

## SOUTHERN FOLKLORE

*Southern Folklore* incorporates and continues the established journals *Southern Folklore Quarterly* and *Kentucky Folklore Record* under the editorship of Erika Brady, a member of the folk studies faculty at Western Kentucky University.

The journal publishes articles on the analytical, descriptive, comparative, and historical study of folklore and on recent developments in the discipline, including the public sector and cultural conservation. Book reviews are also a regular and valuable feature.

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## Australian Folklore

# Australian Folklore

A Yearly Journal of Folklore Studies

An issue commemorating  
the work of Alan Scott (1930-1995)  
and presented to Dal Stivens (b. 1911)  
for his 85th year

JOURNAL NO. 11

JULY, 1996



**Alan Scott**

Photograph taken on 10 August, 1994.  
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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 Mark Moravec, 104 Howitt Street, Ballarat, Victoria 3350.

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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. The 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.

## Editorial

The present volume builds on its predecessors and on an ever-widening circle of contributors and readers, as well as on the several journals and societies with which it exchanges publications. It is also a milestone issue in that it both celebrates the work of two of Australia's most significant folklorists and is a sesqui-centennial tribute to the founding of the discipline in England in 1846, and to its remarkable renaissance in the late twentieth century.

It is a great pleasure to be able to commemorate now the work of the compassionate Australian folk writer, Dal Stevens (b. 1911), in his eighty-fifth year. More to the point, we are concerned to articulate that the driving force behind all his tales — and his stories have been published in more than 50 anthologies — is his concern to interpret the experience, wit and poignancy of the lives of Australia's folk. Further, like Frank Hardy, he had turned to urban lore long before this became a proper subject for collection and narration. We also note a tragically early passing. Alan Scott's career has been curtailed when his brilliant recording work was becoming more widely recognized. However, his National Library recordings will remain as a haunting evocation of singing styles that have now almost passed, and his achievement is justly linked with that of his older brother, whose most recent work is also treated in the present yearly volume.

As was stated very persuasively by Dr. Jacqueline Simpson in her article, 'Folklore in *Folklore*: trends from 1968 to 1992'<sup>1</sup>, that international journal has been concerned in recent years to represent meaningfully

a steady broadening of the subject, a growing preference for precise documentation... a more realistic appraisal of historic and social factors, a greater diversity both of the genres and of the social groups studied... [and] an equally strong concern with the present. (p. 16)

In like fashion *Australian Folklore* endeavours to reflect the widely recognised diversity of the discipline 'folklore'. It is now a national and international review, endeavouring to cultivate links with other disciplines, and not to commit itself to propagating any one school of thought, simplistic definition of the field or arbitrarily limited time period. And like *Folklore*, its mentor if not its parent, 'it welcomes equally the study of the past and the investigation of the present'.<sup>2</sup> For one of the most powerful recent texts concerned with exploring folk culture transmission is the 1993 collection

1 Pp. 9-16 of S. Roud and J. Simpson (eds.), *An Index to the Folklore, Volumes 79-103 (1968-1992)*, (London: Hisarlik Press/Folklore Society, 1994).

2 *Loc. cit.*, p. 16.

entitled *Continuities in Popular Culture*<sup>3</sup> which avers shrewdly 'that there is nothing with more lasting vitality — than yesterday', especially now that

the whole dynamic of the past re-asserts itself on a new re-experiencing of the past in the new found vitality of ethnic, racial, and nationalistic developments in the folk cultures that they drive and motivate. (p. 1)

As those editors of that colloquium stress equally relevantly,

When people become self-conscious, worried about their present and future, they dig in the past for security [and] so revitalize the old way of life. (p. 2)

It is hoped that the discipline in this country will receive a considerable impetus from the Australian Folklore Association's International Conference, to be held at the University of Queensland in late September, 1996.

While the survey volume and accumulative index, 'The Great Decade', will probably not appear until 1997, it has been decided to index *Australian Folklore* annually from this issue, as had been requested by various international bodies.

### Acknowledgements

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Particular thanks must also go to the following persons among the many offering various forms of technical or other assistance: Lois Beaton (U.N.E.); various members of the Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield; the Folklore Society, London; Keith Green (U.N.E.); Peter Lucich (U.N.E.); Steve Roud, c/o, the Library, University College, London; and Lindsay C. Rowlands (U.N.E.).

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3 Ray B. Browne and Ronald J. Ambrosetti, *Continuities in Popular Culture: The Present in the Past and the Past in the Present and Future*. Bowling Green Ohio, U.S.A. 43403: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1993. See p. 100 of the present volume.

## Notes for Intending Contributors

1. Please submit two hard copies and a computer file of the text plus all other material related to the article. Include an abstract of no more than 100 words. Copies are to be on 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 11" (210mm x 297mm) paper, on one side only. The computer file should be in the popular wordprocessing formats or in unformatted text form (IBM or Macintosh compatible).
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5. All tables, maps photographs, etc. should be submitted on separate sheets with lucid (final) captions and clear indication of their location in the manuscript.
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8. Manuscripts should be in English and observe usual English / Australian conventions of usage, spelling and punctuation.
9. Books reviews are normally handled by the Reviews Editor who solicits them. All review footnotes should be worked into the text. The reviews should be submitted simultaneously on hard copy and on computer disk.
10. Articles and reviews are accepted for publication subject to editing for style — i.e. the prime concern is consistency. Every effort will be made — time allowing — to enable contributors to make final changes after copy editing.

### *Australian Folklore on the World Wide Web*

This journal has its own 'homepage' on The World Wide Web. The purpose is to broaden knowledge of and access to *Australian Folklore*. The Internet 'address' is: <http://www.une.edu.au/~arts/FolkloreJournal/AF.htm>. 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.

## A Tribute to Alan Scott\*, 1930-1995

### 1. Obituary

Keith McKenry

In 1955 Australians heard on the wireless the first Australian folk 'hit' — *The Drover's Dream*, sung by a youthful Alan Scott on a *Wattle* 78rpm recording. That recording introduced a generation of Australians to a heritage of traditional bush song few knew existed. For the next forty years, despite the appearance of innumerable 'bush bands', no finer, more knowledgeable or more respected singer was to emerge from the Australian folk revival.

Alan Scott's love of Australian bush song was kindled in his native Queensland. When he came down to Sydney in 1954 he was welcomed into the small circle of folk song enthusiasts which at that time included Russel Ward, Edgar Waters, Nancy Keesing and Australia's most eminent folk song collector, John Meredith. He and Meredith became life-long friends. He joined the recently established Australian Folklore Society, and within a year was its Chairman. He also became a founding committee member of the Sydney Bush Music Club, and joined Meredith's performing ensemble, the original Bushwhackers band.

From its inception in 1956 Alan published for the Bush Music Club its pioneering journal *Singabout*, in whose pages a succession of newly collected bush songs and newly written songs in the 'folk' style — many of them now Australian 'standards' — first were published. When in 1962 Meredith was forced for health reasons to retire as editor, Alan assumed, in addition to his publishing duties, a key editorial role. He also edited several other important songster and ballad collections. His tireless contribution to the pioneering work of the Club was recognised, and he was made an honorary life member.

At weekends he performed with the Bushwhackers, often travelling to country towns where the band would make the acquaintance of local traditional singers and musicians, such as Sally and Fred Sloane of Lithgow. He assisted Meredith in some of his earliest field recording, and in 1955 started collecting songs himself. He recorded Duke Tritton singing 'Shearing in a Bar', and later many other traditional artists. His important 'Collector's Songbook', containing the words and music of 31 traditional songs, was first published in 1970. Over twenty years later, he still was collecting important new material in the field.

\* Born Caboolture, Queensland, 30 January 1930, died Southern Highlands, NSW, 11 December 1995.