

SEEFA News

The Newsletter of the Slavic & East European Folklore Association
Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 1996

President's Message: Welcome to SEEFA

The Slavic & East European Folklore Association was formed at the 1995 meeting of AAASS. Association President James Bailey's welcoming message describes the goals and mission of the association.

The first SEEFA Newsletter...

is an experiment because we are gradually trying to discover and respond to members' interests, needs, and requests. The first issue has turned out to be concerned mainly with Russian folklore, a situation we hope will change as members become willing to contribute information about the folklore of other areas.

The actual content of the letter has evolved, in part because the editor, Bruce McClelland, plans to start a Web home page which can contain much more detailed and extensive information than a brief printed bulletin. Consequently we have limited the first issue to just a few general topics.

Our thanks to all of those who have so generously responded to our persistent email requests.

Since a letter about the organizational

meeting of SEEFA on October 27th during the AAASS convention in Washington, D. C. was sent out in January, only a summary will be presented here.

Bylaws for SEEFA were approved, and an Executive Board consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and one Member at Large was elected for a two-year term.

It was decided that SEEFA should become affiliated with AAASS since its annual conferences attract people in a wide diversity of fields concerned with folklore. Legal advice was to be sought about incorporating SEEFA as a non-profit organization. SEEFA should also seek to maintain contacts with other organizations involved with the study of Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Other topics and announcements at the meeting are considerably expanded in the Newsletter. By the time

of our next meeting during the AAASS convention November 20-23 in Seattle we should be ready to apply for affiliation with AAASS.

One other question which has been raised by Marjorie Balzer is whether SEEFA should cover the folklore of other groups in the former Soviet Union besides that of the Slavs.

Article II of the Bylaws states the purpose of the new folklore group. "SEEFA is a scholarly, non-profit organization devoted to an exchange of knowledge among scholars interested in

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The first issue of the SEEFA Newsletter is being sent to all those who responded to the first announcement about the new group in the spring 1995. If have not yet become a member of SEEFA, please send your name, address, telephone number, email address, fields of interest, and comments with a check or money order made out to SEEFA (dues are \$15 per year and \$10 per year for students), and mail to the Secretary-Treasurer:

Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby
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1055 Patterson Office Tower
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Lexington, KY 40506-0027
jrrouhie@pop.uky.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reviews, Bibliography planned for SEEFA home page

As examples of the kinds of information that the SEEFA World Wide Web site will be offering in the future, Margaret Beissinger has written a short review of Albert Lord's last book, *The Singer Resumes the Tale*, while James Bailey has prepared a bibliography of recent publications about Russian folklore. A list of current translation projects has also been compiled.

Tour of Milman Parry Collection at AAASS

Margaret Beissinger will be organizing a "tour" of the Milman Parry Collection housed in Widener Library at Harvard University during the annual convention of the AAASS to be held this year in Boston. Interested members of SEEFA will be invited as a group to take the MTA "across the river" to Cambridge to view the historic collection of recordings and tapes from the many field trips in the former Yugoslavia of Milman Parry and Albert Lord. The time and date will be announced later.

CONFERENCES

During the last few years several international conferences, particularly those organized by folklorists in St. Petersburg, have taken place. "The International Albert Bates Lord Conference" has been held four times under the sponsorship of the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography: May 1992, November 1993, August 1994 (in Yakutsk), and November 1995. The fifth conference will take place from August 21-25 in Almaty, Kazakhstan this coming summer and will include performances by Central Asian epic singers. For information contact Ronelle Alexander:

Alexande@qal.berkeley.edu

A few other conferences are:

"Skomorokhi: Problemy i perspektivy izucheniia," November 22-26, 1994 in St. Petersburg.

"Nasledie Vladimira Iak-olevicha Proppa v sovremennoi nauke," May 15-20, 1995 in St. Petersburg. (See "Zhivaia starina," 3, 1995.)

"Riabininskie chteniia 95," September 4-8, 1995 in Petrozavodsk. (See "Zhivaia starina," 4, 1996.)

"Iskusstvo ustnoi traditsii: Istoricheskaia morfologiia," March 20-22 in St. Petersburg. (Devoted to the 60th birthday of I.I. Zemtsovsky.)

SOURCE: James Bailey

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SEEFANews

From the Secretary-Treasurer

Non-Profit Status:

SEEFA is applying to be classified as a non-profit corporation. This status requires that SEEFA be incorporated in the state in which the funds are located. On April 15, articles of incorporation were filed with the state of Kentucky. Once they are approved by the secretary of state, we will apply for non-profit status with the federal government.

Members of the University of Kentucky Law School have been most generous in their advice and are currently reviewing the non-profit papers with me in preparation for the federal application process.

Membership and Dues:

SEEFA currently has received dues from 37 members. A portion of these receipts will be used to file the application for non-profit status with the federal and government. A portion has already been used to pay the filing fee for the articles of incorporation with the state of Kentucky as well as to produce this edition of the newsletter. Later editions will be financed by the membership fund as well.

Jeannette
Rouhier-Willoughby

1996 AAASS CONVENTION

The two sessions on folklore at the AAASS convention in 1995 were so well attended that we decided to apply for three in 1996—all have been approved. Preliminary contents of the panels are as follows:

Homage to A.B. Lord, Parry-Lord: Theory in the 90s

Organized by:

Ronelle Alexander
(alexande@qal.berkeley.edu)

Chair:

Matthew Kay.

Panelists:

Ronelle Alexander, "Tradition and Performance from the Singer's Point of View."

Natalie Kononenko, "The Learning Technique of Ukrainian Minstrels: Dictated and Sung Texts."

Lyubomira Parpulova-Gribble, "Traditional Formulas as Points of Convergence between Orality and Literacy"

Discussant:

Margaret Beissinger.

Ritual and Custom in Slavic Folklore.

Organized by:

Snejana Tempest
(STempest@middlebury.edu).

Chair:

Snejana Tempest.

Panelists:

Jeannette Lacoss, "Contemporary Childlore: Coping with Dislocation and Change."

Olga Strakhov, "Negation Formulae in Slavic Incantations and Spells."

Linda Ivanits, "Death Ritual in the Volgograd Area Today"

Discussant:

Natalie Kononenko

Teaching Slavic Folklore

Organized by:

Guntis Smidchens
(Guntiss@u.washington.edu).

Chair:

Robert Bowie.

Panelists:

Jan Perkowski, "The Lure of Dracula"

Guntis Smidchens, "Russian Ethnographic Methods in the American Folklore Classroom"

James Bailey, "Should American Students Read Propp?"

Discussant:

Izaly Zemtsovsky

In addition, Norman Ingham has brought together a panel that will interest folklorists:

The Interface of Folklore and Literature: The Slavic Middle Ages

Organizer:

Norman Ingham
(N-Ingham@uchicago.edu)

Chair:

Milton Ehre

Panelists:

Norman Ingham, "Folklore into Literature: *Slovo o polku Igoreve and Zadonshchina*"

Valentina Izmirlieva, "The 72 Names of God, 72 Diseases, and the Arcana of the Slavs."

Priscilla Hunt, "Folklore into Theology: *The Tale of Peter and Fevronia*"

Discussant:

Harvey Goldblatt

Opportunities for Translating and Publishing Folklore

In the survey made a year ago, respondents frequently mentioned the need for translations into English for their courses on Slavic and East European folklore. Snejana Tempest has noted that two kinds of translation project grants are still offered by NEH:

University Teachers
(202) 606-8467

Fellowsuniv@NEH.fed.us
and College Teachers
(202) 606-8467

Fellowscolind@NEH.fed.us

Roberta Reeder has pointed out that UNESCO publishes original and translated editions of primary source materials, that is, anthologies of folk lyrics, stories, and oral versions of history, but no scholarly analyses of folk materials. UNESCO also supplements funding by other publishers. For information contact: Fernando Ainsa, UNESCO Publishing, 31, Rue Francois Bosvin, 75015 Paris, France. Phone: 45-68-4734; fax: 42-73-3007.

Linda Ivanits will be the editor of a new series called "Folklores and Folk Cultures of Eastern Europe" to be published by M. E. Sharpe. Individual texts of studies dealing with the folklores and cultures of this area are suitable, and may be prepared by a single author or multiple authors. Texts for courses on Slavic or comparative folklore and folklife, rural sociology, anthropology, and ethnography are particularly welcomed.

LJI1@psu.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Slavic and East European folklore."

SEEFPA's mission is to promote the study and instruction of all areas of Slavic and East European folklore.

SEEFPA shall seek to promote instruction in American colleges and universities, organize panels on Slavic and East European folklore at national and international conferences, encourage the preparation of teaching materials and translations, foster

exchanges, summer programs, and research in related fields such as anthropology, ethnic studies, history, literary, and musicology.

In addition, SEEFPA shall seek to promote joint research, scholarly exchanges and conferences, expeditions, and publications with scholars in Slavic and other East European countries.

James Bailey, President

FROM THE EDITOR

An electronic version of this Newsletter is available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://faraday.clas.virginia.edu/~bam4c/seeffa.html>

The Web version will eventually provide links to related home pages and online sites of interest to members. In addition, a simple means for sending an email message directly to the Newsletter editor or to the President will be established. We hope to provide a newsgroup so members can correspond with each other. Also planned are such items as announcements, bibliographies of new publications, summer programs, folklore expeditions, exchanges, research in progress, translations, short reviews, course materials or syllabi, comments by people who have attended conferences or have taken part in various activities, and courses on folklore.

Bruce McCielland, Editor

SEEFPA News

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