

Multidisciplinary seminar on performance at IU

Several IU folklorists have long been interested in performances and in performance as a theory and approach to the study of folklore. Building on this interest, Beverly Stoeltje, along with colleague Tim Wiles in the English department, submitted a proposal for a performance seminar to the Multidisciplinary Seminars Program sponsored by the dean of faculties' office. The program is designed to encourage faculty members at IU to enter new multidisciplinary areas of inquiry. Because of broad-ranging support for the idea on campus, the grant was awarded, and the seminar on Performance now includes faculty and fellows from folklore (Beverly

Stoeltje, Anthony Seeger, Ruth Stone, Ilhan Başgöz, Richard Bauman, and John McDowell), anthropology, English, theatre and drama, political science, art, and film and television. The participants will focus on performance as communication central to social life, both everyday and formal. To examine the role of art as performance in human experience—whether on the stage, in the political arena, or as cultural performance—the group will attend performances of IU theatre, dance, and musical groups as well as local political events.

The performance seminar was launched with a gala dinner and discussion party

at the Porticos Restaurant on September 19. Biweekly meetings featuring individual presentations, discussions, and guest speakers have already begun. With so much interest, Stoeltje and Wiles anticipate that the seminar will lead to a coordinated academic program in performance that will foster communication across the disciplines. Phillip McArthur, a new folklore graduate student, has been selected as the research assistant for the seminar. A number of outside visitors, including Hugo Zemp, an ethnomusicologist from Paris, will come in to share ideas with members of the seminar.

Conference in Budapest

This August, members and alumni of the Folklore Institute participated in the Third Hungarian-American Folklore Conference in Budapest. Linda Dégh, Richard

Bauman, and Inta Carpenter, and IU alumni Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University) and Elliott Oring (California State University) were among the 18

participants reading papers. Others with close ties to the institute were also present: Hermann Bausinger from Tübingen, and Vilmos Voigt, Tamás Hofer, Tekla Dömötör, Péter Niedermüller, and Mihály Sárkány from Budapest. Issues addressed in the papers included biographical patterning in folklore and popular culture, representations of autobiography in material culture, the role of life history in ethnic identity, and the construction of life history.

The three days of intense and intimate meetings took place at the Ethnographic Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on Castle Hill. A short walk during lunch to the Fisherman's Bastion, just behind the magnificent Matthias Church, afforded the unpreoccupied scholar a splendid view of the Danube. The fourth day of the conference was devoted to a trip to picturesque Szentendre on the Danube bend. In the morning, the American and Hungarian folklorists trooped through an open air museum on the outskirts of the town and attended a concert of medieval Hungarian music in the painted 18th-century Calvinist church reconstructed on the



Mihály Sárkány, Elliott Oring, Linda Dégh, Tamás Hofer, Inta Carpenter, Richard Bauman, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Péter Niedermüller, and Hermann Bausinger in Szentendre.

(continued on back page)

Working on the mall

In early June, a hearty band of five graduate students from the institute fanned out through the state of Michigan to conduct preliminary interviews for the Smithsonian project (see *Traditions*, Spring 1987). They talked to performers and craftspeople invited to the 1987 Festival of American Folklife about their views and expectations of the upcoming event.

On June 22, the entire project team boarded planes for Washington, DC to

begin two weeks of intensive work. It proved to be two weeks of heat and humidity, 14-hour days, crowds, early morning meetings, the lugging of video/camera/tape recorders, suspicions about what we were doing, early evening beers, great music, dancing at late-night socials, gatherings at ethnic restaurants, and, of course, listening, watching, and interviewing. What was most pleasing was that the festival and our group seemed to form

naturally into a "communion of equal individuals," or in Turner's phrase—a *communitas*.

Since returning to Bloomington, project members have again traveled to Michigan to conduct follow-up interviews on the effect of participation in the festival. Later this year, the Folklore Institute will submit a summary of results to the Smithsonian Office of Folklife Programs.

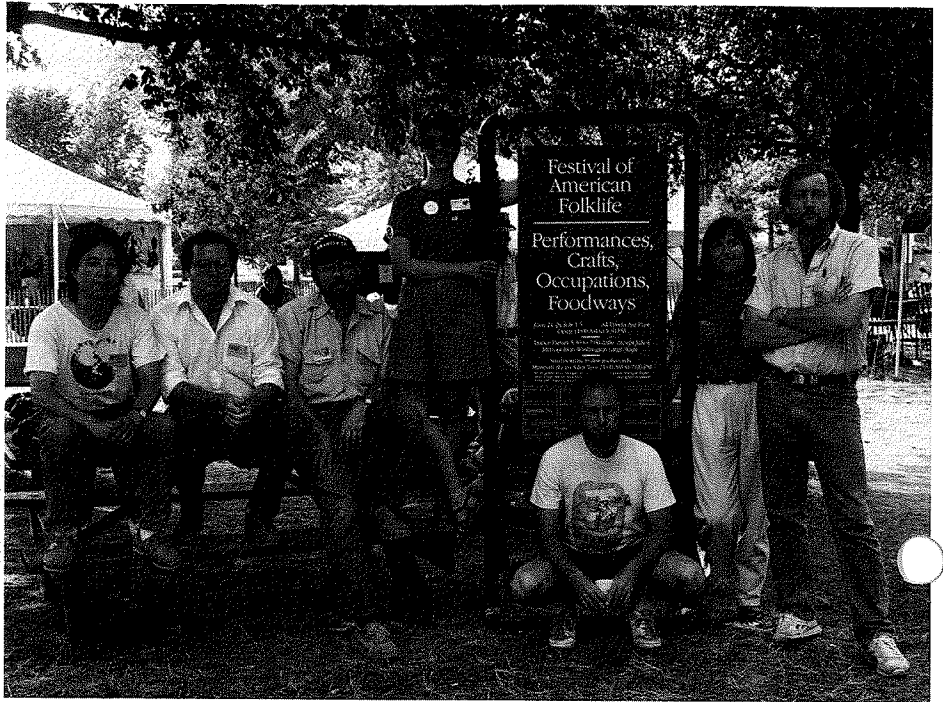
Richard Anderson

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Jongsung Yang, Will Wheeler, Richard Bauman, Patricia Sawin, Richard Anderson, Inta Carpenter, and Garry Barrow at the Festival of American Folklife.

Faculty comings and goings

True to the spirit of a folklore department, there is news of faculty coming back from and going abroad. We were all pleased to welcome **Roger Janelli** back to the institute. He returned in August after 10 months of fieldwork in the headquarters of a large Korean manufacturing firm, where he studied the role of Korean "tradition" (both real and imagined) in the management and organization of the company.

Two other faculty members, **Hasan El-Shamy** and **John McDowell**, have gone abroad this semester on Fulbright-Hays awards. A visiting professor at the Arab Gulf State Folklore Centre in Doha, Qatar, El-Shamy is teaching courses on folklore theory, classification, archiving, and the uses of computers in folklore research. While in Qatar, he will conduct additional research for "A Type Index for Tales of the Arab World." McDowell has joined the faculty at the University of Ghana in Legon to participate in two courses—Oral Litera-

ture, and Folklore and Linguistics. His sponsor in the linguistics department in Legon is Kwesi Yankah, an IU graduate who received the Esther Kinsley Dissertation Award last year.

John Johnson is still in the Democratic Republic of Somali. The last we heard of him, he was about to take a field trip to the northwestern part of the country to collect Somali classical poetry. He also reminded us that he appreciates "letters from home."

From the editors

We have received reports that people all around the world are reading *Traditions*—added incentive for you to send in news about your current activities. *Traditions* goes to press in early September and February. Send in corrections, changes of address, comments, and your news to the editors.

. . . of jobs, awards, and publications

Jobs: hurrahs for **Joyce Jackson** (PhD'87), teaching folklore and ethnomusicology in Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University; **Eric Montenyohl** (PhD'86), teaching folklore at the University of Southwestern Louisiana; **Carl Rahkonen**, assistant professor at the Music Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; **Betty Belanus** (MA'83), curator for this year's Smithsonian Institution Festival of American Folklife program, featuring the state of Massachusetts; **Annette Fromm** (MA'77, PhD'86), executive director of the Fenster Gallery of Jewish Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma; **Peter Roller** (MA'84), folk arts coordinator, Florida Folklife Programs; and **Gary Stanton** (MA'76, PhD'85), South Carolina folk arts coordinator, McKissich Museum, University of South Carolina.

Awards: congratulations to **Simon Bronner** (PhD'83), Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, for winning the 1987 John Ben Snow Foundation Prize awarded by the Syracuse University Press for his book-length manuscript, "Old Time Music Makers of New York State"; **Xenia Cord**

(MA'81), recipient of the Claude Rich Excellence in Teaching Award at Indiana University at Kokomo; **Laura Harris** and **Michael Largey** (MA'85) for Fulbright-Hays awards to Sierra Leone and Haiti, respectively; **Mary Beth Stein** (MA'85) for a *Deutsche Akademische Austausch-dienst* to Berlin for fieldwork; **Zenia Walinski** and **Guntis Šmidchens** for FLAS awards in slavic languages; and **Michael Largey** and

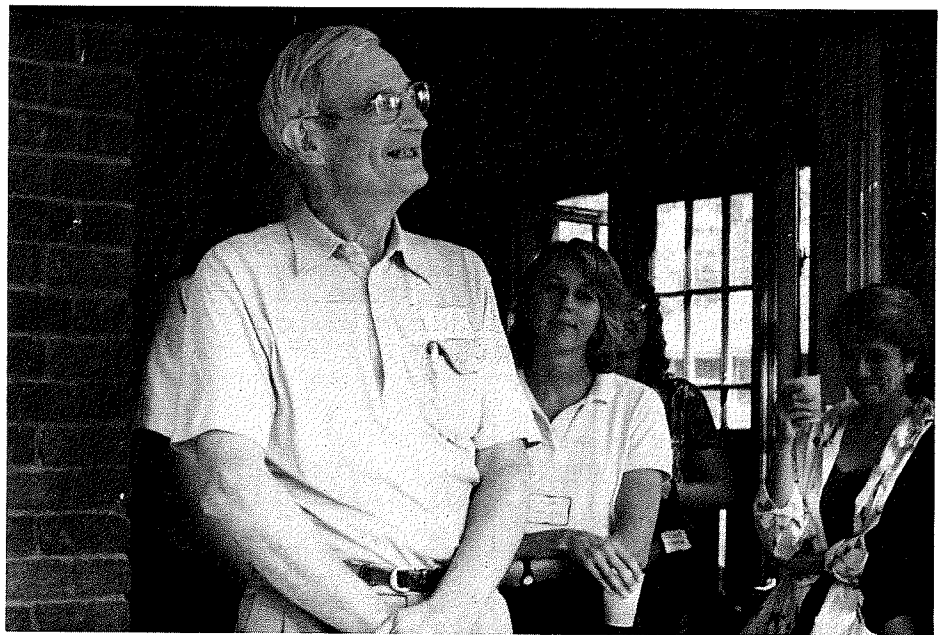
Moira Smith (MA'83) for the Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Award for Fieldwork.

Publications: good words for **Timothy Cochran's** (PhD'87) article, "People, Place, and Folklore: An Isle Royale Case Study," published in *Western Folklore*, and **Robert Wall's** (MA'87) publication for the Washington State Folklife Council, entitled *A Bibliography of Washington State Folklore and Folklife*.

Beginning-of-the-Year Reception

It was a beautiful Indiana summer day on September 4 when the Folklore Students Association hosted the Beginning-of-the-Year Reception for students, faculty, and staff. This traditional social event offered everyone an opportunity to meet

informally and learn a little about each other. Colleen Costello and Patricia Sawin, new student representatives for the Folklore Students Association, did an excellent job of providing refreshments and programming.



Beginning-of-the-Year Reception.

Project to evaluate Folkways collection

The Smithsonian Institute contracted the Folklore Institute and the Archives of Traditional Music to collaborate on an evaluation of the nearly 2,200 recordings in the Folkways catalogue and of the accompanying documentation of this collection. The object of the project is to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the collection and to make recommendations to guide policy decisions about the storage of materials, the format of issues, and the eventual strengthening of the catalogue.

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Conference in Budapest

(continued)

museum site. During luncheon at the Happy Monk restaurant, the group ceremonially concluded its wonderful conference.* That evening in Budapest there was a spectacular fireworks display in honor of Constitution Day (not in honor of the conference). The next day most of us relaxed while a small group of American and Hungarian scholars deliberated future binational collaborations.

Elliott Oring

* Elliott neglects to mention that he brought two bottles of California wine to share with our Hungarian hosts, and that at the Happy Monk he offered quite a lengthy toast—in Hungarian. (Ina Carpenter)

IU RECEPTION

The third annual IU Reception will be held at 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 23, during the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society. All IU Folklore Institute alumni and affiliates (current and former faculty, visiting researchers, and students) are invited and encouraged to attend. At the conference registration desk, look for a specially marked box with envelopes arranged alphabetically by name. Each contains an invitation that also serves as a ticket for a complimentary drink at the reception. If you do not find your invitation there (or forget to pick it up), we will have your ticket at the door during the reception.

This year we are beginning a new tradition. Having searched through our offices and homes for photographs, we put together some photo albums of people and events in the history of the Folklore Institute. These will be on a table at the reception. We have pictures of Stith Thompson and Otto and Walter Anderson talking (no doubt about a subject of monumental importance in the discipline!), one of Warren Roberts and Joe Hickerson cooking what looks to be canned beans at a 1950s picnic, lots of pictures of Peter Voorheis, Betsy Peterson, Ruth Aten and John McDowell playing softball, scenes of summer institutes and receptions, and so on. If you have copies of photos to contribute, please bring them with you to the reception or mail them to the department. Identify as many of the people as possible, please.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Pledges sought for the *Sixty-Year History*

The Folklore Institution and the Oral History Research Center expect to publish a history of the Indiana University Folklore Institute in the fall of 1988. The research phase of this project, which was begun in 1985 to document the development of the institute, will be completed in October of this year. With support from the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, Eric Montenyohl has scoured IU's libraries and archival sources, while Jeanne

Harrah-Conforth has completed over 50 lengthy interviews. They are now beginning to write up their results in collaboration with W. Edson Richmond.

If you are interested in purchasing this history (about 100 pages long and estimated to cost \$12), would you please let us know? The information would be very helpful to us as we seek financial support for its publication.

Yes, I would be interested in ordering _____ copies of the *Sixty-Year History* of the Folklore Institute when it becomes available.

Name _____

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