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EDITORIAL

TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Unhappily, for reasons which are well known, the Tenth Annual Conference could not be held in Budapest as had been arranged. We owe it to Mr. Erik Dal and Professor Dr. Nils Schiørring that the 1957 Conference did not go by default and that we were able to meet in Copenhagen. The deep gratitude of the Council is due to them and to the Danish Folklore Council and the Danish National Museum for their entertainment of the Council during an altogether pleasurable and profitable five days.

Owing to the short notice in which to organise the meetings, it was decided not to hold a full-scale General Conference as in past years but to have a meeting of the General Assembly preceded by a two-day meeting of Correspondents and followed by a general session for the presentation of folk music records.

The meeting of Correspondents was intended as a continuation and extension of the meeting of experts held at Freiburg i.Br. in the summer of 1956. The themes selected for discussion were: (a) Tonality and Modal Structure in Folk Music; (b) The Epic: its General Features, Melodic Formulae and Style of Performance; (c) Techniques of Analysis.

Unfortunately, owing to illness and other reasons, a number of Correspondents who had offered papers were prevented at the last minute from attending. The session on the subject of The Epic suffered particularly badly in the enforced absence of Dr. Walter Salmen, Dr. Fritz Bose, Professor Roger Pinon, Dr. Sabin Dragoi and Dr. Mihai Pop. We are grateful to Mr. Erik Dal and Mademoiselle Marcel-Dubois for having stepped into the breach with impromptu addresses and we are glad to have subsequently received Dr. Bose's paper for publication in the *Journal*.

In addition to the scientific meetings of Correspondents, one session was devoted to a discussion on the administration, policy and programme of the IFMC (see *Bulletin* No. XII, pp. 13-14).

It is a commonplace that some of the most valuable features of international conferences are the informal exchanges of views between members which take place outside the conference hall and are not reported in the Proceedings. The social entertainment offered by our Danish hosts, with its well-proportioned admixture of activity and relaxation, of gravity and gaiety, provided just the right setting for these extra-Conference contacts.

The General Conference was officially opened by a reception at the Royal Library on the evening of August 24th, although many of the ordinary members had attended the meetings of the Correspondents by invitation. After felicitous speeches of welcome by Mr. Palle Birkelund, State Librarian and Chairman of the Danish Folklore Council, and others, Professor Dr. Nils Schiørring gave a short outline of Danish folklore, and Mr. Dal gave an account of the Faroese chain song-dance.* This was followed by a performance of the dance by a group of Faroese residents, and so infectious was the rhythm of the movements that before the evening was

over the Faroese "chain" was augmented by dancers from at least a dozen other countries. The evening at the Library was additionally enjoyable on account of the splendid and well-arranged exhibition of books and manuscripts relating to Danish folk music as well as some of the Library's other treasures which could be examined at leisure.

The next morning, Sunday, the Conference members were up betimes to embark in the coaches which were to take them to Elsinore via the fine North Zealand coastal road with its views of the Swedish coast.

The Tivoli, the vast amusement park in the very centre of Copenhagen, which caters for the most varied tastes, is justly world famous. It was a happy thought of the Tivoli and its chief conductor, Professor Svend Christian Felumb, to have invited the Conference members to a concert in its new Concert Hall, which is a younger and gayer edition of the Royal Festival Hall in London. The concert consisted appropriately of orchestral works on folk music themes by contemporary Danish composers, viz., Knudåge Riisager, Bernhard Lewkovitch, Svend Erik Tarp, Emil Reesen and Svend Christian Felumb, who conducted the orchestra.

The final event was a visit to the Frilandsmuseet (Open-air Museum). After a most enjoyable display of Danish folk dances by members of Foreningen til Folkedansens Fremme we were able to saunter, escorted or unescorted, along the pathways and through the scattered buildings of what appeared to be a real Danish village. We were not surprised to learn that the old cottages, farmsteads, workshops, church, etc., are not replicas but buildings which have actually been transported from their sites in various regions of Denmark and have been re-erected in their natural settings. The Conference was well rounded off at a dinner in the Museum restaurant when amid the farewell speeches, our dear friend Poul Lorenzen—one of the Council's original Vice-Presidents—was persuaded to sing some of the age-old Danish ballads which he had himself collected.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

As already announced, the Eleventh Annual Conference will be held at Liège from July 28th to August 2nd, 1958. The subjects of the Conference will be as follows:

- (1) The main theme will be Tradition in Folk Music (including dance): its Stability and its Evolution in Changing Social Conditions.

This theme will include the study of contacts between different regional cultures as well as problems arising from the impact of art and popular music on folk music traditions.

- (2) A second theme will be Methods of Recording the Dance.
- (3) A third section will be devoted to Performances of Records and Films.

In sections (1) and (3) special attention will be given to non-European folk music. Members are reminded that early application is essential.

IFMC NEWSLETTER.

The second Newsletter, including Radio Notes, will be published as *Bulletin* No. XIII, and will be issued to members in March, 1958.

* Published in *The Folklorist*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (505 Wilbraham Rd., Manchester 21, England), pp. 106-110.