ANNOUNCEMENT:
Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral history collection sold to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress

ORONO — A new collaboration between the Library of Congress’ American Folklife Center and the University of Maine will preserve a unique archival collection that documents the history and traditions of Maine, other New England states and the Canada’s Maritime Provinces. That collection, the entire holdings of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and History, is part of UMaine’s Folklife Center.

The library will acquire the entire collection, preserve it at its state-of-the art facilities and serve it online and in person to researchers from around the world. Digital copies will remain accessible at UMaine’s Maine Folklife Center.

The folklife center will contract with collaborators for audio and video file digitization while scanning manuscripts and photos on site in Orono. The original items, along with copies of the digital files, will move to the Library of Congress for further processing and storage while a copy will remain available in Orono.

Founded in 1958 by the late Edward D. “Sandy” Ives (1925-2009), an eminent folklorist, oral historian and UMaine professor for more than 40 years, the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History contains unrivaled documentation of community life, traditions and iconic occupations of the region, including commercial fishing and logging. Materials in the archives include over 3,000 one-of-a-kind audio recordings of interviews with ordinary people about their lives, along with 325,000 pages of interview transcripts and other manuscripts, 10,000 documentary photographs, and other materials.

“The collection of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History is one of the largest and best regional folklore archives in the country,” says Dr. Peggy Bulger, director of the American Folklife Center. “Its holdings are of great value to scholars and the general public especially because they feature recordings of people talking about their own lives, including the techniques of their work, the songs they sing, the stories they tell, the foods they eat, the ways they predict the weather and many others things, which, taken altogether, reflect the distinctive texture of life in the Northeast.

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There is no better index of what makes past and present life in Maine, and the states and provinces that border it, unique than the contents of the Northeast Archives.”

This agreement benefits the Maine Folklife Center in several ways, including enhancement of its ability to concentrate on newer digital technology as it continues its teaching, research and community outreach mission.

And the agreement is beneficial to the Library of Congress because this acquisition brings a collection of international importance to the nation’s premier archive of American traditional culture. The collection will complement and enhance the American Folklife Center’s existing collections related to Maine, New England, and eastern Canada, as well as its extensive documentation of occupational culture and traditional music.

“Thanks to the vision and foresight of the Library of Congress staff, working with UMaine personnel who appreciate the immense value of this collection, these works will be preserved according to the highest possible archival standards,” says UMaine President Paul Ferguson. “Moreover, access will be enhanced and assured in both Maine and Washington for generations to come, to the benefit of students, scholars and those who care deeply about the rich traditions that have shaped our regional culture.”

“There are many valuable collections of traditional material from specific states and regions archived at the American Folklife Center, but none rivals the Maine Folklife Collection for its international, cross-border scope, its 50-year examination of traditions such as occupational song, and the daily life of loggers and fishers,” says Dr. Michael Taft, head of the American Folklife Center’s Archive. “Of special importance is that the collection is largely the work of Sandy Ives, his colleagues and students, whose expert skills at documentation add considerable value to the collected materials.”

“This agreement provides the Maine Folklife Center with a unique and wonderful opportunity: first, by preserving the collection in its traditional formats at the Library of Congress, assuring permanent care and second, by providing resources that help us move forward using newer technology as we continue to train students in oral history fieldwork, and archival processing methods; conduct community-based projects such as our recent work with paper mill and sardine cannery workers, provide resources to teachers and the public through such venues as our National Endowment for the Arts sponsored Maine Song and Story Sampler on the Web, and our programming at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront,” says Pauleena MacDougall, Maine Folklife Center director.

The American Folklife Center was created in 1976 by the U.S. Congress to “preserve and present” American folklife through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, publication and training. The Center incorporates an archive, which was established in the Music Division of the Library of Congress in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic materials from the United States and around the world.

The mission of the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine is to enhance public understanding of the Folklife, folklore and history of Maine and Atlantic Canada, to encourage appreciation of the diverse cultures and heritage of the region, and thereby to strengthen and enrich our communities.
Book Review: Somalis in Maine: Crossing Cultural Currents

Somalis in Maine: Crossing Cultural Currents
Eds: Kimberly A. Huisman, Mazie Hough, Kristin M. Langellier and Carol Nordstrom Toner

Three thousand Somali refugees have found a home in Lewiston, Maine. The stories of their escape from their war-torn country in Africa, their travels to the United States and their adjustment to life in Maine are told in a series of narratives recorded by the editors. Interspersed with these amazing stories of courage and resilience the editors have written essays about the history of Somalia, the reasons Somalis chose to migrate to Maine, and the cultural collaboration between the editors: a multi-disciplinary group of faculty from the University of Maine and the Somali community in Maine. Fascinating reading and highly recommended to anyone interested but especially to Maine’s educational community.

Book Review: A Social History of Hallowell, Maine in the early 19th Century


Occasionally works of local history come across my desk—in this case one of our members, Katy Perry sent me her very own copy of a book that brings to light some interesting primary sources found in a small wooden chest in the Hubbard Free Library in Hallowell, Maine. Our local libraries are such treasures of materials like these. This small box contained the papers from the Franklin Debating Society 1823-1829. Composed of young men (sixteen-seventeen years of age) already in the work force, the Society encouraged personal improvement through writing. Many of these young men worked as apprentices in a local print shop (the Hallowell Gazette). The boys started the society writing for and debating with each other and chose Benjamin Franklin as their inspiration because he had been an apprentice printer at one time, and because he had founded a similar group called the Junto. Following the lead of Junto, the Franklin Debating Society developed a set of rules and set the creation of a library as a goal. The young clerks and apprentices wrote short essays (2-3 paragraphs at first, growing longer in time), that focused on many larger topics: racism, slavery, temperance, status of women and minorities, term limits, the Electoral College, and political parties. In 1829, the president of the society, Henry A. Hilton died at the age of 25. The Society met, voted to sell their books and property and donated the proceeds to Hilton's family. The case bound book has eleven chapters mostly organized by topics the young boys wrote about (education, war, reforms, equality, drama and poetry, politics and government, essays and composition). It is illustrated and available by contacting the author, Gerald Mahoney, Winthrop Street, Hallowell, Maine 04347.

-PMM
The Maine Song and Story Sampler:
An Online Resource for Communities and Teachers

The Maine Folklife Center has been working diligently in order to finish up our latest project; the Maine Song and Story Sampler, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. [http://umaine.edu/folklife/maine-song-and-story-sampler-map/](http://umaine.edu/folklife/maine-song-and-story-sampler-map/)

The website is a fun and interactive resource about many of the songs and stories from our collection. On the website there is a map with different pins marking several geographical areas of Maine. When you click a pin information appears including a brief description, the accession number to find the transcript, links for more resources, and appropriate photographs. Audio or video recordings of traditional songs and stories are also available and can be downloaded as mp3s and mpegs4s. The map includes about fifty areas of Maine, creating a representative sample of geographical and cultural songs and traditions.

Graduate student Josh Parda has hand selected and researched all the stories and songs that are in our collection. He also had the task of researching related articles, pictures and information and combining everything together on the new website. He says referring to Maine folklore, “I didn’t know any of this, it was all new to me”. His favorite part of working on this project was the new found knowledge he gained. An advisory board consisting of Jeff Todd Titon, Brown University, David Taylor and Michael Taft from the American Folklife Center, Peggy Yocom, George Mason University, Jo Radner, emeritus of American University and Jeff McKeen from Freedom, Maine reviewed the selections and made suggestions to Josh about the site.

The Curriculum Connections Series is a closely related project that branches out from The Maine Song and Story Sampler. Bangor High School teacher Geoff Wingard created numerous lesson plans based on the Maine Song and Story web site for K-12 teachers. He helped to make the material more accessible to educators as a online resource to teach their students. The program offers guidance and suggestions for teachers in twelve sample lessons that adhere to the Maine Department of Education endorsed Maine Learning Results. Another feature with the Curriculum Connections Series allows educators to organize entire courses and units in subjects such as Maine studies, social studies or folklore. The goal of this new Curriculum Connections Series is to unlock all the stories, songs and traditions unique to Maine, and share them with a wider audience.

Check Out Our New Marketplace:

The Maine Folklife Center has a new marketplace on our web site that allows you to renew your membership and/or purchase books and recordings on a secure online site.

Go to our website at [www.umaine.edu/folklife](http://www.umaine.edu/folklife) to access the marketplace to order online. You can still order by mail or over the phone if you wish, but secure credit card payments will be made on our website.
The 2011 American Folk Festival Recap
The American Folk Festival: Folk and Traditional Arts Area

This year’s two day American Folk Festival was a great success, even with the weather working against it. Due to the inevitable hurricane Irene, the festival unfortunately was cancelled on the third and last day, Sunday, August 28th. The University of Maine showed a wide variety of participation in the Folk and Traditional Arts area holding demonstrations and exhibits as well as programming on the narrative stage with representatives from the Maine Folklife Center, Hudson Museum, Page Farm and Home Museum and the Cooperative Extension.

The Folk and Traditional Arts area of the festival emphasized education along with entertainment. The festival focused on farming traditions of the past and present and different skills that novice and advanced farmers alike could use. Generous contributors demonstrated many different useful skills such as Micmac potato basket making, gardening in containers, herbal medicine, gardening with herbs, beekeeping and a small farmer’s market featuring apples, cheese and baked goods. Maine Farmer Poets enthralled audiences with their songs and poems created out of their farming experiences.

WHATS NEW IN THE ARCHIVES?

The Maine Folklife Center has added descriptions of a number of new collections to its Website (http://umaine.edu/folklife/archives/collections/). Subjects covered include swordfishing in Nova Scotia, pack-basket makers, Somalis in Lewiston, Bangor waterfront revitalization, and background to the 1980 Indian Land Claims Settlement Act.

James Moreira and David Sanger interviewed members of the D’entremont family who were fishermen in the Pubnico, Nova Scotia area. The family is well-known in the area for its participation in the swordfishing industry. The interviews provide a fascinating look into the techniques of catching swordfish and what it was like growing up in a fishing family.

Bill Mackowski in 2010 interviewed pack-basket makers in several Maine communities about their basket-making techniques. He has included 3 videos of basket-makers at work as they describe what they are doing.

Elizabeth Hoyt Hannibal and Dianne Schindler interviewed 5 Somali women living in Lewiston, Maine in 2003. The interviewees provide a look into the Somali culture they experienced growing up in Somalia and how they have adjusted to their new lives in Lewiston.

The development of the Bangor waterfront is an ongoing economic revitalization program. Pauleena MacDougall conducted interviews with Rodney McKay, Director of Community and Economic Development for the city of Bangor, and John M. Rohman, CEO of WBRC, who described the history of development plans for the waterfront since the 1980s and also what is envisioned for the future of the area.

David Slagger’s interviews explore various tribal, state, federal, legal, and historical perspectives on the 1980 Indian Land Claims Settlement Act as well as opinions on the long term cultural and economic effects. The interviewees provide insight into the history of the treatment of the Indians in Maine and into the negotiations which resulted in the 1980 Act.
From the Archives:

The Stinson Seafood Collection is a recent addition to the Northeast Archives. The Stinson Seafood Cannery employed numerous workers, here in the state of Maine, at the sardine plant in Prospect Harbor. The plant, like many, closed and the close-knit workers were out of a job in March, 2010. Numerous workers were interviewed at work the last week the factory was open and shared their views on the plant closing and what they planned on doing for work afterwards. The collection, as a whole, contains many humorous stories of pranks played at the plant along with other anecdotes. When asked what Betty Faulkingham, a Stinson Seafood Cannery worker, wanted readers to remember about the Stinson Seafood factory she said, "It's employed a lot of people, we've all enjoyed working here. I know I have anyway and the people that I have come to know I will always remember them and miss them."

A second series of interviews conducted recently with former workers will be added to the collection soon. The second series is part of a Maine Humanities Council funded project to assess the workers' experiences since the plant closed and to develop a public program for the workers in their community.

WHO IS USING THE ARCHIVES?

More people use the Maine Folklife Center's Archives than you may think! The Archives are a great resource often utilized for many different reasons!

Researchers Say:
"I'm using this research to write a capstone on Native American Music."
"Class Project for ANT 326 on medicinal plant uses"
"Research in preparation for a documentary film"
"Long-term research project, which will result in book(s), articles, conference papers"
"Family-self"
"Looking for some stories or facts I could use to promote a club"
"Preparation for oral history interviews"
"The information will provide background for my work."
"Mostly my own amusement"
"Class archives project ANT 330"
NEW COURSE: ANT 425 / MES 498

Recorded interviewing techniques and methods

ANT 425 is a new, three credit, hybrid (in class and online) course being offered Fall 2011 taught by Pauleena MacDougall. The class combines online assignments and monthly meetings in class or via compressed video. There are no prerequisites for this course allowing a wide variety of students to take it. The class introduces students to the methodology and theory of ethnographic and oral history fieldwork that is practiced by real life researchers in the humanities and social sciences. Students will learn about the methods of archiving research materials and how exactly to interpret and use their research in a document or paper. Students will learn the necessary practices of permissions and the concepts of copyrights as it relates to interviews. They will also fulfill the requirements of the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) - which is required training here at the University of Maine. Students also work on a final project that is worth 20% of their final grade that allows them to combine all the skills they were taught in the class and apply them. The current list of students includes an equal number of juniors, seniors and graduates majoring in anthropology, history and liberal studies. Their projects focus on a wide range of subjects such as: Native Americans and archaeologists, Passamaquoddy women’s dance, a Maine woman’s work in Africa, crab pickers, boat building, women and television, and Penobscot basket making. MacDougall plans to offer the course every other year.

Meet the Student Workers at the Maine Folklife Center

Terri Bastarache

Terri is a second year Business Management and Communication double major here at the University of Maine. She enjoys playing sports, country music, and taking part in the many organizations she is a part of. “I have really liked my time here at the Folklife Center because whenever I work I always leave with a new and interesting story!” Her duties at the Maine Folklife Center include editing the newsletter, transcribing, abstracting, accessioning, and several office duties.

David Craven

David is a fourth year Finance and Management double major at the University of Maine. In his free time David enjoys fishing, playing and watching sports, playing video games and hanging out with his friends. Although he recently was hired at the Maine Folklife Center, David says, “I like to research and with this job I am currently doing right now I am abstracting.” David has been working on abstracts along with many other office duties. David is currently working on writing abstracts that will accompany transcripts in our computer database as well as our archives.

Sean McKee

Sean is a third year Computer Science major here at the University of Maine. Sean enjoys playing non traditional board games, video games, and he also likes to draw. At the Maine Folklife Center Sean takes part transcribing, abstracting, and using and updating our databases. He likes to organize the databases and make them more efficient and user friendly. Sean enjoys working at the Maine Folklife Center because he likes, “being able to read the interviews and hear the stories” of the Maine people.

Mandy Curtis

Mandy is a third year Anthropology major who wants to be an archaeologist. Mandy is a proud member of Gamma Sigma Sigma, a volunteer sorority. She has been mostly working on transcribing interviews, and office duties. She says it helps being from Maine when transcribing because she knows most of the background information already. Currently, at the Maine Folklife Center, she is transcribing an interview on fishing culture in Maine and she is learning a great deal.

Josh Parda

Josh is a graduate student at the University majoring in history. He likes working at the Maine Folklife Center because he constantly gets to learn more about folklore rather than just history. He is currently working on the Maine Song and Story Sampler. When asked what his favorite part about the Maine Folklife was, he said, “the work itself”. When he is not in the classroom or in at the Folklife Center, Josh works on renovating an old farm house, he also hunts, fishes, and plays the drums.

Yannick Brice Moutassie

Yannick is a second year graduate student at the University of Maine. He enjoys audio mixing and film making in his free time. When asked what he likes about working at the Maine Folklife Center he said he likes, “being exposed to oral history.” He is currently digitizing tapes for the Maine Folklife Center.

Joseph M. Turcotte

Joseph is a first year Computer Engineering student who likes to play tennis, sketching, making computer art and also gaming. Joseph enjoys being able to read about many stories about Maine’s past and its people. “I like hearing their stories of coming here and all of their experiences.” Joseph is currently working on abstracting some of our many transcripts and student papers with topics varying from immigrant stories to fishing and canning industries.
PLEASE JOIN US!

Membership dues and contributions enable the Maine Folklife Center to function as a self-supporting unit of the University of Maine. By pledging membership, individuals and institutions play a vital role in encouraging the study, documentation and presentation of Maine's traditional cultural heritage.

Benefits of membership include:

- A copy of our annual Northeast Folklore publication
- The Maine Folklife Center newsletter
- A 10% discount on audio, video and publications

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Any contribution greater than a $25 basic membership is considered a gift. Please make checks or money orders payable to the University of Maine. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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