the two countries.

From the National Endowment for the Arts for the third and fourth years of the **AFS Consultancy and Professional Development Program**. Reports from consultancies and professional development experiences carried out in this program are available on the AFS website.

From the American Folklife Center's **Veterans History Project** for the tenth year of an AFS-managed national program of community-based workshops about collecting oral histories from military veterans.



US participants in the first China-US Cultural Policy Conference (L to R): Willie Smyth, Ted Fischer, Robert Baron, William Ivey, Timothy Lloyd, Michael Ann Williams, and Charles H. Seemann. Not pictured: Daniel Sheehy.

AFS is also continuing work on a fourth two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a scholarly edition of the **James Madison Carpenter Collection**, a major collection documenting folksong, folk drama, folk music, and customs in the United Kingdom (and, to a lesser extent, the US) in the late 1920s and 1930s.



The Carpenter Collection team at work at the University of Aberdeen (L to R): Robert Y. Walser, David Atkinson, Julia Bishop, Thomas McKean, Eddie Cass, and Elaine Bradtke.

Folklore and Public Policy

In 2011, AFS began supporting the activities of a working group on **folklore and historic preservation policy**. In 2012, this working group will undertake a number of efforts intended to provide meaningful opportunities for folklorists to join current dialogues about historic preservation policies of the future.

2011 Election

The following AFS members were elected to office in the 2011 AFS election:

Executive Board

(for a three-year 2012-14 term)

David Todd Lawrence, University of St. Thomas,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Solimar Otero, Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Juwen Zhang, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon

Nominating Committee

(for a three-year 2012-14 term)

Sally Van de Water, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation,
Baltimore, Maryland

The number of members casting votes rose from 210 in the last non-presidential election in 2009 to 262 in 2011—a 25% increase.

Prize Recipients

AFS awarded the following honors in 2011:

The **Kenneth S. Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership** to Barre Toelken, Utah State University, emeritus.

The **Chicago Folklore Prize** (for the year's best book) to Amira Mittermaier, University of Toronto, for *Dreams That Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination* (University of California Press).

The **Benjamin A. Botkin Prize** (for achievement in public folklore to Peggy A. Bulger, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, and Amy E. Skillman, Independent, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

The **Zora Neale Hurston Prize** (for the best student work on African or African diaspora folklore) to Vincent Joos, University of North Carolina, for the paper "The Natchez Fire: A Profile of African American Remembrance in a Small Mississippi Town."

The **Américo Paredes Prize** (for achievement in the study of one's own culture or encouraging such study) to Olga Nájera-Ramírez, University of California, Santa Cruz.

International Engagements



Membership

Scholars from outside the US total about 15% of the AFS membership.

Six AFS interest-group sections (African Folklore, British Folk Studies, Eastern Asia Folklife, Mediterranean Studies, Nordic-Baltic Folklore, Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies) focus on international area studies. AFS's other 24 sections all include international dimensions in their work.

Communications

From 2001 to 2011, international scholars authored 32 (15%) of the 212 articles and substantial notes published in the *Journal of American Folklore*.

93 (49%) of the 191 articles appearing in the *JAF* between 2001 and 2011 examined traditional cultural activities outside the US. Of the slightly more than 8,000 libraries and other institutions worldwide that subscribe to the *JAF* in hard copy or online, just over 4,000 are outside the US.

Since 2008, AFS has partnered with the Folklore Studies Association of Canada/Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore, the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, The Folklore Society (UK), the National Folklore Support Centre (India), and the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore (the Netherlands) on the management and editing of the H-Folk Listserv for International Folklore Scholarship.

AFS is planning an effort, led by incoming President Diane Goldstein, to provide hard-copy and online access to scholarly books and journals in our field for scholars and institutions worldwide that presently lack the technological or financial resources to gain that access on their own.

Detail of a Zen Buddhist temple in Kunming, China.

Annual Meetings

Scholars from outside the US deliver approximately 1 in 6 (17%) of the 500 presentations delivered each year at our annual meeting.

In the last 10 years, AFS has provided financial support for more than 60 international scholars from 24 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and South America to participate in our meeting.

AFS held a joint annual meeting in Québec in 2007 with the Folklore Studies Association of Canada/ Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore.

We are discussing a possible 2016 joint annual meeting in the eastern US with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research.

Partnerships

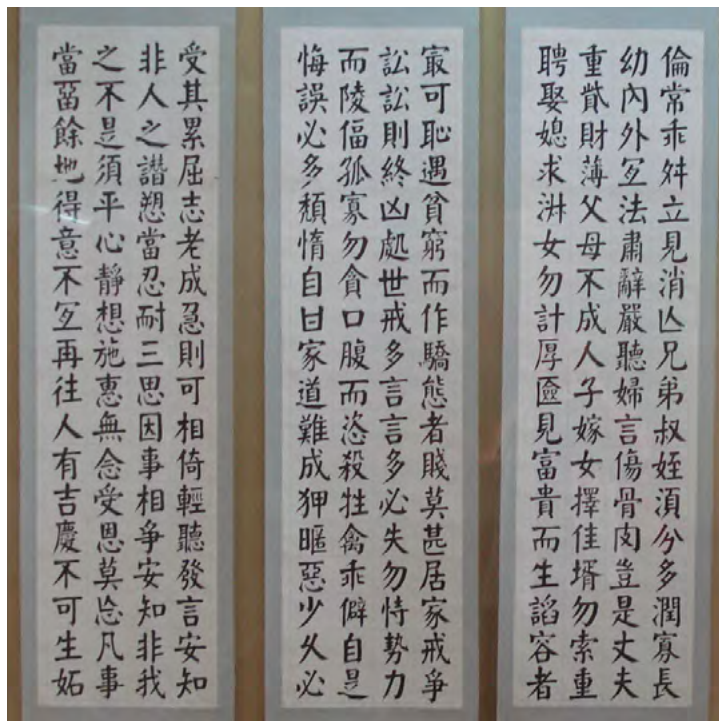
Since 2002, AFS has been recognized as an accredited non-governmental organization member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In 2010, AFS was accepted as a non-governmental organization member of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In 2011, AFS received a major grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to lead the first phase of a multiple-year partnership (involving conferences and professional exchanges) that brings together AFS, the China Folklore Society, five universities and museums in China, and four universities and museums in the US.

In 2011, AFS signed memoranda of agreement with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia de Mexico and the Folklore Society of Japan, indicating our mutual interests in pursuing opportunities for cooperative activities.

Top and Center: Calligraphy and traditional clothing on display at the Yunnan Nationalities Museum in Kunming, China. Bottom: AFS President C. Kurt Dewhurst with Suga Yutaka, representing the President of the Folklore Society of Japan, at the signing of the AFS-FSJ memorandum of agreement in Bloomington, IN.



Publications and Communications

The Society's active and growing publications and communications program now comprises ten elements, made possible by fruitful AFS partnerships with other organizations:

1. The *Journal of American Folklore*, currently in its 124th year as part of the core canon of our field, edited by Thomas DuBois and James P. Leary of the University of Wisconsin, published for AFS by the University of Illinois Press, and distributed in hard copy and online by the Press, JSTOR, and Project MUSE.
2. A *JAF* multimedia site, onto which authors can publish audio and visual materials to supplement and evidence their *JAF*-published work, which the *JAF* editors and the Press are now populating with content for a spring 2012 debut.
3. The AFS website, AFSnet.org, edited by Lorraine Walsh Cashman, which provides information about the Society and field and many information services—including job notices, a calendar of events in the field, and discussion forums—to members, and which is the home for periodic email communications from the Society to its members.
4. Embedded in the website, the online publication the *AFS Review*, edited by John Laudun of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, which contains announcements, news, essays, and opinion pieces.
5. The *AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus*, an open-access online controlled vocabulary tool for the description of ethnographic research and collections, edited by a committee based at the American Folklife Center and maintained by the Indiana University Library's Digital Library Program.
6. The *Open Folklore* web portal to a variety of useful resources for folklore studies—including many books, websites, an increasing number of folklore journals, and a wealth of “gray (unpublished) literature”—maintained by an AFS partnership with the Indiana University Libraries and its Digital Library Program.
7. The publications of seven of the Society's sections: *Children's Folklore Review*, *Digest*, *The Folklore and Education Section Newsletter*, *The Folklore Historian*, *Jewish Cultural Studies*, *New Directions in Folklore*, and the *Public Programs Bulletin*.
8. The folklore volume of the annual *MLA International Bibliography*, the result of a partnership involving AFS, Indiana University's Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, whose graduate students index materials for the volume, and the Modern Language Association, which publishes it.
9. The *H-Folk International Listserv for Folklore Scholarship*, maintained by a partnership of six folklore societies worldwide, including AFS.
10. This annual report.

From the President



In a world that seems to be evolving at an increasing rate, in 2011 the American Folklore Society stayed abreast of the changing landscape for academic societies and non-profit organizations, and forged new initiatives and collaborative partnerships with government agencies, academic programs, scholarly societies, and non-profit organizations that have advanced our field. These partnerships have led to success in securing funding from several foundations and federal agencies. Through this work, AFS, its members, and other institutions in the field are co-creating research, educational, and professional programs that are changing our field and dramatically increasing the visibility and understanding of our work.

AFS has taken formal steps to establish global collaborations with folklore organizations in China, Japan, and Mexico during the past year. There is also a growing and lively discussion within the Society about how to build equitable and sustained relationships

in other parts of the world—in many of which we have had limited formal collaboration— a topic of special importance since our international membership is growing.

With the advent of international treaties and conventions, such as the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, AFS has become deeply involved in intangible and tangible cultural policy and practice: documenting, preserving, and presenting oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festivals, and the knowledge and skills to produce traditional craft. Society leaders and members have played an active role in this dialogue and are shaping the way that intangible and tangible cultural heritage will be protected and sustained in the years ahead.

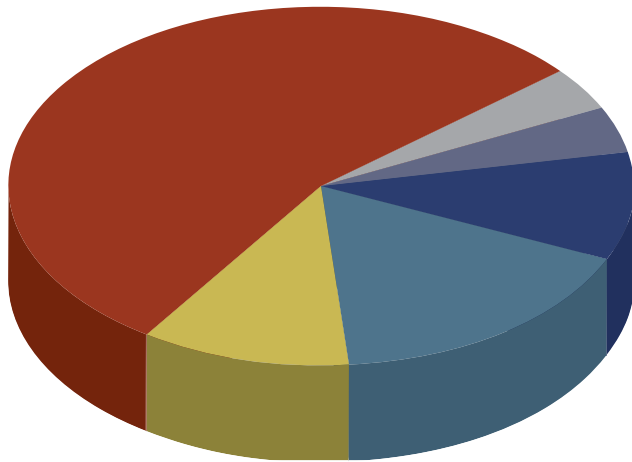
Finally, we have invested in our own future by adding new members (especially a growing number of student members), receiving a record amount and number of contributions to our Sustainers' Fund, and accruing a growing number of planned gifts to build the Society's Endowment Fund. Thanks to the exceptional leadership of our staff and of a dedicated and inspired board, the AFS is in a strong strategic position. It has been an honor to serve as President during the past two years, and I am confident that the Society will grow in exciting and innovative ways in the coming years.

C. Kurt Dewhurst, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "C. Kurt Dewhurst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Financial Report for FY 2011

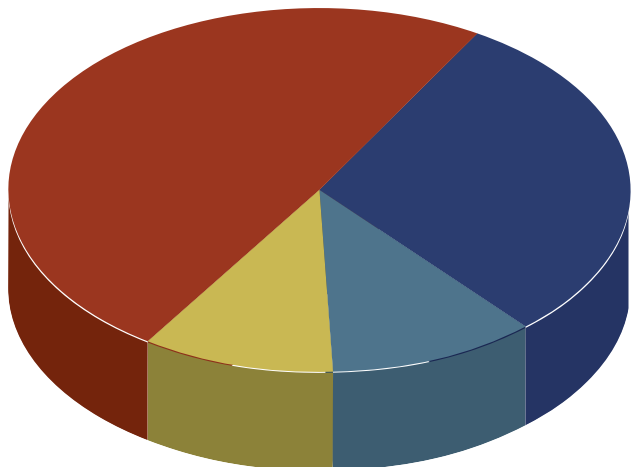
Revenue:



<u>Grants and Contracts</u>	\$400,714	55%
<u>Publications</u>	\$121,372	17%
<u>Annual Meeting (Nashville)</u>	\$78,635	11%
<u>Membership</u>	\$75,320	10%
<u>Investment Income</u>	\$26,714	4%
<u>Other Revenue</u>	\$29,453	4%

Total Revenue: \$732,208

Expenses:



<u>Programs</u>	\$355,066	49%
<u>Management and Administration</u>	\$219,790	30%
<u>Publications</u>	\$76,219	11%
<u>Annual Meeting (Nashville)</u>	\$71,843	10%

Total Expenses: \$722,918

Net Income: \$9,290

* The AFS fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31.

** All figures are unaudited.

Committee Reports

Cultural Diversity Committee

This has been a notable year for this new AFS standing committee. At the April 2012 meeting of the Executive Board of AFS, there was lengthy discussion about the then-named Cultural Diversity Task Force, as a result of which the Executive Board voted unanimously to ask the membership to vote on changing the Bylaws of the Society to transform this ad hoc committee into a standing (i.e., permanent) committee, the Cultural Diversity Committee. The question to change the Bylaws was put to the membership of AFS, and in June 2011, it was announced that the great majority of those voting had voted in the affirmative.

At the Executive Board's meeting in Bloomington, and with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, President Kurt Dewhurst appointed Amy Skillman, Bill Westerman, and me (as chair) to serve on the committee beginning in 2012. 2012 AFS President Diane Goldstein, again working with the Board, will appoint three more members in early 2012. The Board also conducted an in-depth discussion of the initial priorities for the Committee, and voted to approve the following initial charge to the Committee:

The Board initially charges the committee to focus its attention on increasing diverse participation in the Society and field by people of color, with the understanding that this focus may change over time. The Board initially recommends that the committee attend to four areas of action—Society membership, annual meeting, journal, and portals into the field—and to focus first on the annual meeting, with the understanding that this focus may change over time. Based on guidelines provided by the Board, the committee will bring back initial recommendations for action, and a timeline for those actions, to the Board at its April 2012 meeting.

The Committee held its annual open meeting later in the schedule of the Bloomington annual meeting. There were approximately 20 in attendance: one of the larger gatherings in recent years. I provided an overview of

recent developments of the Committee, and then the floor was opened for general discussion. Key points in this discussion were the following: 1) engagement with stakeholders of all levels, both in the discipline and those with whom we work; 2) looking at other disciplines and other organizations that might be a “natural fit” with folklore; 3) understanding the barriers that might hinder our work, including terminology of our discipline and our personal barriers that might limit what we are able to do.

Marilyn M. White, Chair
Kean University, retired

Committee on International Issues

The committee has had a slow year. We awarded stipends to two scholars from abroad to attend the annual meeting in Bloomington: Professor Fekade Azeze of Addis Ababa University and Dr. Ameneh (Saghi) Gazerani of Tehran. The committee will make awards for American members traveling to foreign conferences after our competition closes in December.

We were a bit surprised to receive so few applications this year, the more as both colleagues were already known to us and we could not practice a blind review. There is certainly an argument that the committee, and indeed AFS itself, is so small a group that it is virtually impossible to isolate a selection process for our small stipends.

Therefore we have decided to try to take advantage of whatever prior knowledge of applicants is available, from members of the committee or other AFSers. We urge the membership to be active in referring international scholars to the stipend program, and to remember that they themselves can apply to go abroad. We are particularly eager to build our network in Latin America and Africa. The growing relationship between AFS and Chinese folklorists will doubtless bring us more stipend applications from China, with the usual difficulties of evaluation.

We thank members Maria Teresa Agozzino, Mark Bender, JoAnn Conrad, Merrill Kaplan, Peter Jan Margry, Tok Thompson, and past chairs Timothy Tangherlini and Dorothy Noyes for their devoted service to this committee and to AFS.

Lee Haring, Chair
Brooklyn College, emeritus

Membership Committee

In 2011 the major activity of the Membership Committee (my fellow members were Ray Cashman of The Ohio State University, Tim Evans of Western Kentucky University, Lisa Gabbert of Utah State University, Ruth Olson of the University of Wisconsin, Patricia Sawin of the University of North Carolina, and Dan Wojcik of the University of Oregon) was to help the AFS staff decide upon and articulate the questions for the Society's 2011 member survey. In the end, 410 members responded to the survey, up 33% from the number who responded in 2006 and up 60% from the number who responded in 2002. The staff is now compiling and analyzing the survey results, and will be reporting on them shortly after the beginning of 2012.

Margaret (Peggy) R. Yocom, Chair
George Mason University

Nominating Committee

This year, the committee (on which I was joined by Christina Barr of Nevada Humanities, Amy E. Skillman, independent folklorist and member of the AFS Executive Board, and Stephen D. Winick of the American Folklife Center) nominated six candidates for the Executive Board (one of whom had to withdraw from the election) and two candidates for the Nominating Committee, as follows:

Executive Board:

Nadia De Leon, Western Kentucky University
David Todd Lawrence, University of St. Thomas
Jerrilyn McGregory, Florida State University
Solimar Otero, Louisiana State University
Juwen Zhang, Willamette University

Nominating Committee:

Sally Van de Water, Mid Atlantic Arts Alliance
Patricia Sawin, University of North Carolina

Thank you to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve AFS.

Suzanne K. Seriff, Chair
University of Texas, Austin



New AFS Board members David Todd Lawrence, Juwen Zhang, and Solimar Otero, and Nominating Committee member Sally Van de Water.

Journal of American Folklore

From the Editors

JAF is a quarterly publication. Issues 491-494 contained four addresses, ten articles, four creative writing pieces, and a variety of obituaries and reviews of different sorts. The editors were gratified especially by adding a website review section (see report by Nicole Saylor) and by establishing a section for poetry and short fiction on matters fundamental to the field.

JAF received a total of 40 submitted articles during the calendar year of 2011. Of these, we rejected 20, accepted 8, and still had 12 under review at the end of the year. The *Journal* staff, along with the University of Illinois Press, also developed the framework for an online multimedia site that will debut in the spring issue of 2012 (496).

Our thanks go to the Journals Division at the University of Illinois Press, and to our production editor Heather Munson in particular, for their assistance.

Thomas DuBois and
James P. Leary, Editors
University of Wisconsin

Book Reviews

Between January 1 and November 1, 2011, I took over book review editor duties from Carolyn Ware of Louisiana State University. During this time, I received over 30 new books for review. I also received over 200 books from Carolyn. I submitted 14 complete reviews to the editors of the *Journal*, and 26 book reviews were published. 34 books are currently out for review.

I would like to thank Carolyn Ware as well as previous book reviewer Jill Terry Rudy, the general editors of *JAF*, and all of the reviewers who have completed reviews.

A backlog of books written by folklorists and in need of review continues to exist; I encourage prominent and active members of the field to contribute to the important scholarly task of evaluating research and contributions to knowledge through book reviews. If you are solicited

to write a review, please consider every possibility to agree or be prepared to suggest the name of an even more qualified colleague. If you are interested in titles posted on the website, or in others of significant interest to the field, please contact me.

Gregory Hansen, Editor
Arkansas State University

Exhibit and Event Reviews

The year 2011 was slow for reviews of exhibits and events. One review was published, and one review was submitted. Drafts of two reviews of two installations of one traveling exhibit are due before the year closes. A number of inquiries (by the review editor and by potential reviewers) have been volleyed back and forth, resulting, to date, in little action. I welcome many more suggestions for both potential reviews and reviewers.

Lisa L. Higgins, Editor
Missouri Folk Arts Program

Sound Recordings Reviews

In 2011 the *JAF* sound recording reviews were expanded to include recordings of Native American storytellers and Heritage Tour Guides in addition to more conventional collections of music and song.

Seven recordings were reviewed, edited, and submitted to the *JAF* editorial office. These included:

Newfoundland and Labrador Folklore: A Sampler of Songs, Narrations and Tunes, 2006. Produced by Peter Narváez and MMaP, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's.

Italian Jewish Musical Traditions from the Leo Levi Collection (1954-1961): Anthology of Music Traditions in Israel, 14, 2001. Selections and commentaries by Francesco Spagnolo. Jewish Music Research Centre, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Cascade Loop Heritage Tour – South: Tour Guide, 2010. Directed by Jill Linzee; researched and written by Jill Linzee, Jens Lund, and Kay Norton. Northwest Heritage Resources, Booklet and CDs.

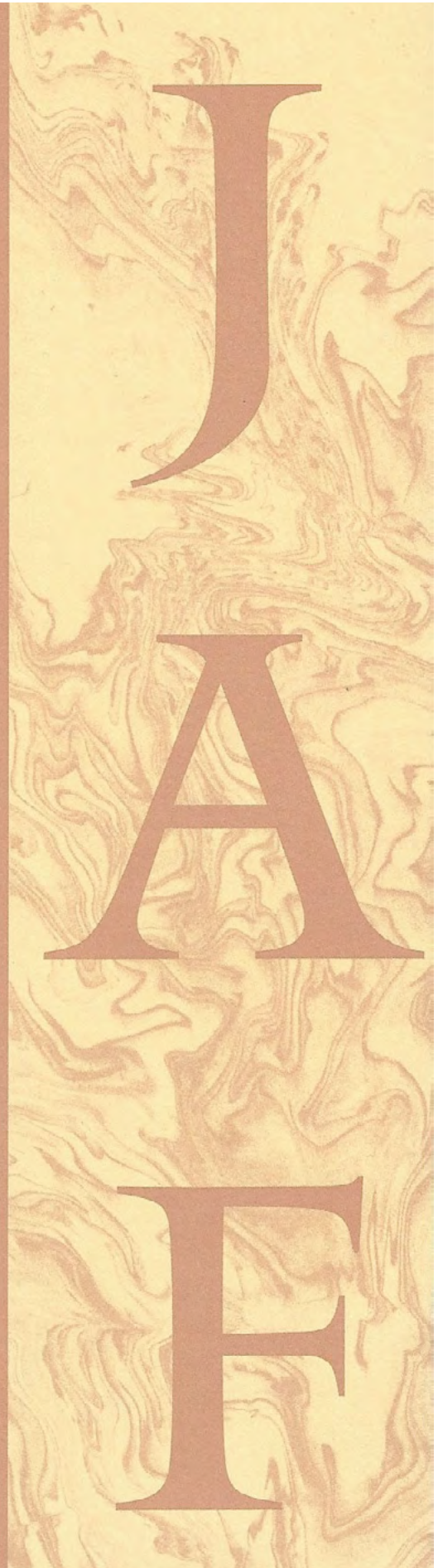
If I Had My Way: Early Home Recordings—Reverend Gary Davis, 2003. Recorded and produced by John Cohen, annotated by John Cohen and Horace Boyer. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

Willie Smyth, Editor
Washington State Arts Commission

Website Reviews

In 2011 I received six web review contributions, of which six were approved for publication. Website reviews, a new feature in *JAF*, focus primarily on the utility of the site for research and teaching. While reviews often talk about the scholarship and how it fits within the standards of the cultures addressed, the reviews must also address issues of navigation and interface design. The review should be up to 1,000 words long, including the title of review, bibliographic information that runs at the top of the review, and the body of the review itself.

Nicole Saylor, Editor
University of Iowa Libraries



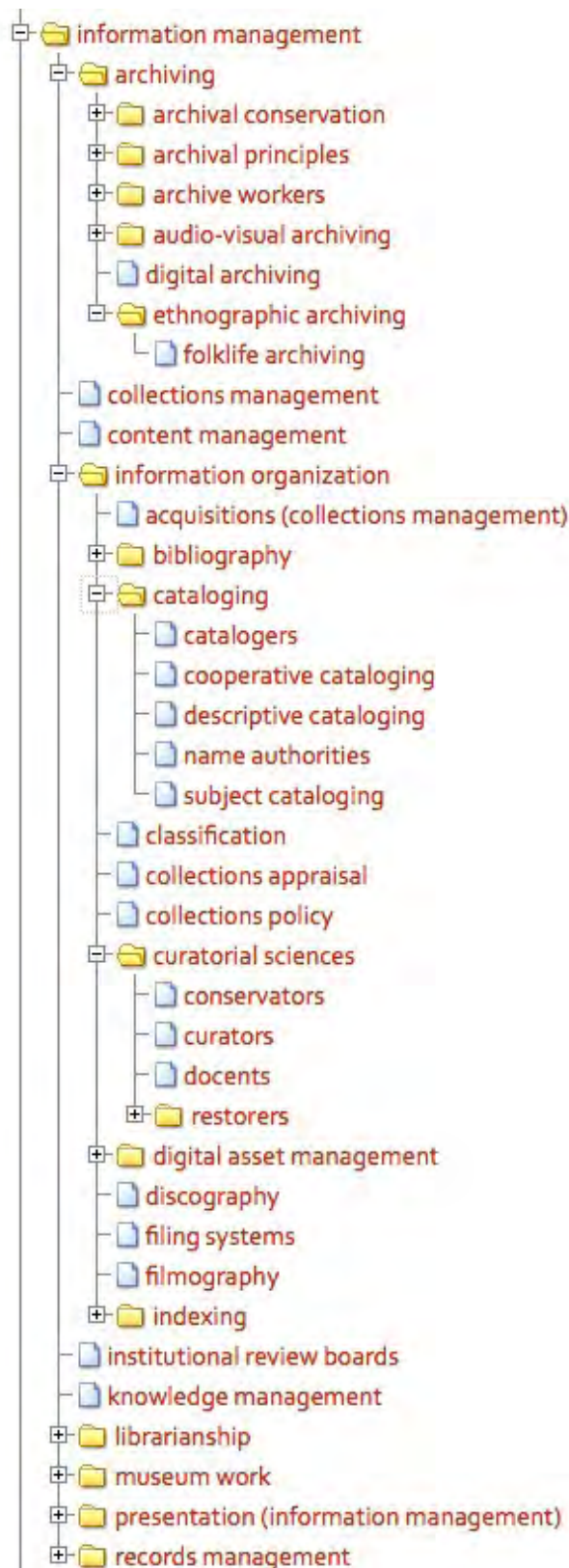
AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus

The *AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus (AFSET)* is a searchable online vocabulary that can be used to improve access to information about folklore, ethnomusicology, cultural anthropology, and related fields. Supported by a generous grant from the Scholarly Communications Program of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and early planning-grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Folklore Society developed the *Thesaurus* in cooperation with the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress.

The *AFSET* is now out of its beta-testing phase and is fully operational and usable as a controlled vocabulary tool for folklore studies and related ethnographic disciplines. The *AFSET* is live and accessible from a [dedicated tab at the Open Folklore portal site](#). Now that it is available as a stable resource, the *AFSET* will also begin to figure more prominently in the publishing and database work of various projects affiliated with Open Folklore, including IUScholarWorks and the *Journal of American Folklore*—the flagship journal of the AFS. In 2012, we will develop tutorial resources to help scholars and project teams in their use of the *AFSET*. The incorporation of the *AFSET* into the OF portal was made possible through the combined efforts of the *AFSET* editorial team and the IU Digital Library Program.

Catherine Hiebert Kerst, Margaret Kruesi,
and Michael Taft, Editorial Team
American Folklife Center,
Library of Congress

The interactive tree view of the *AFSET* allows users to see hierarchical categories of standardized terms that they might use to describe their subject matter.



Open Folklore

On October 13, 2010, the American Folklore Society and the Indiana University Libraries launched the Open Folklore (OF) project and its associated web portal, located at www.openfolklore.org. Open Folklore is an online open-access scholarly resource that is making a greater number and variety of useful resources, both published and unpublished, available for the field of folklore studies and the communities with which folklore scholars partner.

Outstanding Collaboration Award

In June 2011, Open Folklore received the Outstanding Collaboration Award presented by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). In highlighting the project, ALCTS noted:

In a noteworthy collaborative effort, the Open Folklore Project has fulfilled a scholarly need by establishing an online portal to provide open online access to many useful, but heretofore difficult to access, research materials in the field of folklore studies. Research materials include books, journals, “gray (unpublished) literature,” and websites. The Open Folklore Project serves as a new model for collection development and scholarly communication for building discipline-based digital collections. Besides providing open access to research materials, the portal offers full-text searching and allows folklore scholars and enthusiasts to identify and select reliable scholarly content, differentiating it from popular, and sometimes, unreliable, online search engine content. This project actively works to encourage partnerships to collaboratively digitize materials, place them in open-access digital repositories, and share them with the folklore community. The Open Folklore Project can proudly serve as a model for collaborative projects in other scholarly disciplines.



The 2011 ALCTS Outstanding Collaboration Award presented to the Open Folklore project team.

The AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus

The *AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus (AFSET)* is now out of its beta-testing phase and is live and accessible from a [dedicated tab at the OF portal site](#). For details, please see the *AFSET* report on page 13.

New Scholarly Content from AFS, the IUScholarWorks Repository, and Google Books

Over the past six months, a large body of new scholarly content has been incorporated into the Open Folklore universe. Most prominent in this additional scholarly material are publications issued over many decades by the AFS. Much new AFS material has been included in the [IUScholarWorks Repository](#) as part of the repository's AFS “community.”

A key addition to the AFS community in IUScholarWorks Repository is a large corpus of syllabi developed

for folklore and folklife courses at all levels by AFS members. This is a collection that will continue to grow in the years ahead. [The Folklore Teaching Resources Collection](#) presently includes 55 contributions from a diversity of folklore scholars. These resources are fully discoverable via Open Folklore search. They are also browsable in IUScholarWorks Repository.

A remarkable addition to the group of AFS materials being made available through the IUScholarWorks Repository is a nearly complete set of documents chronicling the Society's annual meetings going back to 1889. For recent years, these are the [printed meeting programs](#) but, for the early years, [rich narrative accounts of the meetings](#) that were originally published in *The Journal of American Folklore* are now freely available. These meetings-related materials—priceless resources for both the history of the field and for the pursuit of current research—are fully discoverable via Open Folklore search. They are also browsable in [IUScholarWorks Repository](#). A few small gaps in the continuous record remain and the OF team is now working toward providing access to annual meeting program books for those missing from the 1950s and for the 1975-2003 period.

Among the other new AFS content additions are the backfiles of a key journal, *Children's Folklore Review* (1990-2006) and its predecessor the *Children's Folklore Newsletter* (1979-1990). This content is now fully accessible in IUScholarWorks Repository and searchable at the issue level via Open Folklore search.

Continued progress is being made toward the goal of making the backfiles of all of the AFS's section journals freely available online, either as part of the IUScholarWorks Repository or the [HathiTrust Digital Library](#).

Some folklore journal titles, including others among the corpus of AFS section publications that are available within the HathiTrust Digital Library, are now also available via [Google Books](#). The content newly accessible via Google Books includes *Keystone Folklore*, *Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review*, *Folklore Historian*, and some issues of *Digest*. Finding aids to assist users in accessing these journals within Google Books will be made available in IUScholarWorks and the Open Folklore Portal soon. Stay tuned for details.

New Scholarly Content Added to the OF Archive-It Collection

Since the project's last report on additional OF content in Archive-It, a number of additional folklore studies websites have been permanently archived and made accessible via this unique service. The newest additions to the OF Archive-It Collection are the [Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Culture](#) and [Smithsonian Folkways Recordings](#). Inclusion of The Quilt Index will be completed soon. Access to the archived websites can be gained from the Websites tab at the Open Folklore portal or directly within Archive-It.

A New OF Screencast

The second in a series of OF tutorial screencasts has been produced and released. Focusing on accessing open access journals in folklore and ethnology via the OF portal site, the video can be found embedded in the [OF portal site](#), downloadable from [Indiana University](#), and on [YouTube](#). We will be producing additional screencasts in the year ahead.

Julianne Bobay, Jennifer Laherty,
Moira Marsh, Sherri Michaels, and Garrett
Montanez, Indiana University Libraries
Jason Baird Jackson, Indiana University
Timothy Lloyd, American Folklore Society
Project Team



Section Publications

Children's Folklore Review

As this 33rd volume of *Children's Folklore Review* goes to press, I feel excited about its high level of achievement. This year we have two winners of the William Wells Newell Prize: Spencer Green, author of "Disastrous Alternatives: Boy Scout Disaster Stories and Legends and Imagining the Natural World," and



Steve Stanzak, author of "Manipulating Play Frames: The Yo Momma Joke Cycle on YouTube." Both of these outstanding essays would have delighted William Wells Newell, who held children's creativity and tradition in such high esteem. Because of space limitations, this issue contains Green's essay; Stanzak's will appear in Volume 34.

Besides one of the two Newell Prize-winning essays, this volume of *Children's Folklore Review* contains other extremely interesting essays. Katharine R. M. Schramm's "Nascent Folklore" explores the emerging interdisciplinary field of communication and aesthetics in infant behavior; Neal Lester's "Fathers and Their African American Daughters: Hair Pieces Creating Ties That Bind" explicates the significance of African American girls' hair; Mona Lisa Saloy's "Sidewalk Songs, Jump-Rope Rhymes, and Clap-Hand Games of African American Children" examines the wealth of children's folklore among children in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina; and Robert MacGregor's "The Appropriation of a Commercial Trademark: The Gollivog as a Cultural Marker" traces contested representation of a cultural symbol in the United Kingdom. I am proud to add that the two short essays on dangerous games, Karin Phillips's "Genetic Bubble Wrap" and Pamela Weintraub's "Failing to Fly but Free

Falling: Jumping as a Form of Childhood Release," were written by two outstanding undergraduate students in my Children's Folklore class at Binghamton University last spring.

This fall we celebrate the acceptance of all back issues of *Children's Folklore Review* into the IUScholarWorks online repository, where they are completely text-searchable through the AFS-IU Open Folklore portal. I want to thank Jennifer Laherty of the IU Libraries for all of her help in making this possible. Now scholars of children's folklore have access to all of our published material. We will continue to send each new issue to ScholarWorks, with a one-year lag between publication of an issue and its appearance on the ScholarWorks Web site.

I want to thank the Dean's Office at Harpur College of Binghamton University, which generously covers all the expenses of *Children's Folklore Review*. I am also very grateful to Kathy Buchta for her fine work on layout/design and to Sheridan Press for its excellent work.

Li Cornfeld, our new book review editor, is starting to work on reviews for our next issue. Anyone who would like to review a book on children's folklore or a related subject can contact her at licornfeld@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Tucker, Editor
Binghamton University

Digest

Diane Tye (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and Michael Lange (Champlain College) are the new co-editors of the AFS Foodways Section's journal *Digest*.

They will be using an innovative editorial model, drawing on the disciplinary expertise at Memorial and the skills in graphic design and digital publication at Champlain to create and maintain an online journal. Diane will handle the peer reviewing and content-related editing processes, while Mike will handle the graphic design, web design, and digital publication

processes necessary to turn the content into an accessible journal. This editorial arrangement will both distribute the workload and allow for maximum flexibility and sustainability for the journal, assuring its continued success. Champlain and Memorial have both given their institutional support, with Champlain allotting some financial support as well.

The new *Digest* will include a variety of offerings, from peer-reviewed articles to smaller pieces such as reviews, news and notes, reports from the field, recipes, photography, updates from section members, conference info and announcements. The goal is to continue to provide much of what *Digest* has offered to the section members, while broadening and deepening the journal's offerings.

Diane I. Tye, Editor
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Michael A. Lange, Editor
Champlain College

The Folklore Historian

The past year has seen the completion of the transition from Nan McIntire to Jill Terry Rudy as editor. Volume 27, the 2010 issue of the journal, was printed and delivered in September 2011. This volume included two articles previously accepted before the transition: the 2007 Richard Reuss Prize winner "Tilting the Ivory Tower: The Life, Works, and Legacy of Gershon Legman" by Sarah Lash, and "Political and Theoretical Feminisms in American Folkloristics" by Jeana Jorgensen. Bridget K. O'Rourke's "Highpockets and Bottom Dogs: Chicago Industrial Lore of the Federal Writer's Project" was also published.



The journal has a new cover design, including a glossy finish, photography on the cover, and a statement describing the journal on the back cover. Sandy Dolby and Jeannie Thomas completed service as advisory editors. Michael Dylan Foster and Ellen McHale agreed to serve as advisory editors along with continuing editors Ronald L. Baker, W.F.H. Nicolaisen, Simon J. Bronner, and Nan McIntire.

With the move from Indiana State University, the advisory editors agreed that members of the Hoosier Folklore Society no longer will receive the journal as part of their membership. Because this included institutional memberships, we are working with AFS through Lorraine Walsh Cashman and journal subscription services to assure that libraries receive the journal.

We received approximately ten queries about publishing in the journal and three to five submissions. One author will be encouraged to submit to another journal, and two others were given suggestions for revision before making another submission. The manuscripts for Volume 28 were all solicited from panels at the 2010 AFS meeting in Nashville—two from the "Greatest Generation" panel, and one from the panel announcing the AFS Oral History Project. Volume 28 will include an excerpt from a transcript of Fife Folklore Archivist Randy Williams interviewing Barre Toelken for the project. We are currently in the pre-production stage, copyediting and source checking manuscripts. Volume 28 should be printed in January 2012.

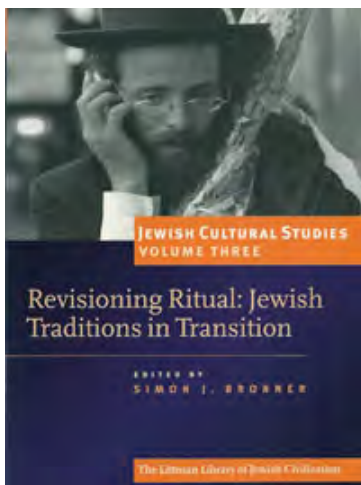
Volume 29 will include papers from the 2011 AFS meeting in Bloomington from the "Folklore and History" panel organized by Thomas Carter. Several other panels featured topics pertinent to the journal, so there are possibilities for papers for future volumes in addition to those received from queries or other submissions.

The journal receives support from the Brigham Young University (BYU) College of Humanities as well as from the Folklore and History section and Indiana State University for Volume 27. Editing and production support is provided by the BYU Humanities Publication Group with Mel Thorne as director and Caitlin Schwanger as lead editorial assistant on this project.

Jill Terry Rudy, Editor
Brigham Young University

Jewish Cultural Studies

Early in 2011, The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, the publisher of the Jewish Cultural Studies series (<http://www.littman.co.uk/jcs/>), and the American Folklore Society received the news that *Jews at Home: The Domestication of Identity*, volume 2 of the series, was honored as a finalist for the prestigious 2010 National Jewish Book Award in the category of anthologies and collections.



The third volume, titled *Revisioning Ritual: Jewish Traditions in Transition*, was published in September 2011 and was nominated for the 2011 National Jewish Book Awards. The new volume, edited by Simon Bronner, examines modern adaptations and inventions of Jewish rituals and features contributions from an international cast of scholars—many of whom are American Folklore Society members—including Alanna E. Cooper (US), Jean R. Freedman (US), Sander L. Gilman (Hong Kong), Harvey E. Goldberg (Israel), Jillian Gould (Canada), Michael Hoberman (US), Agnieszka Jagodzińska (Poland), Shaul Kelner (US), Irit Koren (Israel), Gail Labovitz (US), Vanessa L. Ochs (US), Hagar Salamon (Israel), Rachel Sharaby (Israel), Nina S. Spiegel (US), and Seth Ward (US).

The fourth volume, now in preparation with the tentative title of *Framing Jewish Culture: Boundaries and Representations*, is expected to be published in late 2012. In addition to another notable list of international contributors, it will include the winning essay of the Patai Prize competition, administered by the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society. JCS board members Haya Bar-Itzhak (Haifa University and in 2011-2012, Indiana University) and Steve Siporin (Utah State University) served on the prize committee.

A fifth volume in the series is also in the works on the topic of Jewish cyberculture; Andrea Lieber of Dickinson College has been invited to co-edit the volume with Simon Bronner. Members of the Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the AFS receive the volumes as

a benefit of membership. Volumes are sold separately at a higher cost to institutions and individuals; the publication is distributed widely in North America (out of Portland, Oregon), Europe (out of Oxford, England), and Israel (out of Jerusalem).

Simon J. Bronner, Editor
Pennsylvania State University

New Directions in Folklore

Published bi-annually, *New Directions in Folklore* (NDiF) is the refereed, open-access e-journal of NewFolk@



AFS, an AFS section constituting a community of over one hundred scholars, professionals, and graduate students dedicated to pushing the envelope of scholarship in the exploration of contemporary culture. *NDiF* is dedicated to providing vital, up to the minute and rigorous scholarship to an informed scholarly audience of non-specialists. We invite a wide range of articles, written in an accessible style, that examine contemporary culture through the humanities or social sciences. Additionally, we invite scholars who wish to utilize the unique opportunities presented by an exclusively online journal, which include experimentation with unorthodox figures and graphics, such as embedded videos, active URL links, and animated pictures, in addition to more traditional article embellishments.

New Directions in Folklore was first published online as the *Impromptu Journal* in July 1997. In 2000, the name was changed to *New Directions in Folklore*, as it remains today. In 2010, after a nearly seven-year hiatus, the journal resurfaced online in partnership with Indiana University Libraries, IUScholarWorks, and the American Folklore Society.

In October 2010, *New Directions in Folklore* published its first issue in over seven years, volume 8, no. 1/2. In addition to an editorial introduction, two “Notes” essays by Tyrone Yarbrough and Julia Kelso, respectively, and three book reviews, the volume also featured B. Grantham Aldred’s essay, “Identity in 10,000 Pixels: LiveJournal UserPics and Fractured Self Identity in Web 2.0,” which has recorded over 1,300 views/downloads since its publication.

In July 2011, *NDiF* published volume 9, no. 1, a special issue on “Quiltmaking in the Digital Age,” which was guest edited by Amanda Grace Sikarskie (Michigan State University). The issue included new inquiries into the intersection of technology and material culture in contemporary society, and featured the work of Marsha MacDowell, Mary Worrall, Amanda Grace Sikarskie, Justine Richardson, and Rhiannon Gainor, as well as four book reviews.

NDiF is currently in the process of publishing volume 9, no. 2; the journal also anticipates the publication of a special monograph on folklore and 9/11 in Spring 2012.

Another promising development for *New Directions in Folklore* can be found in the perpetual increase of article submissions to the journal. Since the first call for papers was posted for volume 8, no. 1/2 in April 2010, *NDiF* has consecutively garnered nearly twice as many submissions in response to each successive “Call for Papers” announcement (now a total of three, spanning Spring 2010, Fall 2010, and Summer 2011). While the total number of submissions to date has not been particularly overwhelming, we nevertheless see this trajectory as a positive sign that *New Directions in Folklore* is solidifying its reputation while successfully encouraging scholars to consider the burgeoning journal for sharing their research. To date, our acceptance rate for article submissions is approximately 55%.

As *New Directions in Folklore* continues to solidify its visibility and reputation within the folklore community, the journal’s editor and supporting personnel plan to accomplish several important goals over the next year in order to ensure the journal’s continued growth. First and foremost, we intend to continue soliciting and publishing top-notch folkloristic research from a diverse body of scholars. To that end, we will be reaching out to veteran folklorists in an effort to provide readers with new insights on contemporary folklore from respected minds; in doing so, we hope to also help dispel any potential concerns of genre exclusivity, given the journal’s heavy emphasis on topics pertaining to folklore and the Internet, computer-mediated communication, etc.

While we acknowledge that our “bread and butter” specialization certainly rests with folklore in the Digital Age, we are most committed to encouraging provocative and thoughtful submissions from all branches of folkloristic inquiry—technocentric or not. In heightening the profile of contributors, emboldening the journal’s reputation and scope, hosting a student paper competition, and producing higher quality journal issues, we hope to also witness the subsequent citation of materials published in *New Directions in Folklore* elsewhere. This is perhaps our most coveted goal and also the most difficult goal to accomplish and/or measure. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic that an increasingly and reliably high quality journal publication will inevitably yield greater attention as we continue to progress. Our editorial team remains strong and active, and as the NewFolk@AFS section also grows and re-establishes its credentials among members, we are confident that our journal will benefit accordingly.

Trevor J. Blank, Editor
Pennsylvania State University

Archives

During 2011, Utah State University Special Collections and Archives provided reference support for the papers of the American Folklore Society. Under the direction of new manuscript curator Clint Pumphrey, USU began adding recent accruals to the collection. This process instigated a change in collection policy, which states that AFS should not archive rejected *JAF* submissions. USU also worked with members of AFS to facilitate the donation of official organization records. Those wishing to donate materials may do so by contacting Clint Pumphrey at clint.pumphrey@usu.edu.

Randy Williams, Archival Liaison
Utah State University

Special Collections & Archives

Fife Folklore Archives

ected from the mid-1970s through the la
State folklorist for 20 years. Maryland has the longest-running state folklife program in the nation

Folk Collection 46 -- Collecting Memories: Oral Histories of American Folklorists. Collecting Me
American Folklore Society (AFS) and Utah State University Special Collections and Archives (U
present the voices and images of American folklorists and the field of folklore studies. The proje
official papers are housed at USU in the American Folklore Society Records manuscript collecti

AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY RECORDS

Manuscript Collection # 206

[AFS scope note & series index](#) | [AFS inventory](#) | [History of the AFS](#)

Series: Historical Records (1890-1961)

Box 1.

Culin scrapbook microfilm-early AFS organizational documents and material relating to the first eleven annual meetings, Material on Philadelphia and Boston "chapters" of AFS.

Box 2. W.W. Newell (3 bound volumes: Ledgers 1890-1906).

- Fd 1 Bound volume, council minutes; W.W. Newell, Secretary, 1890-1907
- Fd 2 W.W. Newell, 1903-1905, record of activities
- Fd 3 W.W. Newell, 1906, record of activities



The AFS archives, housed graciously by the Fife Folklore Archives at Utah State University, contain materials collected through AFS projects, as well as Society documents—including some of the original papers of AFS founder William Wells Newell.

Delegate Reports

American Council of Learned Societies

This year ACLS chose to meet in Washington, where delegates from the member societies gathered at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel to meet with the officers and Board of Directors. After the chair, Kwame Anthony Appiah, called us to order, he asked us to stand for a minute in memory of members now departed. The report of the Nominating Committee brought a bright spot for folklore studies: Donald Brenneis, the Santa Cruz anthropologist and a long-time friend to folklore, was nominated and elected to the ACLS Board of Directors. James J. O'Donnell and Nancy Vickers were renamed as the Board's secretary and treasurer; Terry Castle, professor of English at Stanford, was elected to the Board. Then came election to the Executive Committee of the Delegates, which has responsibility for choosing the annual Charles Homer Haskins Award Lecturer. A geographer and a musicologist were added to the Executive Committee this year. The application of one new society for membership in ACLS was approved: this was the World History Association, which publishes the *Journal of World History*. Because the WHA studies phenomena like contact, communication, connections, and exchanges between and among cultures, its scope and its comparative approach should be congenial to folklore studies. The welcome to WHA brought ACLS's membership to 72 learned societies.

The heart of an ACLS meeting, unless you are fascinated by financial data, is the opportunity to hear about the Fellowship Programs. Again this year, through unusually skillful management of its finances, the organization managed to increase the number of fellowships it offered. 4,000 applications were received; awards totaled \$15,000,000; the number of applications grows every year. Folklorists, who never seem to apply for ACLS Fellowships, may become interested in a new program of awards for completing a doctoral dissertation. One interesting innovation is that some fellowship awards now include research funds, thus connecting ACLS more closely with the universities to which awardees are connected. The New Faculty

Fellows program, about which I reported to you last year and which has involved 96 universities and colleges, now comes to an end, with 64 awardees out of the 700 applicants. We heard from one awardee, Matthew Walker, who works primarily in ancient philosophy. A new Public Fellows program will be placing successful applicants in government work for two years, beginning in September 2011; public folklorists please take note.

ACLS is financially healthy, though no one denies that rough times lie ahead for us all. President Pauline Yu spoke of the decline of public finance in Washington: the budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities has been cut in favor of the National Science Foundation. Thus Washington re-enacts its ancient subservience to science, as if (said President Yu) the humanities were not research enterprises, as if they did not produce new knowledge of national usefulness and importance, and as if no one has learned from the 1980 report *The Humanities in American Life*. She noted the tendency to view higher education as a private good and an investment in the work force, instead of the public imperative that it rightfully is.

The always enlightening discussion with ACLS Fellows this year brought onstage (along with Matthew Walker) Rebecca E. Keegan, who is investigating the connection between the idea of "Africa" and authenticity (that favorite subject of ours) in the work of artist Lois Mailou Jones, and Mary Flanagan, who directs the Tiltfactor game research laboratory at Dartmouth College. Her project "Metadata" is "an open source, internet-based computer game system for augmenting access to archival records"; its relation to other studies of gaming is relevant to folklore studies, and the games themselves are riveting. As before, this year's luncheon speaker was James (Jim) Leach, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, whose warning and humanizing perspective on Washington life was very welcome. The afternoon session focused on "Global Perspectives on U. S. Higher Education." Chaired by Thomas Bender, professor of history at New York University, it featured Lisa Anderson, president of the

American University in Cairo; Peter Lange, professor of political science at Duke; and the authoritatively impressive John Sexton, president and professor of law at New York University.

For many delegates, the high point of ACLS meetings is the annual Charles Homer Haskins Award Lecture, always titled “A Life of Learning” and presented by a senior scholar. For the field of folklore studies and your delegate, the choice of lecturer this year was a major achievement in recognition. Active encouragement from our Executive Director, Tim Lloyd, and from me when I was on the Executive Committee of the Delegates, effected the choice of Henry Glassie. When Henry’s colleagues and students imagine what his presentation in Washington must have been like, they are wrong: he didn’t show a single slide. Instead, from his deep and tender heart came the narrative of his learning, his teachers, and his conception of the breadth of the study of folklore—a point that will not have been lost on members of other disciplines. Predictably he was received with great, great acclaim. The lecture has been placed on the [ACLS website](#) in video and in PDF for you and others to see or read. More than ever, I was grateful this year to be your delegate to ACLS. Our membership there reminds folklorists that among our multifarious activities, we are a scholarly society that continually traverses disciplinary boundaries and opens possibilities for other scholars.

Lee Haring, Delegate
Brooklyn College, emeritus

National Recording Preservation Board

The National Recording Preservation Act, passed by Congress in 2000, established the National Recording Preservation Board. The Librarian of Congress appoints board members as mandated by the legislation, and, by law, AFS has a seat on the board, along with the Society for Ethnomusicology. The board is charged with heightening public awareness of the cultural, historical, aesthetic, and technical significance of sound recordings, with particular attention to the need for preservation and access. It has commissioned a number of reports, most recently *The State of Recorded Sound Preservation in the United States: A National Legacy at Risk in the Digital Age*—released in August 2010 and available, with the NRPB’s other reports, online at the website of the Council on Library

and Information Resources ([clir.org](#)). I urge folklorists who work with sound recordings to have a look at this report and the other NRPB publications.

As a means of increasing public awareness of these matters, the Board creates an annual National Recording Registry, a list of significant sound recordings, highlighting preservation issues. As the AFS delegate, I’ve worked to ensure that field recordings and other sound recordings of interest to folklorists be included every year. Now the plea: I want to urge colleagues to contact me with recommendations for recordings—archival, commercial, and otherwise—of special significance to our work. I’ve issued requests before, and I can’t say that I’ve been overwhelmed by the response from the field. But this is one important way to highlight the importance of our work, and your involvement is crucial.

Since my last report, the board has met once, with another meeting scheduled for late in November 2011. Board membership has shifted considerably; the original members’ terms all ended, and the Librarian of Congress, who is charged with creating the board, reappointed some of us and made a number of new appointments.

For more information, including criteria for nominations to the annual Registry, please see <http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/nrpb/nrpb-home.html> or contact me directly (burt.feintuch@unh.edu).

Burt Feintuch, Delegate
University of New Hampshire

World Intellectual Property Organization

In 2011 I attended four WIPO meetings on behalf of the American Folklore Society:

In December 2010, the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

An Informal Session by conference call on the Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions in late March 2011.

In May, the 18th IGC session on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore at WIPO in Geneva.

In July, the 19th IGC session on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore at WIPO in Geneva.

The 17th session of the IGC arrived fresh on the heels of the First Intersessional Working Group in July 2010, where a deliberate and intensive effort was made to pare down and edit language within the *Traditional Cultural Expressions/Expressions of Folklore* draft. As seems the custom, however, for every edit there are ten new additions and, despite appeals of the chair, within a short two days the *TCE/EoF* draft grew considerably. So much so, in fact, that the chair scheduled an informal drafting group night session to whittle back down what was recently added.

Two items of significance occurred at the night session. First, the clunky term “Traditional Cultural Expressions/Expressions of Folklore” was simplified to a more manageable “Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs).” Second, a clause added to Article 5, “Exceptions and Limitations,” that would have allowed continued access to TCEs for the purpose of non-commercial academic research, was not supported by the delegate from the United States. (A condition of the night session is that any addition inserted during the plenary session, by either a Member State or NGO, must be supported by a Member State to remain a part of the draft.) In the blink of an eye, responsible ethnographic work was once again at risk of possible overprotective TCE programs.

At the end of March and with little over a month before the 18th IGC in May, an informal meeting was arranged by the head of the US delegation to discuss the protection of TCEs with like-minded allies from both NGOs and academia within the United States. From the Library Copyright Alliance to Knowledge Ecology International, from the Electronic Frontier Foundation to the American University College of Law, there were no shortage of opinions and strong feelings about the working draft version of TCE protection. As far as AFS is concerned, the language in Article 5 about access to and protection of responsible ethnographic work remained intact and a part of the draft. In addition, there was an agreement among the participants to refine and further define this important exception including the same head of the US delegation who failed to support the language the first time around. Hope prevailed just in time for the 18th IGC.

As many issues that folklorists and other cultural ethnographers might have with language and use of terms within the IGC text, the only red flag left to wave is found in Article 5, “Exceptions and Limitations,” and specifically in paragraph 4. After a healthy round of support to ensure responsible access and limit overprotection of TCEs during the informal meeting in March, the head of the US delegation pledged his own support for Article 5, paragraph 4. So it was that by the time the 18th IGC rolled around mid-May all language that stood a chance of deletion was returned to the draft. For the time being the issues that most concern the American Folklore Society remained clear and fixed within the text.

During the 18th session, a large part of the week’s debate centered on the Traditional Knowledge (TK) aspect of the IGC draft. In terms of the American Folklore Society, the TK document does not appear to include language that would exclude folklorists or other ethnographers from their work. Instead, the debates surrounding the TK document are more philosophical than concrete, which makes for fascinating discussions but leaves it problematic as a legal text. As a folklorist, I am still uncertain as to how TK is defined apart from TCEs. During the week several of the delegations expressed their own confusion about the differences between TK and TCEs, noted the similarities in definitions and ideas, and wondered what purpose is served by separating the two. These questions might seem more relevant if the IGC was not into its tenth year of deliberations.

Tensions abounded during the 18th session. Halfway through the week delegates from nearly every indigenous group registered a formal complaint against the Member States for unfair and unequal treatment, for denying the indigenous delegates “access and ownership” of their ancestral TK and TCEs, and for their subsequently being treated as “mere representatives of folklore.” As expected, implicated Member States simply rolled their eyes at yet another round of complaints about the “rich neighbors in the North.” However, when the statement by the indigenous groups was supported by Member States including Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, the chair was forced to listen.

At issue was the process of deliberations and rules of proceedings, specifically the rule that dictates the

automatic deletion of language added by delegates but not supported by Member States—the same blink of an eye process that eliminated text relevant and crucial to the AFS. Points were made, the complaint formalized, and the United States proposed to reinstate all deleted text “by Member States only.” This was supported by Canada and, thus, made official. Somehow, though, the sleight of hand was not noticed by the indigenous groups whose additions not supported by Member States remain deleted.

Tensions remained high throughout the week and expectations were that they would remain high as the calendar moved toward July and the 19th session of the IGC. The cause for tensions? At some level, presumably, uncertainty. Two months after the 19th IGC the WIPO General Assembly was scheduled and “expected to take important decisions on the future of the IGC’s work.” The IGC was running on a ten-year mandate and produced lengthy but far from complete documents. Under consideration at the General Assembly, then, would be whether to renew the mandate, scrap the IGC, or something in between. With the pressure to submit to the General Assembly proof of substantive text-based progress, the Chair proposed to identify “key outstanding issues and focus the negotiations on those issues.” In essence, the emphasis throughout the 19th session was to streamline and edit rather than add new text.

During TCE discussions, Peggy Bulger, acting as temporary head of the US delegation in the absence of Justin Hughes, proposed an alternative to Article 5, paragraph 4. Her proposal follows in italics:

4. Regardless of whether such acts are already permitted under paragraph 2 or not, the following acts should be permitted: *The use of TCEs in libraries, museums, archives, and cultural institutions, including for purposes of preservation, display, research, and presentation.*

This focused and edited version improves on the previous version in that it includes aspects of preservation, display, research, and presentation crucial to the work of ethnographers and not mentioned specifically in the prior form. The alternative was supported by Australia and Canada which, as I understand the proceedings, means the change becomes permanent.

Kim Connolly-Stone, head of New Zealand’s delegation and elected Facilitator of the TCE document, called a final informal meeting to assess key issues and attempt to consolidate the text. Both Valdimar Hafstein, delegate to the Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF), and I attended the meeting and submitted our written support for Peggy Bulger’s alternative proposal. As of this writing I have not seen a new version of the TCE document.

In September, without much surprise, the WIPO General Assembly decided to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2012-2013 biennium. Under the terms of the General Assembly the IGC will push to reach an “agreement on a text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) which will ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs.” Also,

[t]he Committee is requested to submit to the 2012 General Assembly the text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) which will ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The General Assembly in 2012 will take stock of and consider the text(s), progress made and decide on convening a Diplomatic Conference, and will consider the need for additional meetings, taking account of the budgetary process.

For 2012, the three IGCs to take place will each address a single aspect of the document, with deliberations on TCEs scheduled for July. According to the WIPO website, the 22nd IGC in July will focus on four key articles: “Subject Matter of Protection” (Article 1), “Beneficiaries” (Article 2), “Scope of Protection” (Article 3), and “Limitations and Exceptions” (Article 5). Peggy Bulger is set to retire from her position at the American Folklife Center at the end of 2011 which, I assume, means at least a temporary unfilled chair on the US delegation, a seat that for ten years has looked after the interests of folklorists, anthropologists, and other ethnographers. Though difficult to imagine, if events at the 2012 IGCs proceed at the breakneck speed they’re planned, it will be necessary for AFS, as well as other cultural NGOs, to maintain some sort of representative presence.

Steven Hatcher, Delegate
Geneva, Switzerland

Acknowledgments

In Appreciation

The Executive Board and staff of AFS are grateful for the belief and support of our partners and contributors.

The **AFS Endowment Fund** uses the income from long-term gifts and pledges to support AFS's future activities. The **AFS Sustainers' Fund** offers contributors the opportunity to support AFS's present activities directly.

We welcome your contributions to both of these funds at any time. To discuss a long-term gift or pledge to the Endowment Fund, please contact AFS Executive Director **Timothy Lloyd**.

AFS Endowment Fund Contributors

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