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From the Director



The New York Folklore Society has a long history of publishing, both in journal form and book-length manuscripts. As stated by the editor of *New York Folklore Quarterly*, Harold Thompson, on the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the New York Folklore Society (*New York Folklore Quarterly*, Spring 1954), “If I understand the first Editor’s purpose, he [the first editor, Louis S. Jones], wished to acknowledge the fact that folklore is still in the age of collecting.... To be sure, the principal aim was to make all the pieces interesting to those who were not specialists in the so-called ‘science’ of folklore....” An additional aim, as stated by Harold Thompson, was that the journal would publish “good writing.”

The New York Folklore Society has continued this tradition of good writing, continuing to publish the journal (now *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore*), as well as book-length edited collections such as *Island Sounds in the Global City* (University of Illinois Press, 1998) and *I Walked the Road Again: Great Stories from the Catskill Mountains* (Purple Mountain Press, 1994). The newest volume, soon to be released by the New York Folklore Society, is an edited volume of articles chosen by Elizabeth Tucker and Ellen McHale. *The New York State Folklife Reader*, soon to be published by the University of Mississippi Press, will be available for purchase beginning in October 2013. This edited volume presents some of the best writing about the folklore and folklife of New York State, as gleaned from *Voices: The*

Journal of New York Folklore. Designed to be relevant for the classroom, it is also a great book for one’s personal bookshelf. Please reserve your copy today!

The articles appearing in the New York Folklore Society’s journals are currently available through academic databases, including ProQuest, EBSCO Online, and Elsevier. Individual articles can be ordered online and delivered to your email inbox via our own website, <http://www.nyfolklore.org/pubs/publ.html>. The board and staff of the New York Folklore Society are researching formats and modalities for better accessibility of our material, now and into the future. We will be devising new ways to access our publications. New publications and publishing formats currently being researched will include digital publishing, additional thematic compilations of published pieces, and an online “members only” portion of the website from which members can download *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore* onto tablets, smart phones, and other portable digital media formats. We ascribe to Harold Thompson’s 1954 statement: “I believe that every high school in the State should be a subscriber and every public library, not to mention the colleges and universities. Can you do something about this?” (NYFQ, Spring 1954). We are hoping to reach each corner of the publishing world. Please join us as we discover new ways to “connect.” Finally, give us your thoughts and opinions of what you would like to see as a publication of the New York Folklore Society. Thanks!

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From the Editor



I just had to pick the green beans this morning before heading off to work. With last night’s rain and the promised sun of the day, the beans would grow a bit too big for my taste by evening. The summer’s bounty is upon us in upstate New York, only hinted at a few months ago as winter turned to spring and I was first drawn back to the kitchen garden to look for the first bits of chives or chervil, arugula or dandelion greens.

My Dad was a gardener, too. A good one, I’m told, whose vegetables he grew as a teenager won 4H ribbons. He followed the then new methods taught by Cornell Cooperative Extension, like using commercial fertilizers for bigger yields and hot water canning for safer storage. I’m told he also followed the old ways, like always planting your peas on Good Friday; salting and fermenting pickles and corned beef in stone-ware crocks in a cool basement; knowing the value of cow manure for the best tasting sweet corn. His summer bounty was essential for feeding the family, where summers were spent growing, canning, butchering, and freezing to ensure food for the winter. He built a cold storage room in the basement of our ‘50s ranch house for the crocks and canned pickles, jams, and jellies. He also relied heavily on the new American Harvester chest freezer for homegrown beef, chicken, and vegetables. I remember

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“However, folklore need not necessarily be oral in transmission. Where a degree of literacy prevails it may be passed on through literary media but this tends, while helping to preserve it, to crystalize it and thus destroys some of its ability to adapt itself to new situations.”

—Horace P. Beck, *The Folklore of Maine* (1957) p. X.

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