

# HARPINGS

#11  
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Current availability is to Filk Foundation members, contributors-of-news, and on Editorial Whim.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR MAILING LABEL

Besides the basic address-lines, there are two code-marks; one alphabetic and the other numeric. The A or C indicates why you are getting this issue. A=active member, C=contributor. (If neither appears, you may assume Editorial Whim). The numeric code is YY/MM/DD for your expiration date. DD is always the last date in any month, so of YY/MM falls between 30 days before and 60 days after the postmark date on this issue, you need to renew NOW to be sure of getting the next issue. Foundation membership remains \$15 per year.

## FILK INDEX PROGRESSING

Roberta Rogow reports that Sourdough Jackson is going to distribute his Filk Index through Other Worlds Books (Roberta's fan press). Send Roberta a SASE for details as they become available. Other Worlds Press, PO Box 124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410.

((I reported on the beginning of this project 2 issues back, I think, and have yet to send my own intended contribution of information. I hope other sources have been more forthcoming. What Jackson needs are Xeroopies of the title pages of published filk books, with some marginal notes of authors of the songs and the SF/Fantasy/Media source of inspiration, and the name & address of the editor of the publication if that is not on the title page. Jackson's address is 31 Rangeview Dr., Lakewood CO 80215.))

## COLLECTIBLE FILK by Buck Coulson

I have been asked to do a chapter on filk tapes for a book on collectibles, IF editors and publishers get together on price, date, and so on. I'd rather have my information in advance, if possible. I have the catalogs of Off Centaur, Wail Songs, Dag Productions,

Pegasus Publications, Starwind Publications, and Magic Granny Line, but there are lots of individuals who have produced their own tapes, and I don't have the addresses for all of them. If you, or anyone you know, has a tape in print, I'd like to know name of tape, name and address of publisher, and price. Not restricted to filk tapes IF the artist is a science fiction fan; I've been told that Nate Bucklin has a rock tape out and I want information on it and any other fan-produced tapes. I'll be including things like Hourglass Productions' interview tapes, and possibly tape-recorded fanzines. (And if I don't have your song tape, I might well buy a copy.)

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## STORY SALE BY FILKER

Mistie Joyce reports in her APA-FILK contrib that Jane Mailander has just won first prize in the Writers of the Future contest. The anthology in which her story will appear won't be published until next year, but she's already been paid and so now we can call her a "fealthy pro".

Jane also found out, almost by accident, that a copy of her poem "Seven Stars", written for the Challenger tragedy, was taped up to the shuttle display at the L.A. Museum of Science and Industry.

APA-FILK  
Issue #35 August 1987

APA-FILK is the apa (amateur press association) about filk. It is collated the firsts of August, November, February, and May, at John Boardman's house in Brooklyn.

The latest issue contains contribs by Roberta Rogow, Mistie Joyce, Harold Feld, Mark Blackman, Margaret Middleton, and John Boardman. The review of "Chickasaw Mountain" in this issue of Harplings was reprinted from APA-FILK and several news items were excerpted from there also. To get a copy and see what else is going on in there, send John a dollar (to cover postage & an envelope) and ask for a sample issue. There is no waitlist to join.

John Boardman  
234 E. 19th St.  
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## SONGBOOK AVAILABLE

John Boardman reports that Greg Baker (a member of APA-FILK though not appearing in the latest issue) has come out with a second edition of "Greg Baker's Filk Book" with a Leah Rosenthal cover showing Greg playing his guitar, with backup by Mr. Spock on the Vulcan tuba, Darth Vader on flute, and E.T. on triangle. No price is given, but for information write to Gregory and Sharron Baker, Apt. 914, 11724 S. Laurel Dr. Laurel, MD 20708-2920.

## CHICKASAW MOUNTAIN

A Review by Lee Burwasser  
of Leslie Fish's tape  
from Off-Centaur Publications,  
El Cerrito, CA, 1986  
Review reprinted from APA-Filk #39.

Leslie Fish is probably best known for setting Kipling to music. She's done two tapes of that, COLD IRON and THE UNDERTAKER'S HORSE. She's also done a recordful of STAR TREK songs, SOLAR SAILORS, and a tape of her own stuff, SKYBOUND, that is more generally SF, though with bits of ST and of Kipling, too. And she turns up on various multi-performer tapes.

CHICKASAW MOUNTAIN is different. Bits of it might be classed as SF or as fantasy, but the whole thing is mythic. And despite two or three comic turns, the tape as a whole is stark.

It may be just coincidence that the progression goes from mountain to mountain: "Mount Tam" to start off Side A and "Chickasaw Mountain" to end Side B. It may also be coincidence that two of the light songs are at the hub - just before and just after you flip the tape - while the stark choices are on the mountains. If it was accidental, it was a powerful accident.

There is great temptation to "read" from this tape Leslie's feelings about Neo-Pagans. Two of the songs are unmerciful send-ups of modern covens, and many off the rest show a sterner Goddess than Wiccans generally talk about. One must note, however, that one of those send-ups, "Stone Dance", is a favorite with many Neo-Pagans. It's not always easy to tell when a writer is joshing.

Taking the songs in order: "Mount Tam" has strong earthquake imagery. You know it was taped in California. The narrator has a stark choice: where will the quake strike? A doctor making triage decisions can feel she's only recognising who's already beyond help; the wizard of Mt. Tam has free choice - and one helluva responsibility.

"Jack the Slob and the Goddess of Love" is one of the comic turns, but there's a grimness to it. Even the supposedly soft, loving aspect is nobody to mess with. The structure is medieval, the lyric modern colloquial - it probably sounds to us much as medieval songs actually sounded to medieval audiences. Funny as hell.

"Hymn to the Night-Mare". Traditional imagery in the beginning, when "someone" must die, gives way to earthquake/tsunami imagery, with mounting death toll, as the Night Mare becomes ever more elemental.

"Ferryman" is a collaboration. Mercedes Lackey writes lyrics that singers scramble to compose tunes to. Here she has done a highly mythic episode in verses that need

the strength of the music, yet carry their own weight. It's clear from the beginning that either the ferryman or the fare is a ghost, but which? When she gives him her shawl, I guessed, and guessed wrong: that's the only clue I'm giving away.

"Challenger" is notable more for subject than treatment. Mythic heroes are no Don Quixotes; they have to be pushed into their quests. But the pushing is often done by the hero's own nature. Here, the hero seems at first to be a shaman, pursued by dreams and troubling circumstances until she accepts her vocation. Then she turns out to be something else. Or does she?

"White Man's Rain Chant" is just that - a translation.

"Ship of Stone" by Don Simpson, is as close to science fiction as this tape gets. In this song, today is the dreamtime, the mythic Time of Origin, to which the companions look back in affirming their unity. I may be reading too much into one verse, but that unity seems to embrace artificial intelligence.

For "Stone Dance" she lays on the twang an inch thick. "Then get dressed and drive back into town". That one. 'Nuff said.

End of Side A.

"The Gods Are Not Crazy" is dedicated to Charles Fort. It does not take portents seriously. I wonder if this is what LeGuin would call "getting fresh" with the Immortals? I doubt it. But there's plenty of freshness in it.

"Rise Up Bright Sun" is another translation.

"Berserker" is one case where the tape softens reality. Actual berserkers were a nasty lot, while the narrator here is the idealised master of martial arts - patient, quiet, humble. Still, some sources do distinguish between berserkers by choice and the afflicted. And the elves of LORD OF THE RINGS are no less legitimate than the more primitive and dangerous elves of Anderson's THE BROKEN SWORD.

"The Sun Is Also A Warrior" is weakened by didacticism, though not fatally. The eternal warning - be sure you really want what you ask for - joined to a modern question: "What IS worth fighting for?"

"Earth's Fire-breathing Daughter" shows a very different coven from the one in "Stone Dance". (NB: I have no idea whether the title is meant to refer to the sequel to SILVERLOCK, as I could never get even a chapter into it.) Earthquake imagery again, this time with mud slides. A jab at "liberals" - Fish is a Wobbly - reminiscent of Phil Ochs' "Love Me, I'm a Liberal". Mildly amusing.

"Hallow's Dirge", by Landon, is probably not as confused as it seems. It IS diffused, combining harvest and waning imagery more closely than we generally see

them.

Do not listen to the last two if you're feeling depressed.

Years ago, at a BaltiCon, I think, Leslie introduced "No More Songs" as the last song Phil Ochs wrote before he killed himself.

"Chickasaw Mountain" is about that, and about stark choices, and the Lady who gives nothing for free. It can be regarded as the case for the "stall-fed ox", the one who lives and serves a normal lifetime. I just have a hard time seeing Leslie Fish as a stall-fed ox.

EXCERPT FROM MAD 3 PARTY  
April 1987 issue, Page 7

((Mad 3 Party is a newszine put out by the Noreascon 3 committee, and is subtitled "More than you ever wanted to know about running a Worldcon". One of the things the N3 concom does is schedule rap-sessions at major regionals, in which attendees can offer input on THEIR priorities and preferences and ask questions of the concom about specific event planning for N3. This paragraph is excerpted from the summary of comments from last February's such session at Boskone.))

Filking: Interestingly, almost all the participants requested LESS structured filksinging. They wanted to get together and sing, NOT listen to someone perform. They definitely did not want a recording session, as one person put it.//It would be nice to be able to sit and filk in the hallways-- either on the sleeping room floors or in the function areas.

Responses to the above should be directed to MAD 3 PARTY, c/o Noreascon 3, Box 46 MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139. Leslie Turek is currently the editor. Subscriptions to M3P are \$1 per issue or \$6 per year (6 issues).

#### LOOSE ENDS

Will someone from Muse Con please send me a printout of all the registrants? If someone will also send me a conreport on MuseCon I will send HARPINGS containing the conreport to all who registered for the con.

The same

goes for ConChord 3.

#### FILK CONS AND OTHERS

CONCLAVE XII  
October 9-11, Southfield Hilton, Southfield MI. GoH's Gene Wolfe (Pro), Joey Shoji (Fan), Jim Loudon (Science), Steve Simmons (TM). Registration \$15. Info ConClave, PO Box 2915, Ann Arbor MI 48106.

#### SOONERCON 3

October 16-18, Central Plaza Hotel (Jct. I-35 & I-40), Oklahoma City. GoH's Robin Bailey (Author & Filk), David Cherry (Art), Laura LeHew (Fan), Dell Harris (TM), Richard & Wendy Pini (Comics). Reg \$12 til 10-1-87, \$15 after & at-door. No huckster rates quoted on flyer. Info Soonercon 3, PO Box 1701, Bethany OK 73008.

#### MILEHICON 19

October 23-25, DoubleTree Hotel at Heather Ridge Country Club, 13696 E. Iliff Pl, Aurora CO. GoH's C.J. Cherryh & Peter Beagle, TM Ed Bryant. Reg. \$18 til 10-1, \$20 after & at-door. Info Bruce Miller (303)936-4092 or Gail Barton (303)233-6958 or PO Box 27074, Denver CO 80277.

#### OHIO VALLEY FILK FEST 3 (FilkCon 9.3)

Oct. 30-Nov.1, Delaware Holiday Inn, 351 S. Sandusky St, Delaware OH. GoH Meg Davis, TM Michael (Moonwolf) Longcor. Reg \$20. Hux tables \$15 n/i reg. Checks to "OSFS Inc." Info OVFF 3, PO Box 211101, Columbus OH 43221

#### XANADU 4

November 13-15, Ramada Inn @ Music Valley Dr, Nashville TN. Guests Poul & Karen Anderson (Pro), Bob & Anne Passovoy (Fan), Wilson (Bob) Tucker (TM). Reg \$15 til Oct 1, \$20 thereafter. Children 6-12 yrs halfprice, under 6 yrs free. Info Xanadu SF Con, PO Box 23281, Nashville TN 37202.

#### CHATTACON XIII

Jan 15-17, 1988, Holiday Inn. NO ADDRESS GIVEN ON FLYER. Guests Jack Chalker (Fantasy), Kelly Freas (Art), Charles Grant (TM) John Steakley (Special) Maurine Dorris (Fan), Kevin Ward (Fan Artist). Writer GoH TBA as of the flyer I have. Reg \$15 til 1 Dec. 1987, \$20 thereafter. There is a form to fill out on the back of the flyer to register and reserve hotel rooms. Info Chattacon, PO Box 1632, Chattanooga TN 37401-1632

#### BAYFILK 4 (FilkCon 10.1)

Early March, 1988. GoH Murray Porath. All else TBA. Info Off-Centaur Publications, PO Box 424, El Cerrito CA 94530.

#### NEW & CORRECTED ADDRESS SINCE LASTISH

Edi Bjorklund, 2867 Sherman Blvd, Milwaukee WI 53210

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