



Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
P. O. Box 19303 • 20th Street Station • Washington, D.C. 20036

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June, 1968

George A. Simpson, Editor

NEW ENGLAND FOLKSONG SINGERS SANDY AND CAROLINE PATON IN CONCERT, FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Sandy and Caroline Paton, of Sharon, Connecticut, singers of folksong mainly in the white American and British Isles tradition, will perform at the Society's last program for the season, 8:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, in the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th Street NW., Washington, D.C.

"Sandy Paton is, in my opinion, the best interpreter of traditional singing in the English-speaking world, with the possible but not the probable exception of Ewan MacColl," to quote John Greenway, professor of English and Anthropology at the University of Colorado and editor of the Journal of American Folklore. And Kenneth S. Goldstein, University of Pennsylvania folklorist, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Folklore Society, and producer of many folk music records, has written: "Paton has both a fine voice and a sympathetic understanding of tradition. He has traveled around America and the British Isles, listening to both traditional and non-traditional folksingers, and has learned the strength and weaknesses of both classes."

The Patons have performed for rural and community groups, at schools and colleges, and folk festivals, including the Beers Family Fox Hollow Folk Festival. They avoid and, even during the so-called folk music boom, avoided club and cocktail lounge work. They are folk music authorities and have done extensive field collecting, from which much of their repertory is drawn, in their travels from the East to the West Coast, in Appalachia, in New England, and in the British Isles. In Scotland, they traveled, collecting with Hamish Henderson, spent time with renowned folksinger Jeannie Robertson, and even camped out with the tinkers, or Travelin' Folk.

With Mary and Lee Haggerty, the Patons founded Folk-Legacy Records, the catalog of which now boasts some 30 items. Among them are records of Sarah Cleveland, classical ballad and broadside singer from New York; the late Frank Proffitt, rare noble man and folksinger from North Carolina, and the Coppers from England, who reflect a seldom documented English countryside tradition. Their Interpreter Series includes Chicago frailer and singer Fleming Brown, the popular "Golden Ring," and Sandy and Caroline Paton, recently released under designation EGO-30. The Patons had recorded an EP for Topic, an English label, in 1958, and Sandy recorded an LP for Elektra in 1959.

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MEMBERSHIP OR SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Enclosed find check or money order in the amount of (\$5.00 yearly individual membership) or (\$7.50 yearly family membership) or (\$1.00 yearly Newsletter subscription).

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

In the notes to Folk-Legacy EGO-30, in which he also labels John Greenway's quote above "that extravagant statement," Sandy writes: "While Caroline and I are certainly tradition-oriented, we are far from typical, dyed-in-the-wool purists. We never try to imitate anyone, nor do we pretend to be something we are not. We are keenly aware of the difference between traditional singers and singers of traditional songs, and we make no attempt to deny that we are members of the latter group. When we sing a traditional song, we try to treat it with respect, hoping that our genuine affection for the material will be conveyed to the audience, and that it may even be contagious. We also sing a number of contemporary songs because we happen to like them, for one reason or another."

Admission is free to Society members, one dollar for non-members, and fifty cents for children.

COLLECTANEA:

Officers elected for next year are: John R. Dildine, President; Mike Rivers, Vice-President; Frank Daspit, Treasurer; Bob Clayton, Special Events; Joe Hickerson, Membership; Andy Wallace, Program; Rosemary Moyer, Secretary; Roni Bowie, Publicity; George Simpson, Publications; and Helen Schneyer, and Eric (Gene) Anderson, Officers-at-Large. The Society constantly is in need of people to assist in its operations! If you are interested in helping in any of the various phases, please contact the respective chairman.

The Society plans to hold picnics for members this summer. The first will be at the Schneyers on Saturday, June 15. For information, call the Schneyers at 949-4552.

The second newsletter supplement is now being prepared and will be sent to members and subscribers. In this issue will be a paper by Professor George Carey on student folklore collecting at the University of Maryland with examples from many parts of the state, book and record reviews, the "folk calendar," and other items. Professor Carey's paper was read last year at a Society meeting. The Publications Chairman welcomes articles, papers, collectanea, and other pertinent material for consideration for publication in the supplement. Especially desired is material on, or from Washington, and nearby Maryland and Virginia.

This will be the last newsletter from the Society till after summer.

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