

Notes on Contributors

Sandra Billington is Reader in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, University of Glasgow. Books: *A Social History of the Fool* (1984); *Mock Kings* (1991); *Midsummer* (2000). The connection between research and teaching lies in an interest in the interplay between popular, often oral cultures of the Middle Ages, and their incorporation in Medieval and Renaissance literature and theatre.

Duncan Broomhead has been collecting folk plays and related customs from Cheshire and the North West of England for over twenty five years. He is a regular performer of the Alderley Mummers' Play and has recently been heavily involved in arranging exchange visits with the Aughakillymaude Community Mummers of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

Eddie Cass has been a Research Associate researching British folk drama at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield since 1997. He is a Folklore Society committee member and involved editorially with FLS Books and *Folk Music Journal*. He is cataloguing the folk plays in the James Madison Carpenter Collection, Library of Congress, and researching the history of chapbooks containing traditional play texts, with Mike Preston and Paul Smith. Books include *The Lancashire Pace-Egg Play. A social history* (2001); and with Steve Roud, *Room, Room, Ladies and Gentlemen ... an introduction to the English mummers' play* (2002).

E. Christopher Cawte first heard the Northumbrian pipes in 1952, joined the King's College Morris Men in the same year, and progressed from music to song and dance. This team was also a research organization until Bill Cassie retired. He started his first geographical list of customs in 1954, and has not yet stopped. His first field research was on rapper dances, but reading expanded this to other seasonal customs and field research. He generally likes to try to find an answer to "what's going on here?" in a field which has not had much attention before.

Terry Gunnell is Associate Professor of Folkloristics at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik. He is a leader of the *Masks and Mumming in the Nordic Counties* project and was an organiser of the conference on *Traditional Masks and Mumming in Northern Europe*, held in Turku, Finland in 2002. He is the author of *The Origins of Drama in Scandinavia* (1995).

Emily Lyle is an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She has recently completed editing the last volume of The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection and The Song Repertoire of Amelia and Jane Harris (both of which are due to be published this summer) and hopes to finish shortly a book drawing on archive material called *A Penny Was a Lot In Those Days: "Galoshins" Remembered*. She is also preparing a web-based tutorial on calendar customs due for completion in September 2002.

Neill Martin is Lecturer in Custom and Belief with the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. His main research interests are verbal folklore, especially ritual speech, the functional and ritual aspects of music and poetry, and the relationship between custom, belief and the management of conflict. He launched an honours course on traditional drama in spring 2003 and published a major article on the symbolism of Gaelic betrothal ritual in the journal *Scottish Studies* (2002).

George Mifsud-Chircop is lecturer of folklore and ethnography, University of Malta. Research interests: folk narrative, including fairy tales, legends, anecdotes, drama,

proverbs and song. He is artistic director of the Malta National Folk Singing Festival where contemporary folk drama has been recently introduced on his initiative.

Peter Millington is a founder member of the Traditional Drama Research Group and is webmaster of the English folk play website - www.folkplay.info. He has a long-standing interest in the folk plays and related customs of Nottinghamshire, and in the use of computers as an aid for analysing textual data. He completed his PhD on "The Origins and Development of English Folk Plays" at the University of Sheffield in 2002.

Tom Pettitt is an Associate Professor in the Institute for Literature, Culture and Media Studies at the Odense Campus of the University of Southern Denmark, where he lectures on the literature and theatre history of the late-medieval and early-modern periods under the English degree programmes. He is also a member of the University's Centre for Medieval Studies. His research focuses on tradition-borne artforms such as ballads, legends, customs and folk drama, both as cultural productions in their own right, and in relation to conventional literary and theatre history.

Mike Preston was, for fourteen years, the Director of the Center for Computer Research in the Humanities at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he is now Professor of English. He teaches Folklore, Shakespeare, and Early English drama. He is a co-author of books on the Revesby play text and of the on-going series *Chapbooks and Traditional Drama*.

Peter Robson has lived in Dorset since 1974 and has devoted much of his spare time to exploring the traditional culture of the area. His M.Phil thesis on Dorset calendar customs was completed in 1988. He is now, he hopes, about a year away from completing his Ph.D thesis on Thomas Hardy and traditional culture in Dorset.

Derek Schofield is Deputy Director of Finance and Administration at South Cheshire College. His folk music and folklore interests have included five years as Arena Director at Sidmouth International Festival, Vice-Chair of the trustees of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, and Chair of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library Advisory Committee. He co-produced the CD *A Century of Song*, issued to celebrate the centenary of the Folk Song Society, and produced the CD *Absolutely Classic: The Music of William Kimber* (1999). He is currently researching Sharp's first folksong collecting trip in 1903 and the history of the Sidmouth Festival.

Paul Smith is a Professor of Folklore at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Co-Director of the Institute for Folklore Studies in Britain and Canada (Memorial University of Newfoundland/University of Sheffield), and Associate Director of the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield. In 1978 he instigated the Traditional Drama Conferences, and in 1982 the annual Perspectives on Contemporary Legend International Seminars. He has written numerous articles, books and monographs on folklore topics, and is co-editor of the journal *Traditional Drama Studies*.

John Widdowson began collecting folklore in Newfoundland 1962 with Herbert Halpert, and became particularly interested in traditional drama. His field work on Mumming is summarised in *Christmas Mumming in Newfoundland* (Halpert & Story, 1969). As fieldwork continued, further oral texts and performance details were collected, but these are only now being transcribed. On returning to Sheffield in 1964 he discovered the mummies' plays around Sheffield, and recorded several texts with Paul Smith. The plays became a special interest of the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, which has an association with the Traditional Drama Research Group.