



# ORAL TRADITION

Performance Literature II

Volume 20, Number 2

October, 2005

Slavica



# ORAL TRADITION

---

Volume 20

October 2005

Number 2

---

*Editor*

John Miles Foley

*Associate Editor*

John Zemke

*IT Manager*

Jamie Stephens

*Managing Editor*

Heather Maring

*Editorial Assistants*

Andrew Porter

Peter Ramey

## Slavica Publishers, Inc.

For a complete catalog of books from Slavica, with prices and ordering information, write to:

Slavica Publishers, Inc.  
Indiana University  
2611 E. 10th St.  
Bloomington, IN 47408-2603  
[www.slavica.com/journals/oraltradition/oraltradition.html](http://www.slavica.com/journals/oraltradition/oraltradition.html)

ISSN: 0883-5365

Each contribution copyright 2005 by its author. All rights reserved.

The editor and the publisher assume no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion by the authors.

*Oral Tradition* ([www.oraltradition.org/ot/](http://www.oraltradition.org/ot/)) seeks to provide a comparative and interdisciplinary focus for studies in oral tradition and related fields by publishing research and scholarship on the creation, transmission, and interpretation of all forms of oral traditional expression. As well as essays treating certifiably oral traditions, *OT* presents investigations of the relationships between oral and written traditions, as well as brief accounts of important fieldwork, and occasional transcriptions and translations of oral texts. In addition, issues will include the annual Albert Lord and Milman Parry Lecture on Oral Tradition. Submissions should follow the list-of reference format (style sheet available on request) and may be sent via e-mail ([csot@missouri.edu](mailto:csot@missouri.edu)) or snail-mail; all quotations of primary materials must be made in the original language(s) with following English translations. Most contributions will be reviewed by at least one specialist reader and one member of the editorial board before a final decision is reached.

*Oral Tradition* appears twice per year, in March and October. To enter a subscription, please contact Slavica Publishers at the address given above.

All manuscripts and editorial correspondence should be addressed to the editor, John Miles Foley, Center for Studies in Oral Tradition, 65 McReynolds Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA.

Printed in the United States of America.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Mark C. Amodio<br><i>Vassar College</i><br><i>Old and Middle English</i>                    | Joseph J. Duggan<br><i>Univ. of Cal./Berkeley</i><br><i>French, Spanish, comparative</i> |
| Patricia Arant<br><i>Brown University</i><br><i>Russian</i>                                 | Alan Dundes (†)<br><i>Univ. of Cal./Berkeley</i><br><i>Folklore</i>                      |
| Samuel Armistead<br><i>University of California/Davis</i><br><i>Hispanic, comparative</i>   | Mark W. Edwards<br><i>Stanford University</i><br><i>Ancient Greek</i>                    |
| Richard Bauman<br><i>Indiana University</i><br><i>Folklore, Theory</i>                      | Ruth Finnegan<br><i>Open University</i><br><i>African, South Pacific</i>                 |
| Dan Ben-Amos<br><i>University of Pennsylvania</i><br><i>Folklore</i>                        | Thomas Hale<br><i>Penn. State University</i><br><i>African</i>                           |
| Mary Ellen Brown<br><i>Indiana University</i><br><i>Folklore, Balladry</i>                  | Lee Haring<br><i>Brooklyn College, CUNY</i><br><i>African</i>                            |
| Chogjin<br><i>Chinese Academy</i><br><i>of Social Sciences</i><br><i>Mongolian, Chinese</i> | Joseph Harris<br><i>Harvard University</i><br><i>Old Norse</i>                           |
| Bridget Connelly<br><i>University of Cal./Berkeley</i><br><i>Arabic</i>                     | Lauri Harvilahti<br><i>University of Helsinki</i><br><i>Russian, Finnish, Altai</i>      |
| Robert P. Creed<br><i>Univ. of Mass./Amherst</i><br><i>Old English, Comparative</i>         | Lauri Honko (†)<br><i>Turku University</i><br><i>Comparative Epic</i>                    |
| Robert Culley<br><i>McGill University</i><br><i>Biblical Studies</i>                        | Dell Hymes<br><i>University of Virginia</i><br><i>Native American, Linguistics</i>       |
| Thomas DuBois<br><i>University of Wisconsin</i><br><i>Scandinavian</i>                      | Martin Jaffee<br><i>Hebrew Bible</i><br><i>Univ. of Washington</i>                       |

## EDITORIAL BOARD

- Minna Skafte Jensen  
*Odense University*  
*Ancient Greek, Latin*
- Shelly Fenno Quinn  
*Ohio State University*  
*Japanese*
- Werner Kelber  
*Rice University*  
*Biblical Studies*
- Burton Raffel  
*Univ. of Southwestern*  
*Louisiana*  
*Translation*
- Françoise Létoublon  
*Université Stendahl*  
*Ancient Greek*
- Karl Reichl  
*Universität Bonn*  
*Turkic, Old and Middle English*
- Victor Mair  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
*Chinese*
- John Roberts  
*Ohio State University*  
*African-American*
- Nada Milošević-Djordjević  
*University of Belgrade*  
*South Slavic*
- Joel Sherzer  
*University of Texas/Austin*  
*Native American, Anthropology*
- Stephen Mitchell  
*Harvard University*  
*Scandinavian*
- Dennis Tedlock  
*SUNY/Buffalo*  
*Native American*
- Gregory Nagy  
*Harvard University*  
*Ancient Greek, Sanskrit,*  
*comparative*
- J. Barre Toelken  
*Utah State University*  
*Folklore, Native American*
- Joseph Falaky Nagy  
*Univ. of Cal./Los Angeles*  
*Old Irish*
- Ronald J. Turner  
*Univ. of Missouri/Columbia*  
*Storytelling*
- Susan Niditch  
*Amherst College*  
*Hebrew Bible*
- Andrew Wiget  
*University of New Mexico*  
*Native American*
- Walter J. Ong (†)  
*St. Louis University (Emeritus)*  
*Hermeneutics of orality and*  
*literacy*

# Performance Literature II

Special Editors

Drew Gerstle, Stephanie Jones, and Rosalind Thomas



# Contents

Rosalind Thomas <i>Special Editor's Column</i> .....	161
Ruth Finnegan <i>The How of Literature</i> .....	164
Andrew Gerstle <i>The Culture of Play: Kabuki and the Production of Texts</i> .....	188
Haruo Shirane <i>Performance, Visuality, and Textuality: The Case of Japanese Poetry</i> .....	217
John Miles Foley <i>From Oral Performance to Paper-Text to Cyber-Edition</i> .....	233
Karen Barber <i>Text and Performance in Africa</i> .....	264
Martin Orwin <i>On the Concept of "Definitive Text" in Somali Poetry</i> .....	278
James Burns <i>My Mother Has a Television, Does Yours? Transformation and Secularization in an Ewe Funeral Drum Tradition</i> .....	300
Wilt Idema <i>The Many Shapes of Medieval Chinese Plays: How Texts Are Transformed to Meet the Needs of Actors, Spectators, Censors, and Readers</i> .....	320
Andrew Lo <i>Textual Representations of the Sixteenth-Century Chinese Drama Yuzan ji (The Jade Hairpin)</i> .....	335
<i>About the Authors</i> .....	363