

ASIAN FOLKLORE STUDIES

Selected items from Vol. LXV, 2006. Twelve major articles including:

Charlotte Eubanks

On the Wings of a Bird: Folklore... and Nostalgia... in Meiji Letters

Robert Wessing

Homo Narrans in East Java: Regional Myths and Local Concerns

Hans-Jorg Uther

The Fox in World Literature: Reflections on a Fictional Animal

Namu Jila

Myths and Traditional Beliefs about the Wolf and the Crow in Central Asia

Jurgen Wasim Frembgen

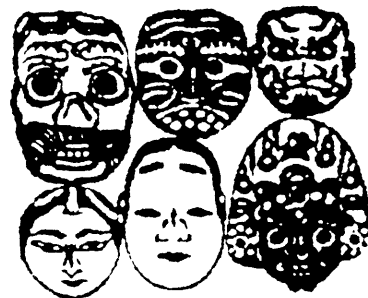
Embodying Evil and Bad Luck: ...Notes on the Folklore of Bats in Southwest Asia

Peter Knecht

Editorial

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Australian Folklore



Black Dog, by Aisha Khan

Australian Folklore

A Yearly Journal of Folklore Studies

A twenty first and anniversary issue containing various international/comparative essays and featuring Australia's heritage and evolving foodways

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Editorial

Australian Folklore is the Journal of the Australian Folklore Association, Inc. It is published yearly in the Southern Hemisphere Spring, i.e. in August/September. The annual subscription to the Association is \$30.00 to individuals, and \$40.00 to institutions. For this, members receive the journal, various newsletters, notification of relevant conferences and other materials. The journal alone is currently available to individuals for \$30.00, and for institutions at \$40.00. All prices include applicable GST (ABN 25800292438). Details of back issues still available are listed inside the back cover.

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Contributions to *Australian Folklore* and all editorial correspondence should be addressed to the Editor (address below). Books for review should be sent to the Editor.

The Australian Folklore Association exists for the purposes outlined in its Constitution (given in *Australian Folklore* No. 7, 1992 on pp.155-160). Applications for membership, subscriptions to the Association, etc., should be sent to the Secretary (address below).

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In this issue we have followed the more recent habit of clustering into larger groups the papers now selected for publication, and also offer now the accumulating food pieces which were referred to in *Australian Folklore* No 20 (on p. vi of that volume.) This group is most helpfully introduced by Donna Lee Brien's reflective essay on the largely television-popularised Celebrity Chefs, whose personal presentations and influence alike constitute a most formative influence on the hitherto cautious Australian foodways.

The Railway Conference report promised did not eventuate, but two prominent figures from the Sesqui-centennial Conference have combined to offer us a provocative paper on the amazingly precious site in Sydney, certainly unique in the world, which is threatened at the present time. We are also informed that an east coast Cooperative Rail Research Centre is in the process of formation, a vital development, since so much of the lore associated with heavy industry is in danger of being forgotten without a drive to preserve as much as possible of Australia's great industrial age which has long been passing.

*

As is reported below on p. 56, ff., the dynamism—and appeal—of folklore have alike become very obvious in the last decade. Indeed, the subject's encyclopedias, predictably in English, that cover a range of countries have been a symbol of the discipline's confident outreach. The efforts of R.M. Dorson some forty years ago to promote comparative studies may well have seemed premature, but it is to be hoped that the fine series which he then edited will be reissued now that the market is so much larger and eager.

Now too, folklore is also meeting for so many the ever-increasing desire to be familiar with the lore of more adjacent countries, or those contributing ever more facets to our own lifestyle by virtue of the many cultural diasporas/ exiling disturbances of the last fifty years. Storytelling, sprawling and many-volumed fantasies and personal writings, similarly, have roused more and more awareness of the satisfying lifestyle of discrete communities, for all the blandishments of vaunted 'globalism'.

*

As the cover and frontispiece alike make clear—for each is excellently focussed by the sensitive art work of Aisha Khan—we decided to feature now various aspects of the more urban 'creature just out of the line of sight', or the shapes that were with us or appeared to threaten when we

were alone, uncomfortable, or deeply distressed for whatever reason. Thus the Black Dog shape has become a peculiarly persistent feature of the last ten years in many parts of the world, our articles concentrating on England and on Eastern Australia. (Readers may also wish to look at the earlier and insightfully comparative article, 'The Necessary Other, Or "When one needs a Monster" 'in *Australian Folklore* 17 (2002).

Indeed, it has been pointed out to us by members of the Board that the black dog has become a common, yet subtle and enigmatic feature of various forms of fantasy writing. This is notably true of the Australian writer, Isobelle Carmody, who won various prizes, from the Children's Book Council and other bodies, as in 1992 and 1993, for her Gothic piece, *The Gathering*, in which the activities of black dogs are both unexplained and deeply disturbing. A perhaps more obvious use of the black dog motif occurs in J.K. Rowling's *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999), which features boggarts, werewolves, a padfoot, and the black dog that Harry Potter had seen near the home of the Dursleys. For in (young) adult lore all of these threatening manifestations ever more encountered in urban locations.

* * *

Australian Folklore wishes to acknowledge the worldwide and invaluable cooperation of many cultural organizations, libraries, publishers, and individuals, including: the executive of the Australian Folklore Association, the journal's Editorial Board members for their willing and constructive advice; the far scattered referees of the submitted articles; alike the Modern Humanities Research Association and the Modern Language Association (in New York), for their helpful bibliographical coverage, and other forms of scholarly advice and support; the Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the University of New England; the members of the University of New England's Heritage Futures Research Centre, the reference services of the Dixson Library, the University of New England, and of the University and Regional Archives in Armidale, NSW; and of the Head of the School of Education, Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW.

Much helpful assistance has come from many overseas universities, notably those of Indiana, Sheffield, Otago, Edinburgh, Slovakia, Tartu, and elsewhere, as well as from the ever more dynamic Folklore Society (in London) and the imaginative International Society for Folk Narrative Research.

Once again we are deeply in debt to the long time Secretary of the Association, Mark Moravec, and to the co-editor, Dr Robert J. Smith, for tireless work for the journal, and, indeed, for all the causes and essential activities of the Australian Folklore Association.

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The Australian Folklore Association Inc.

The history of the Association and of its taking over of the journal, *Australian Folklore*, are set out, together with the Association's Constitution, in *Journal* No. 7 (1992), pp. 151–160. Apart from its *Newsletters* and the meetings of its Executive, it has gained representation on the Board of the Australian Folk Trust Inc., which is also a co-sponsor of its (inter-) national conferences. More recently it has collaborated with various Australian universities in publication and conference activities, as well as with the Victorian Folklife Association. It has also had much dialogue with folklore scholars and academics worldwide.

The earlier activities of the Association are also given, in outline, in G.B. Davey and G. Seal (eds.), *The Oxford Companion to Australian Folklore* (1993), pp. 27–28.

Australian Folklore on the World Wide Web

This journal has its own site on the World Wide Web. The purpose is to broaden knowledge of and access to *Australian Folklore*. As well as containing information regarding the most recent editions of the journal, the webpages offer a list of other related major folklore publications in English. The Internet address is:

<http://www.une.edu.au/arts/FolkloreJournal/AF.htm>

Australian Folklore is a peer-reviewed journal, long placed on the *Ulrich Register* of scholarly periodicals. It is also regularly cited by the Modern Language Association of North America and listed for items, as is deemed appropriate in their *Annual Bibliographies*. The Modern Humanities Research Association does the same, with many of our articles, reviews, etc. being listed in its *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)* in its Traditional Culture and other sections.

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4. Submissions should be in English and observe usual English/Australian conventions of usage, spelling and punctuation. More generally, the MHRM style guide is preferred. See <<http://www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Books/StyleGuide/download.shtml>> The referencing style, for periodicals and monographs is:
Seal, Graham, *The Hidden Culture: Folklore in Australian Society*, 2nd edn (Perth, WA, Black Swan Press, 1998).
Moravec, Mark, 'Foodways: A Review Article', *Australian Folklore*, 11 (1996), 227–231.
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