

## 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 presented to  
William Fielding Fearn-Wannan (b. 1915)  
for his 80th year



**Bill Wannan**

Scanned and processed image (water colour style) from a photograph of the early 1960s

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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 Marc Moravec, 104 Howitt Street, Ballarat, Victoria 3350.

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## Editorial

This issue of *Australian Folklore* follows the current editorial policy of endeavouring to publish the work of as wide as possible a range of scholars, collectors and experts in both particular and general aspects of the vast field of Australian folkloric studies, as well as both theoretical and field studies by scholars from around the world. Although less international than usual, this issue contains a record number of Australian contributors, which is particularly appropriate in a volume presented to Bill Wannan, Australia's greatest folklorist, in commemoration of his eightieth birthday. As the bibliography of Wannan monographs makes clear, his output has been phenomenal, continually savoured and deemed 'bench mark' for the comparative study of colonial culture in various other (English speaking) countries.

There are now also presented several 'Wardiana' items which could not be included in the early printed *Australian Folklore* No. 9 which was presented to Russel Ward in May 1994. Further, several of the contributions break new ground, notably the modern weather lore, or lack of it, to be associated with the greenhouse effect.

\*

In October 1994 there was released the Commonwealth Government's Arts Policy document, *Creative Nation*, which describes the Commonwealth's role in cultural development under five principal categories, including the preservation of Australia's heritage. Acknowledgement is made of the key role of various organizations in broadening the community's and individual's awareness of our intangible cultural heritage. Clearly there is official support still for the promotion and presentation of the diverse folklife of our country, even though official funding and devolved grants would seem to have withered.

### Honours and Achievements

Shirley Andrews has recently been awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for 'service to folklore through the study of Australian Traditional Dancing', a well merited recognition of this aspect of our national culture.

The Australian Folk Trust has announced the winners of its inaugural awards to recognize their work in pursuing and promoting the living traditions of Australia. The persons so honoured are: John Meredith, Ted Egan, and Shirley Andrews.

On October last, Dr. Gwenda Davey resigned her part-time position of Director of the Victorian Folklife Association to concentrate on her duties as coordinator of the M.A. programme in material culture at the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. Following upon her resignation the Victorian Folklife Association has appointed as her successor the former

assistant director, Ms Susan Faine who made such an invaluable contribution to the organization and running of the Sixth National Folklife Conference held at Melbourne University in early July, 1994.

In the year 1994-95 John S. Ryan has been both Visiting Scholar at the Hocken Library, University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, and Visiting Professor at the Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield. At the first he gave the Faculty Public Lecture, 'The Antidote to Automation: The World-wide Rise of Folkloric Studies since the 1960s'. In June, at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, he gave an open lecture entitled 'New Zealand Lore of Antarctica'.

Mrs. Joan H. MacDonald has recently submitted successfully her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled: 'Sir Walter Scott's Use of Older Lexis and Lore in Selected 'Northern' Novels'.

#### News of Recent Contributors Work

In the 1994 released *Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, a work edited by Eugene Benson and L.W. Conolly, there appears in volume I Graham Seal's authoritative article 'Folklore (Australia)'. More recently the Oxford University Press Australia has reissued his *The Hidden Culture: Folklore in Australian Society*.

It is pleasing to record that the scholarly essay by Gil Soo Han on Koreans in Australia — see his article in *Australian Folklore* No. 9 — was followed by the launch in late 1994 of his *Social Sources of Church Growth: Korean Churches in the Homeland and Overseas* (Lanham, New York and London: University Press of America), and the appearance of his 'Economic aspects of Korean immigrant churches in Sydney and their expansion', *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, Volume 15 Number 2, 1994.

\*

As indicated opposite there is due out later this year a fairly exhaustive Index Volume, associated with *Australian Folklore* and concerned with the major scholarly work published in Australia in the last ten years. Entitled *The Great Decade*, both its 'Introduction' and contents are concerned to stress by close analysis the remarkable flowering of Australian folkloric studies in recent times.

#### Acknowledgements

*Australian Folklore* wishes to acknowledge the very positive support of the present contributions and of many individuals and organizations, including: the Australian Folklore Association; the members of the Editorial Board; the Australian Folk Trust; the publishers of books given review or notice; the scholarly journals regularly offering exchanges; the Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of New England; the Head, Department of English and Communications, University of New England; and those offering various forms of technical or other assistance.

#### The Great Decade

*The Great Decade: A Bibliographical Index to the Major Printed Australian Folklore, 1985-1995.* By John S. Ryan. Armidale, N.S.W.: *Australian Folklore*, 1995.

This Volume of two-column pages — after its introductory essay — will contain several detailed indices, clustered in four groups, viz:

A: The chronological listing of all articles, notes and reviews in *Australian Folklore* Nos. 1 (1987) to 10 (1995) and its *Bulletins*, Nos. 2 and 3; this section followed by author and subject indices;

B: The listing (*seriatim*) of the contents of the *Proceedings* of the Australian Folklore Trust-sponsored conferences, 1 to 6 (Melbourne, 1994); this followed by author and subject indices;

C: The listing of the articles and notes in *The Oxford Companion to Australian Folklore*, to be followed by indices of subjects, persons, etc.

D: Select indices to items from the three preceding major sources.

For the first, permission has been given by the executive of the Australian Folklore Association; for the second, the Australian Folklore Trust; and for the third, the Publishing and Editorial Sections of the Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Inquiries should be sent to the Editor as to price and availability, but it is hoped to have the volume published by November 1995. It should run to some 150 pages and cost about AUS\$15.00.

### International Conference of the Australian Folklore Association

sponsored by  
The University of Queensland, Brisbane,  
27-29 September 1996

#### Folklore, Traditional Knowledge and the Protection of Culture and Heritage

The 7th National Folklife Conference will include invited and contributed papers, keynote addresses by Australian and international experts. Expressions of interest or offers of papers are invited in the areas of:

- Folklore
- Cultural ownership
- Multiculturalism
- Heritage protection
- Customary ownership and copyright
- Traditional knowledge and folklife
- Indigenous cultures

.....  
Conference convenor, AFA President Dr Kamal Puri, can be contacted on:

Telephone: 07 365 2588 International + 61 7 365 2588

Fax: 07 365 1454 International + 61 7 365 1454

Mail: Law School, Univ. of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld., 4072.

## 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 1/2" 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).
2. Authors must obtain in writing all permissions for the publication of material under copyright and send a copy of this when submitting the article.
3. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced, leaving 1 1/2" (38mm) margins on all sides.
4. When the article is accepted for publication, it will be returned for the writer's checking prior to plating.
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.
6. Acknowledgements are carried by the first footnote which appears just after the title of the article.
7. Manuscripts submitted to *Australian Folklore* should not have been submitted elsewhere, nor should they simultaneously be under consideration for another publication.
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 Internet*

This journal is soon to have its own 'homepage' on The World Wide Web. The purpose is to broaden knowledge of and access to *Australian Folklore*. Whilst currently under construction, it is envisaged that the information contained therein will be regularly updated. Point your Web browser to <http://www.une.edu.au> to call up the University of New England's own homepage, then navigate to the *Australian Folklore* Journal.

## Bill Wannan: Some Tributes and Greetings

### (1) From Vane Lindesay (b. 1920)

During the 1950s, that fearful period we called 'The Cold War', a wonderful stirring was taking place here. Thanks to responsible groups and individuals, Australia was being re-discovered — or, put another way, aspects of our broad culture were being examined seriously and for the first time.

Among the pioneers —

Nancy Keesing and Douglas Stewart were assembling their collection to be published as *Australian Bush Ballads*;

Dick Diamond's musical stage play *Reedy River* was a sensational triumph and continued to be for many years, being further distinguished when the (folk) songs from a performance were sound-recorded and released commercially;

Hugh Anderson and others were collecting, preserving and publishing bush verse, songs and stories;

organisations like the Brisbane Bush Music Group were among the many interested in researching Australian lore and legend in every state of Australia;

and during this period Alan Marshall's anecdotes, yarns and tall stories based on his travels around the bush tracks and country townships were appearing in the popular magazine *The Australasian Post*<sup>1</sup>, under the title 'Let's sit on a sliprail', a reference most Australians, although never having done so, understood very well.

Emerging from this remarkable movement, a significant pioneer who was to become known nation wide, was an ex-fruit picker, road mender, failed wood-company accountant, drink waiter, and ex-education officer in the second A.I.F., Bill Wannan.

William Fielding Fearn-Wannan's interest in Australiana fell into place through his father's influence. Wannan senior, at the time a teacher at Bairnsdale High School (he taught Hal Porter among others), was contributing book reviews to the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*. Among the publications he received were those wonderful old paperback 'Cornstalk Series' which aroused young Bill Wannan's interest in Australian fiction, lore, and history. His enthusiasm was further fulfilled during the Great Depression years of the 1930s by his

<sup>1</sup> Three publications with similar titles have been in circulation: *Australasian* (1866-1945: Melbourne); *The Australasian Post* (1946 — : Melbourne); and *The Australian Post* (Vol. 1 — 1920: Sydney).