

## From the Chair



Richard Bauman

As the new chair of the Folklore Institute and an alumnus of IU's folklore program (MA'62, between the twilight of the mythic age and the dawn of this historic era), I feel a double stake in this newsletter and thus a double pleasure in its revival as a means of keeping the Institute and its alumni in touch with each other. There is a great deal happening here, as the notes and notices that follow suggest—but only suggest, because we cannot begin to cover it all in the brief compass of a newsletter. We have three new faculty members this year (Dorothy Lee, Beverly Stoeltje, and myself), a prospective move to new quarters in Memorial Hall (the Archive is moving to Morrison, adjacent to the Archives of Traditional Music), several conferences and research projects in the planning state, others in progress, a reorganization of our curriculum on the drawing board, and still other newsworthy ventures and initiatives that we will report to you as they develop.

For now let me say that I am very pleased to be here at the Folklore Institute, a real department, after 19 years in an interdisciplinary program. I have always been sceptical about the disciplinary autonomy of folklore, largely because I don't believe in the disciplinary autonomy of anything at all. The great strength of folklore is that, more than any other field, it has maintained the integra-

tive perspective on language, literature, art, history, society, and politics that is our intellectual birthright. Departmental autonomy, on the other hand, in an educational system that is organized and allocates its resources primarily by departments, is a source of institutional strength. Indiana University, to its credit, has recognized the distinctive contribution that folklorists can make to the educational enterprise. I've lost track of the number of times that members of the IU administration have told me that

"Folklore is one of the jewels in Indiana University's crown"—when budget matters come up I sometimes think we are the rhinestones in the costume jewelry—but occasional cynicism notwithstanding, there is a real commitment to folklore here. I value that highly, and I intend to do everything I can to strengthen the place of the Folklore Institute at Indiana University and in the larger national and international world of folklorists.

*Richard Bauman*

## *Awards Day Program to continue tradition*

The "Folklore Institute Roast," the creation of a group of inspired graduate students in 1982, has become a traditional "end of the year" performance at the Folklore Institute. A "spoof" of the faculty and staff of the Folklore Institute, it assumes clever forms—sometimes a parody of a folktale, or an exaggeration of the hassles of getting a dissertation proposal approved. Whatever form, the Roast is definitely one of the highlights of the Folklore Institute's Awards Day Program where student honors and awards

are announced. The 1986 prizes for the best student papers, funded through the College of Arts and Sciences-Graduate School Alumni Association, went to Nancy Cassell (first prize) and Guntis Šmidchens.

Last year, in appreciation of years of delightful student entertainment, the faculty and staff presented a spoof of themselves—"The Folklore Shuffle" sung and choreographed to the tune of "The Superbowl Shuffle." We look forward to the students' next spring performance.



Folklore Shuffle performance

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# About the faculty

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**Richard Bauman's** *Story, Performance, and Event: Contextual Studies of Oral Narrative* appeared in 1986. Based on a corpus of Texan oral narratives, the book explores the interrelationships linking the narrative events, texts, and contexts. His "Performance and Honor in 13th-Century Iceland" was published in 1986. This winter Bauman conducted fieldwork in Mexico, the beginning of an ethnographic study of festival drama in two rural Mexican communities.

**Mary Ellen Brown** is professor of Folklore and director of Women's Studies. Continuing her research and teaching interests in Scottish and women's traditions, she lectured on both topics during the summer of 1986 at Shandong University, People's Republic of China and on "Culture, Gender and Worldview" at the American Studies Seminar, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, October 1986.

**Linda Dégh** is completing *Legend in Modern Society* and researching supernaturalism and Halloween in Indiana. This summer she presented a paper and chaired a session at the Third International Turkish Folklore Conference in Izmir, Turkey and visited Italy to plan a joint European Ethnology project. Together with colleagues in Hungary, she organized a conference in Budapest of the joint commission of the ACLS and Hungarian Academy of Sciences, scheduled for August 1987.

**Sandra Dolby Stahl** conducted research on Australian folklore and national self-image on a fellowship from the National Library of Australia in Canberra. She will present a paper on this topic at the Australian Studies Association Conference in Perth this April. Her forthcoming book, *Literary Folkloristics and the Personal Narrative*, was completed in 1986.

**Hasan El-Shamy** was awarded an NEH grant to conclude his "Type Index for Tales of the Arab World," which also includes traditions of other groups, espe-

cially sub-Saharan African narrative traditions. During the summer of 1986 he was invited to the Arab Gulf States Folklore Centre for consultation about indexing systems in general, and the Centre's library and other facilities. He was subsequently invited to teach "Survey of Folklore" in a training session at Doha to members of the Centre, and in November, participated in a Symposium on "Folk Traditions and Arab Identity" held in Baghdad, Iraq.

**Roger L. Janelli** is on sabbatical leave in Korea for the academic year 1986-87 researching the effect of a particular set of Korean beliefs, customs, and mores upon the organization of business practices in that country.

**John Johnson** received two grants, Fulbright-Hayes Faculty Research Abroad and a Grant for Advanced International Research awarded by the Joint Committee on African Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. He will research the structure and performance context of Somali classical poetry in the Democratic Republic of Somalia in eastern Africa. Johnson published *The Epic of Son-Jara: An Analytical Study of West African Tradition* and *Somalia in Word and Image*.

**Dorothy Lee** is a new addition to Indiana University as a member of the folklore faculty and associate director of the Archives of Traditional Music. Formerly she was director of the Federal Cylinder Project at the American Folklife Center. During the fall of 1986 she participated in archiving committees at conferences of the American Indian Society for Ethnomusicology and the American Folklore Society.

**John McDowell** became the associate director of the American Indian Studies Research Institute in the spring of 1985 and was elected editor of the *Journal of Folklore Research* in 1986. He has two books (*A Folk Poetics* and *Sayings of the An-*

*cestors*) that are nearing completion.

**Warren Roberts** published *The Log Buildings of Southern Indiana* and a number of articles on the subject of folk crafts. He is now writing another book on Tree-stump Tombstones in the Limestone Belt.

**Ronald Smith** has been appointed associate curator of music for the William Mathers Museum where he is working on a project about zoomorphism and musical instruments. He currently serves as chair of the Folk Arts Panel for the Indiana Arts Council. He is completing a chapter for the catalogue of a traveling exhibit of Luthiers (string instrument builders) for the Illinois State Museum, Springfield.

**Beverly Stoeltje** is working on *Women and Words*, which brings together studies of folklore, diaries, and literature by and about women. Another book, *The Cowboy Reunion: Ritual and Metaphor*, is near completion. She was a member of the special program committee that organized the Folklore Feminist Program at the 1986 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society.

**Ruth Stone** is editor of the Society for Ethnomusicology *Newsletter* and director of the Ethnomusicology Program at IU. During the last year she presented papers on her recent research on Arabian music at two conferences in England (Conference of the International Society for the Study of Time and Conference on Muslim Relations). This summer she will be writing up the results of this Arabian research under a IU Summer Faculty Fellowship.

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## Student and alumni news

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**Barry Jean Ancelet** (MA'77) is an assistant professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, chair of the Louisiana Folklife Commission, and director of the Festival de Musique Acadienne. In 1986 he became the director of a research project on Acadian culture and history interpretive centers. He has also been working as a consultant to film production and the State Department of Education.

**Richard Anderson** (MA'80) did research on *taiken*, personal experience narratives, of believers of three Japanese New Religions while in Japan from 1984-86 on a Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship. He presented two lectures at the National Museum of History and Folklore and the Otsuka Folklore Society that are being published in Japanese-folklore journals.

**Regina Bendix** (MA'84) returned from Switzerland where she did fieldwork on lay theatre, supported by a Foreign Language Area Fellowship. She received the Graduate School Dissertation Year Fellowship for 1986-87 to complete her work.

**Jan Harold Brunvand** (PhD'61) published *The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites* and the third edition of *The Study of American Folklore: An Introduction* (W.W. Norton). In January he launched a bi-weekly syndicated newspaper column on urban legends. He appeared for the fifth time on "Late Night With David Letterman" on March 16th.

**Joseph P. Goodwin** (MA'76, PhD'84), assistant director of publications at Ball State University, was the convener and one of the founders of the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Folklore Section of AFS.

**Joseph C. Hickerson** (MA'61), head of the Archive of Folk Culture (formerly Archive of Folk Song) in the Library of Congress, is secretary and bibliographer for

the Society for Ethnomusicology and has served as the president and book review editor of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. He regularly contributes an article on "Folk Music of the United States" to the *Encyclopedia International*. His article, "Developing a Folklore Archive," appeared in *Handbook of American Folklore*.

**Ting-Jui Ho** (PhD'67), associate professor at Florida State University, received an NEH summer seminar grant in 1986 and is currently working on *The Faith of Matsuo, The Chinese Sea Goddess in Japan*.

**Mary Koske** returned from Finland where she was researching adolescent folklore on a Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship and a grant from the Finnish Ministry of Education.

**Sabina Magliocco** (MA'83) received a Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship to conduct research in Sardinia, Italy on festivals and change in a traditional community in 1986.

**W.K. McNeil** (PhD'80), folklorist at the

Ozark Folk Center, published *The Charm Is Broken: Readings in Arkansas and Missouri Folklore* (1984), *Ghost Stories from the American South*, and *On a Slow Train Through Arkansas* (1985). In publication are *Southern Folk Ballads*, *The Life and Adventures of an Arkansas Doctor*, *A History of American Folklore Scholarship to 1900*, and an as yet untitled collection of bawdy lore from Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition he is the general editor for a series titled *American Folklore* that, when completed in 1996, will consist of approximately 50 volumes. In the past two years, he has also been involved in record production and has produced three albums.

**Elliott Oring** (PhD'74) is a visiting professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, for the spring 1987 semester.

**Laurie Sommers** (PhD'86) is the Michigan Program coordinator for the Smithsonian Institution's 1987 Festival of American Folklife.

**Kwesi Yankah** (PhD'85) received the 1986-87 Esther Kinsley Dissertation Award for the best Indiana University dissertation.



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## Visiting Scholars at the Folklore Institute

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The Folklore Institute has hosted several visiting scholars in the last few years. During the 1984-85 academic year Tunde Okanlawon, from the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria, came to the Institute to conduct research for a textbook on oral literature. His research also included topics ranging from African tourism, women's studies, language policies, to folklore archives.

In-Hak Choi, chair of Korean Language and Literature at Inha University and Fulbright scholar, is currently doing research on a motif index of Korean folktales to be published in both Korean and English. Professor Choi, author of *A Type Index of Korean Folktales*, is utilizing the bibliographies and materials originally used by Stith Thompson in the *Motif-Index of Folk Literature* as well as attending seminars and consulting with

faculty.

In the fall of 1986 Professors Klaus and Juliana Roth from the Institut für deutsche und vergleichende Volkskunde (Munich) came to the Folklore Institute with funding from the Office of Research and Graduate Development. Klaus Roth was invited to IU to discuss with Richard Bauman, Linda Dégh, and Inta Carpenter the organization of theoretical exchange between American and European folklorists. A conference on the topic of social transformation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is planned for October 1988.

While here, Klaus and Juliana gave a series of lectures, co-sponsored by Germanic Studies, the Russian and East European Institute, Slavic Languages and Literature, and Women's Studies.

## In Memoriam

*Andrew Vázsonyi*

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The entire Folklore Institute family joins Dr. Linda Dégh in mourning the loss of her husband, Andrew Vázsonyi, who died on December 7, 1986.

Dr. Vázsonyi was born in Budapest, Hungary on January 6, 1906. He earned a law degree from Eötvös Loránd University and worked extensively in the fields of publishing, translating, and journalism both in Hungary and abroad. He married Linda Dégh in 1958, and together they came to the United States in 1964.

Dr. Vázsonyi was an associate director of the Research Center for Language and Semiotics, where he was director of publications before his retirement; he also served on the editorial board of *Indiana Folklore*. He was the author of numerous short stories and novels.

Together with Dr. Dégh, he made a number of important contributions to the field of folklore, especially in the area of legend studies. Together they co-authored "The Dialectics of the Legend" (1971), "The Memoriate and the Proto-Memoriate" (1974), "Legend and Belief" (1976), "The Crack in the Goblet, or Truth and Modern Legend" (1978), "Magic for Sale" (1979), and "Does the Word 'Dog' Bite? Ostensive Action: A Means of Legend-Telling" (1983).

His stimulating scholarship will continue to be an inspiration to folklorists for generations to come.

## *W. Edson Richmond retires*



his participation as consulting editor in the preparation of *The Types of the Scandinavian Medieval Ballad*. His course in ballads has introduced countless students to this genre and particularly to the parallels between British and Scandinavian materials.

Edson has been active throughout his career in a number of professional capacities and organizations, serving on the editorial boards of numerous journals, as president of the Fellows of the American Folklore Society, and as AFS delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. A Festschrift, *Narrative Folklore: New Directions: Essays in Appreciation of W. Edson Richmond*, was presented to Edson at the 1985 meetings of the American Folklore Society. Most recently he ably served as acting chair of the Folklore Institute and as editor of *The Journal of Folklore Research*, positions he held until his retirement. His family and friends gathered together for a gala surprise luncheon last spring to celebrate with him and to express our deep appreciation for his years of guidance, service, and friendship.

W. Edson Richmond retired from the Folklore Institute last spring. His lifelong study of the ballad, available in many articles and papers, is best represented by

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# Special Projects Reports

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## *Hungarian and US Folklorists Collaborate*

In March 1984 the Folklore Institute hosted a conference on "Culture, Tradition and Identity," funded by the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX). Many papers from that conference as well as discussion sessions were later published in the *Journal of Folklore Research*, vol. 21 (1984). The conference was part of a bi-national collaborative fieldwork project through the American Council of Learned Societies and the

Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The project began in 1981 with a symposium on "Contemporary Use of Folklore in Ethnic Frames." From 1982-84 six researchers in the US and Hungary carried out fieldwork that focused on the process of traditionalizing, under a grant from NEH. Linda Dégh, in America, and Tamás Hofer, in Hungary, are co-directors of these collaborative efforts.

## *Finnish-American Symposium*

Folklorists from Finland and America, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Finnish Ministry of Education, participated in a symposium co-hosted by the Folklore Institute and Uralic and Altaic Studies. Co-chairs for the conference were Linda Dégh and Gustav Bayerle. The conference, titled "The Kalevala, The Compar-

ative Method, and Beyond," was held at IU in September 1985—the 150th anniversary of the publication of the Kalevala and the 100th anniversary of Stith Thompson's birth. Papers from the conference are published as a special issue of the *Journal of Folklore Research*, vol. 23 (1986).

## *Sixty Years of Folkloristics at Indiana University: A Record, 1922-1981*

The L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation awarded the Folklore Institute a grant in January 1986 and gave additional funding to the Oral History Research Center in February 1987 to research the development of the IU Folklore program and its role in the growth of the discipline in this country. Hundreds of pieces of correspondence and related personal papers of Stith Thompson and Richard Dorson have been read and evaluated for use in this project. In addition,

nearly fifty oral history interviews have already been conducted with the IU folklore alumni, faculty, and other associates. The project will continue at least through this year.

At present, access to the transcriptions and tapes for the project is restricted to the project's personnel. Results of this research will be presented at the American Folklore Society meetings in 1987 and 1988 and, at a later date, in journal publications.

## *Smithsonian Project*

During the summer we will offer a special-purpose graduate course, F604 Folklore and Public Programs, designed in conjunction with a research project being developed jointly by the Folklore Institute and the Smithsonian Office of Folklife Programs (OFF). The project will investigate the impact of participation in the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife on the performers and craftspeople who appear there. The research project involves fieldwork before and after the festival in Michigan and at the festival site in Washington. The research team, headed by Richard Bauman and Inta Carpenter, will include folklore and ethnomusicology graduate students from our program.

## *Indiana Folklore renamed*

In 1985 *Indiana Folklore* was revived and renamed *Indiana Folklore and Oral History*, and the journal is now a blend of the old and the new. It publishes folklore and oral history materials—both analysis and transcripts—from Indiana and neighboring states. The journal also publishes articles that are bound by neither time nor space, but which discuss the current issues of folklore and oral history. While this partnership is rare, particularly in a journal, the two fields complement and reinforce one another. The journal appears twice a year. Subscription orders may be sent to: Velma Carmichael, subscriptions manager, *Indiana Folklore and Oral History*, Folklore Institute, 504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47405; individuals: \$10, institutions: \$12.

## *Call for papers*

The *Journal of Folklore Research* is pleased to announce its AFS Centennial focus and call for papers. We plan to publish one paper each issue during 1988-89 on topics that relate either directly to the American Folklore Society or more generally to historical concerns.

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## AFS Reception attracts 200

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The Indiana Reception met with unprecedented success at the 1986 American Folklore Society meetings in Baltimore. The reception, sponsored by the IU Folklore Institute and supported by funds from the Office of the Vice-President and the Alumni Office, attracted over 200 IU alumni, faculty, and students who gathered together on Friday evening to renew old friendships and get acquainted with new faculty and students.

Aside from the enthusiastic, albeit crowded, atmosphere of the reception it-

self, all reports have been extremely favorable. Dr. Warren Roberts won the prize for "earliest alumni," with Dr. Dov Noy coming in a close second.

IU's presence at the conference in general was especially strong—a record number of alumni, faculty, and graduate students presented papers and chaired panels throughout the meetings. We hope even more of our alumni will attend our next reception—in Albuquerque, 1987.

### *Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Award for Fieldwork to be presented*

The Folklore Institute is pleased to announce a \$900 annual award to encourage original folklore field research. The award is open to students in the Folklore Institute who have established candidacy. The 1987-88 winner will be announced on April 15. The award is made through funds

from the Richard M. Dorson Memorial Fund, an endowment fund supported by contributions from friends, family, and colleagues of Richard Dorson. Contributions to this fund can be made to the Indiana University Foundation, Richard M. Dorson Memorial Fund, Bloomington, IN 47405.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Indiana Memorial Union, M-17/Bloomington, Indiana 47405

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## Traditions

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