

ROOMER

The Newsletter of the Traditional
Drama Research Group.

Vol. 4 no. 4 1984



PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Metin And, 'On the Dramatic Fertility Rituals of Anatolian Turkey' in Ilhan Basgöz and Mark Glazer, Studies in Turkish Folklore (Indiana, Indiana University, Turkish Studies No.1: 1978) pp.1-24.

Sandra Billington, A Social History of the Fool (Sussex, Harvester Press, 1984) Hb. £18.95

David Buchan (ed.), Scottish Tradition: A Collection of Scottish Folk Literature (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984) Folk Drama pp.210-225, 245-248.

Anne Burson, 'Pomp and Circumcision: A Parodic Skit in a Medical Community' Keystone Folklore (N.S.) I:1 (1982) 28-40.

Cyril Byrne, 'Some Comments on the Social Circumstances of Mummery in Conception Bay and St. John's in the Nineteenth Century' The Newfoundland Quarterly 77:4 (Winter 1981-82) 3-6.

Patricia Craig, Review of Henry Glassie, 'All Silver and No Brass' (University of Pennsylvania Press) in Times Literary Supplement (Dec. 23 1983) p.1428.

Gerald Craven and Richard Moseley, 'Actors on the Canvas Stage: The Dramatic Conventions of Professional Wrestling' Journal of Popular Culture (1972) 326-336.

Mary Jo Deegan and Michael Stein, 'American Drama and Ritual: Nebraska Football' International Review of Sport Sociology, (1978) 13:3, 31-42.

Melvine Firestone, 'Christmas Mummery and Symbolic Interactionism' Ethos 6:2 (1978) 92-113.

Folk Drama (1983), (Folklore/Folklife Educational Series, Breakwater Books, 277 Duckworth Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, AIC 1G9). Compiled by members of the Folklore Department at Memorial University, this pamphlet is designed as one of a series of teachers' guide lines to various aspects of Folk Literature.

Steve MacDonogh, Green and Gold: The Wrenboys of Dingle (Dingle, Brandon, 1983) pb. £4.95.

Thomas Pettitt, 'Here Come I, Jack Straw: English Folk Drama and Social Revolt' Folklore 95:I (1984) 3-20.

John Wasson, 'The St. George and Robin Hood Plays in Devon' Mediaeval English Theatre 2 (1980) 66-69.

TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR ENGLISH CULTURAL TRADITION AND LANGUAGE, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, ON 31ST MARCH, 1984

Present: Duncan Broomhead, Peter Milington, Steve Roud, Derek Schofield, Paul Smith and Peter Stevenson

Publications

- a) Roomer - Because of some confusion as to whether TDRG members should pay for their subscriptions to Roomer and, because most had not in fact paid, some had missed receiving copies of some issues. It was decided that starting with the next volume, all members should pay for their subscriptions. Meanwhile, anyone missing copies should notify Steve Roud who will supply them.

It was noted that there was a need for a policy on the inclusion of announcements of Festivals, Conferences, etc. and it was decided to include a section of "Diary Dates". This could be supplemented with more detailed announcements and reports of selected academic research meetings.

Much of the forthcoming material consists of long items, the inclusion of which needs to be planned. More short items are required. Several readers had also mentioned that they are not just interested in Quack Doctor plays.

- b) Sales and Finance - Progress with sales was reported. The treasurer reported that the Group's bank balance was £197. Allowance needs to be made for bank charges.

c) County Checklists

General - Quotations for printing and finishing the planned reprint of Peter Millington's Nottinghamshire checklist ranged from £74 to £200 for 100 copies, this highlights the problems of printing comparatively small runs. Further quantities of 100 cost about half as much. Possible ways of reducing costs were discussed. We already have a source of cheap offset litho printing, but lack finishing facilities. One possibility is to club together with similar groups to buy the equipment needed to finish our publications ourselves (e.g. folding machine, electric stapler, power guillotine, etc.). Another approach would be to see if local community print workshops could take our jobs, or allow us to use their facilities. It was agreed that we should all try to investigate these possibilities further.

Notts. Checklist Reprint - Paul Smith will produce a reprint of 50 copies of this checklist, to be sold at £2.50 each.

Oxfordshire Checklist - Steve Roud has finished the compilation of this list, but it still has to be typed for printing. It will have about 45 to 50 pages, including a map and two specimen play texts. The possible inclusion of illustrations is to be investigated. The printed format will be the same as for the Nottinghamshire List and the initial print run will be of 200 copies.

Somerset List - This list is being prepared jointly by Steve Roud and Bob Patton. It will cover both plays and related customs (e.g. Christmas singers called "Mummers"). There are very few Somerset play texts, so all of them may be included in the printed version.

Lancashire List - Peter Stevenson is compiling a list for the whole of Lancashire, rather than Greater Manchester as previously planned. Material is sparse for North Lancs., so everyone was asked to send copies of any Lancs. material they have to Peter, who will distribute a typed list of those items he has already.

Others in the Pipeline - After numerous attempts to encourage Guizer Press to complete the publication of Alex Helm's book on Staffs. plays - all unsuccessful - it was decided to abandon further attempts.

Doc Rowe's Devon List has been written for publication in Roomer, but has yet to be typed. It is hoped it will be ready for the next meeting.

Duncan Broomhead has been completing archive slips which will form the basis of his Cheshire List. Peter Millington is typing these items into a computer file.

d) Monographs - It was decided that the Group would explore the possibility of reprinting Martha Beckwith's Christmas Mumming in Jamaica.

e) Research Guides

Compiling Biographies - After a long discussion of the difficulties that novices might have with the Guide, it was agreed that Paul Smith would reduce the amount of jargon and provide further explanation where necessary. He would also make it clearer that the three sections are intended to represent increasingly more comprehensive levels of documentation.

Surveys Through Newspapers - Peter Millington and Derek Schofield will be compiling a harmonised version of their own versions for consideration at the next meeting.

Tracing Photographs - It was agreed that this guide would be published as Guide No.3 by the next meeting.

Others - No progress has been made on the Guide to Periodical Sources.

Collections

a) Helm Collection - No one reported having made any progress in checking the master printout of this list. Please would everyone make an effort to check the entries relevant to their areas before the next meeting.

Archive and Indexing - Duncan Broomhead has been submitting indexing sheets and Peter Millington has been slowly entering these into a computer file. It is anticipated that things will speed up considerably when Peter Millington has acquired a word processor for home. Peter Millington and Paul Smith will need to get together to sort out administration of the archive. A further batch of 1000 archive slips is being printed.

Following the meeting Paul Smith presented a seminar:

"The Plow Boys as Usual - 2/6": An Examination of Household Account Books for Lincolnshire. Paul Smith reported the fruits of his delvings in Lincoln County Record Office over the past few years. His starting point was the reference by M. W. Barley (1953) to records of visits by Plow Boys in household accounts for Burton near Lincoln, and Grantham. He was able to shed more light on these records and described others he had found. In all cases, he exhibited extracts from the accounts, with maps as appropriate.

TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP - GUIDES

Included in this issue of Roomer is a copy of the third Traditional Drama Research Group Guide: Tracing Photographs devised by Paul Smith. Although it has been prepared with traditional drama in mind, the guide will also be of relevance to other areas of folklore research.

Guides currently available:

1. Basic Questions to Ask by Peter Millington
2. Biographies by Paul Smith
3. Tracing Photographs by Paul Smith

Forthcoming guides include:

Surveys through Newspapers

Copies of these guides are available, on receipt of an A4 s.a.e., from Traditional Drama Research Group, c/o The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN.


TRADITIONAL DRAMA 1985

The 8th annual conference
on Traditional Drama Studies.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
12th OCT 1985

For details:

The Centre for English Cultural Tradition
and Language - University of Sheffield
SHEFFIELD - S10 2TN.



TRACING PHOTOGRAPHS

TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP - RESEARCH GUIDE 3

Very few published guides to British photographic collections and photographers exist. The following publications, however, cover the majority of major collections that have been in existence since the 1950s. In addition, they give details of many small specialist and private collections.

The Art Directors' Index to Photographers Vol.1 - Europe (Geneva: Rotovision, 1981)

Provides information on some 260 top professional photographers from 14 countries and includes 71 UK entries.

British Institute of Professional Photographers - British and Overseas Members' Reference Book and Buyers Guide (Ware: BIPP, annually)

This annual volume provides a register of current members of the Institute. Under one title or another the Institute has been producing similar volumes since the turn of the century and, although they are rather scarce, they are well worth exploring. Previous titles include: Professional Photographers Association (1901-1939), Institute of British Photographers Year Book (1938-1965), Institute of Incorporated Photographers Year Book (1966-1982)

Hilary Evans and Mary Evans, Picture Researcher's Handbook: An International Guide to Picture Sources - And How to use them (London: Saturday Ventures, 1979)

This international guide includes 700 multiple entries to picture libraries. Within this it provides specialist entries arranged as follows: Arts; Entertainment; Military; Natural History; Religion; Science, Technology; Industry and Commerce; Sport; Transport. Alphabetical and subject indexes are also provided.

Hilary Evans, Mary Evans and Andra Nelki (eds.), The Picture Researchers' Handbook (Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1975)

Containing some 530 entries, this volume provides an international listing of picture libraries. It details general interest, public and commercial collections, as well as specialist collections grouped under the following headings: News, Current Affairs and Recent History; Places and People; Art, Architecture and Archaeology; Natural History; Science and Technology; Sport; Transport; Entertainment. In addition indexes to subjects and geographical specialisms are provided.

National Union of Journalists Freelance Directory (London, NUJ, annually)

The directory includes all members who wish to be listed and incorporates, not only reporters, writers and illustrators, but also photographers.

G. W. A. Nunn, British Sources of Photographs and Pictures (London: Cassell, 1952)

This rather dated but useful compendium contains some 1,200 entries - over one third dealing with photographers and photographic agencies. In addition it includes information on photographic and art journals, magazines and yearbooks, fine arts publishers and a directory of some 200 commercial photographers.

John Wall, Directory of British Photographic Collections (London: Heinemann, 1977)

Concentrating specifically on Britain, details of some 1,580 collections are given under the following headings: Society and Human Relations; Portraits and Biography; Arts and Crafts; Agriculture and Food Production; Communications and Transport; Engineering; Physical and Life Sciences; Geography; Historical and Newsworthy Events; General. In addition a quick subject guide is provided and indexes to subjects, collection owners, locations, titles and photographers.

Ronald Warburton, The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Handbook (Watford, PAGB, annually)

The handbook, subdivided into the twelve regional photographic federations, provides details of some 568 PAGB individual members.

GUIDES TO GENERAL COLLECTIONS

Often a collection will have been incorporated into a library or perhaps a museum. The following provides a brief list of guides to such collections

Accessions to Repositories and Reports added to the National Register of Archives 1972- (London, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, HMSO, 1973-)

List of Accessions to Repositories, 1956 onwards (London, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, HMSO, 1957-72)

T. M. Aldridge, Registers and Records, Sources of Information (London, 1976)

N. Armstrong, Local Collections in Scotland (Paisley, 1977)

Aslib Directory of Information Sources (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, London: 1977 & 1980)

Vol 1 covers Science, Technology and Commerce

Vol 2 covers Medicine, the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

Janet Foster and Julia Sheppard, British Archives: A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom (Macmillan, London: 1982)

A Guide to the Reports on Collections of Manuscripts of Private Families, Corporations and Institutions in Great Britain and Ireland (London, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, HMSO, 1914-73)

G. P. and S. P. A. Henderson, Directory of British Associations 16th edn., (CBD Research, Beckenham: 1980)

Historic Houses, Castles and Gardens in Great Britain and Ireland (ABC Historic Publications; annual)

The Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries Yearbook (Clarke, Edinburgh: annual)

Libraries in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (The Library Association, 10th edn., London: 1983)

London Local Libraries, Guide to London Local Studies Resources (typescript available at Guildhall Library, Museum of London, Public Record Office and London local libraries).

Paul Morgan, Oxford Libraries Outside the Bodleian (Oxford, Oxford Bibliographical Society and the Bodleian Library, 1974)

Record Repositories in Great Britain: A Geographical Directory (Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 7th edn., London: 1982)

S. Roberts et al, Research Libraries and Collections in the United Kingdom (London, 1978)

Willings Press Guide - 109th Edition, (Croydon, Thomas Directories, 1983)

Writers and Artists Yearbook (A & C Black, London; annual)

USEFUL ADDRESSES

The following institutions and organisations may be of assistance in helping you locate a photograph or collection.

- Art Libraries Society, Gillian Varley, Secretary, Kingston Polytechnic, Knights Park, Kingston, Surrey.
- The Business Archives Council, Denmark House, 15 Tooley Street, London. SE1 2PN
- The Business Archives Council of Scotland, Glasgow University Archives, The University, Glasgow. G12 8QQ
- British Association for Local History, 43 Bedford Square, London. WC1B 3DP
- British Association of Picture Libraries and Agencies, P.O. Box 93, London.
- British Institute of Professional Photographers, Amwell End, Ware, Herts.
- The British Records Association, Master's Court, The Charterhouse, Charterhouse Square, London. EC1M 6AU
- The Catholic Archives Society, Hon. Secretary, c/o 4A Polstead Road, Oxford.
- Council of Photographic News Agencies, Bath House, Holborn Viaduct, London E.C.1.
- Courtauld Institute of Art, 20 Portman Square, London. W1H 0BE
- The Ephemera Society, 12 Fitzroy Square, London. W1P 5AH
- Institute of Journalists, 1 Whitehall Place, London. SW1A 2HE
- The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London. WC1E 7AE
- List and Index Society, The Secretary, c/o The Public Records Office, Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1LR
- The Museums Association, 87 Charlotte Street, London. W1P 2BX
- The National Book League, 7 Albermarle Street, London. W1X 4BB
- The National Register of Archives, Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1HP
- The National Register of Archives (Scotland), General Register House, Edinburgh.
- National Union of Journalists, Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London.
- The Photographers' Gallery, 8 Great Newport Street, London W.C.2.
- The Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square, London. WC1B 3HJ
- The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1HP
- The Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath. BA1 1DN
- Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London. SW7 4JX
- Society of Picture Researchers and Editors, c/o National Westminster Bank, 110 Wardour Street, London W.1.

ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

The majority of collections listed in the above directories are held in public, commercial or private hands - the latter two categories are not always available for public access. With this in mind, it is appropriate to contact the repository prior to a visit and ask for details of access arrangements. It should be understood that in many instances commercial libraries will not allow access by individuals in that they exist to service other commercial bodies.

If possible always try to visit the repository. You never know what they do hold until you have the opportunity to examine the collections. For example, a source may indicate a specific picture which, upon inspection, may turn out to be part of a set.

For guidance in researching illustrations consult Hilary Evans, The Art of Picture Research: A Guide to Current Practice, Procedure, Techniques and Resources (David and Charles, Newton Abbott, 1979) and Renata Shaw, Picture Searching - Techniques and Tools (Special Libraries Association, New York). These two volumes provide information on how to locate and research pictures, copyright, reproduction rights and problems of reproduction.

COPYRIGHT

Every photograph taken is automatically copyright to someone. It is important to remember, however, that the owner of a negative or photograph is not necessarily the copyright owner. The copyright owner is usually the photographer who has taken the original picture or the individual or institution who commissioned the photographer. In certain instances the copyright owner may be the publisher of the picture.

Copyright of a photograph taken before 1st June 1957, whether it has been published or not, lasts for 50 years from the year in which the photograph was taken. Copyright of a photograph taken after 1st June 1957 is perpetual until it is first published. Copyright will then continue for 50 years after the year of publication.

No one but the copyright owner may authorise the publication of a photograph. However, the law allows for the original photographer or someone else to make a single copy of a photograph for his/her own private study. They may not, however, make copies for friends, even for private study, as this involves the production of multiple copies, and so issue to the public. Similarly, it is not possible to establish a new copyright by producing a duplicate-negative or a copy photograph. This is a direct infringement of the copyright law.

It is not necessary to seek permission from the copyright holder to show pictures in an exhibition or to use them as slides in a lecture. However, as a matter of common courtesy it is highly recommended that such permission is sought.

For further information on this complex topic see Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, Copyright Law concerning Works of Art, Photographs and the Written and Spoken Word (Museums Association Information Sheet No.7, London, 1974) and A Brief Guide to Photographic Copyright (British Institute of Professional Photographers, 1983)

Compiled by Paul Smith

TDRG (1984)

c/o Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield, Sheffield. S10 2TN

TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP PUBLICATIONS

ROOMER: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP

Research in any field is, as often as not, hampered by lack of communication between individuals, and Traditional Drama is no exception. We are acutely aware that there are many people doing valuable work who have little or no contact with others in the field and, consequently, no opportunity to compare notes or air their views.

Published six times a year, ROOMER is designed to fill this gap by providing an informal forum. It includes notes and queries, details of publications, out-of-the-way texts, information on work in progress, in fact anything that may be of interest to those working in the field of Traditional Drama. As such it relies heavily on participation by the subscribers. If you have any contributions please forward them to the editors.

Volume 1 (1981)	£3.50
Volume 2 (1982)	£3.50
Volume 3 (1983)	£3.50
Volume 4 (1984)	£3.50

THE PEACE EGG OR ST. GEORGE: AN EASTER PLAY

An original chapbook from Edwards & Bryning with a brief history by Peter Stevenson (1982) £1.25

AN INTERIM LIST OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOLK PLAYS AND RELATED CUSTOMS
by Peter Millington (reprinted 1984) £2.50

MUMMING PLAYS IN OXFORDSHIRE: AN INTERIM CHECKLIST
by Steve Roud (1984) £2.50

RESEARCH GUIDES

Although the guides have been prepared with Traditional Drama in mind, they are also of relevance to other areas of Folklore research.

For free copies of the guides please forward an A4 s.a.e.

1. Basic Questions to Ask by Peter Millington
2. Biographies by Paul Smith
3. Tracing Photographs by Paul Smith

Please make all cheques payable to Traditional Drama Research Group. Overseas customers are asked to make all payments in Stirling. If this is not possible please add the equivalent of £1.25 to cover bank charges.

NOTES

The Traditional Drama Research Group is currently working on Research Guides covering the counties of Lancashire, Devon and Cornwall. With this in mind, we would be most grateful to receive details of any materials concerning traditional plays and related customs from these areas of the country.

Details should be sent to Traditional Drama Research Group, c/o The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN

DEJA VU DEPARTMENT

from Craig Fees

"All the first Pieces of the Stage were without either Art or Learning, or any other Ornament than that of Novelty; the Composition was without Skill, and the Verses without any Politeness; the Actours no waies understood their business, and the whole Representation was defective all over; insomuch that they had not a painted Cloth to hide those who were to go off the Stage; but they were reputed absent who did not present themselves to speak."

Francois Hedelin abbé d'Aubignac,
The Whole Art of the Stage (London, 1684)

ROOMER: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP

ISSN 0262-4095

Research in any field is, as often as not, hampered by the lack of communication between individual researchers, and Traditional Drama is no exception. We are acutely aware that there are many people doing valuable work who have little or no contact with others in this field and, consequently, no opportunity to compare notes or air their views.

ROOMER then is designed to fill this gap by providing an informal forum. It includes notes and queries, details of publications, out-of-the-way texts, information on work in progress, in fact anything that may be of interest to those working in the field of Traditional Drama. As such it relies heavily on participation by subscribers. Therefore, if you have any potential contributions we would be most grateful to receive them.

Back volumes of the newsletter are currently available at the cost of the annual subscription. For further information regarding ROOMER and the work of the TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP contact:

Steve Roud, 9 Albert Carr Gardens, London. SW16 3HD (01-677-9393)
Paul Smith, Laburnum House, Main Street, West Stockwith, Doncaster. (0427 890042)

The views expressed by the contributors to Roomer are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Traditional Drama Research Group. © 1984 The Authors