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The Folklore Muse

Frank de Caro

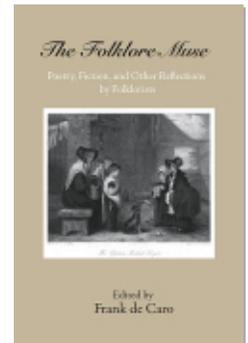
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Acknowledgments

The editor would like to express his many thanks to the contributors to this volume. This proposed book came to their attention mostly through a notice in the American Folklore Society's on-line newsletter, and the enthusiastic response to that notice from the contributors was very encouraging. It ultimately resulted in this rather novel collection of writing by folklorists. The editor and contributors have communicated, mostly electronically, over various issues relating to the book, and that dialogue has produced a fruitful collaboration and a very interesting selection of writings. Thanks especially to Steve Zeitlin, Leslie Prosterman, and Peggy Yocom (who also chairs the Creative Writing Section of AFS, which has provided another outlet for folklorists interested in working with such expressive forms as poetry and fiction) for their input. Many thanks to John Alley at Utah State University Press for his interest in the book and his encouragement in its completion and Diane Bush for her competent and useful copy editing. And the anonymous readers for the Press provided much useful commentary which helped in the final shaping of the book.

Most of the material in the book is previously unpublished. A few pieces, however, have appeared elsewhere. Used with the permission of the authors (and protected by their copyrights) are "Rock and Word" by Steve Zeitlin, which appeared previously in *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore* 30 (Fall-Winter, 2004): 5); "Historical Sign" and "Christmas Tree," by Ted Olson, published previously in his book *Breathing in Darkness: Poems* (Nicholasville, Kentucky: Wind Publications, 2006); "my mother's garden," "arrowhead," "shadowplay," "tag," and "red rover" by Susan Stewart, which were first published in the *American Poetry Review*; the chapter by Neil R. Grobman from his *Lost in Redskirt Forest* (Bloomington, Indiana: Author House, 2002); "Ballad Girls," which appeared previously in *Ballad Girls and Other Poems* by Frank de Caro (New Orleans: Garden District Press, 2005); and "Eating Alone," by Margaret Yocom, published previously in *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore*. "Wondrous Love," by Libby Tucker, revised for publication here, previously appeared in *Paterson Literary Review* 32 (2003): 244-46 and is used with the permission of the author and Maria Gillan, *Paterson Literary Review* editor. "Work Song," by Edward Hirsch, appears with the permission of Random House, Inc. "Legends, Rumors, Lore and Revelations (Some Incomplete) Involving Leaton Troutwine, a Local Eccentric/Celebrity/Hero (and Gordon's Owner)," by Matt Clark, appears with the permission of Matt Clark's literary executors, Michael Griffith and Josh Russell, to whom the editor expresses his gratitude.

One of our contributor, William Bernard McCarthy, died in 2008 while this book was in press; in addition to writing poetry, Bill published notable books on the ballad and on folktales, and we note with sorrow his passing away.