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The Folklore Muse

Frank de Caro

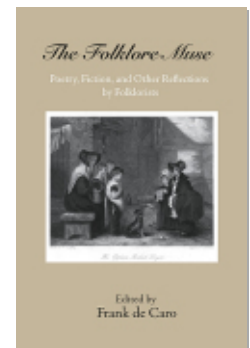
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Contributors

Teresa Bergen received her MFA in fiction writing from Louisiana State University, where she also studied folklore and worked for the T. Harry Williams Oral History Archive. She lives in Portland, Oregon, where she works in the visual arts and as a transcriber, editor, and indexer of oral history materials. Her stories and articles have appeared in *Exquisite Corpse*, *New Delta Review*, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *South China Morning Post*, and *Ms.* She is the author of *Vegetarian Asia: A Travel Guide* (Noble Poodle Press, 1994) and a novel, *Killing the President* (Baby Lovecat Designs, 2007).

John Burrison directs the folklore curriculum in the English Department at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where he is Regents Professor. Curator of numerous exhibitions, consultant to a variety of museums and organizations, he has been an advisor for film projects including the Academy Award-nominated 1989 film *Gullah Tales*. A noted expert on folk pottery, he is the author of *Brothers in Clay: The Story of Georgia Folk Pottery* (University of Georgia Press, 1983), which Claude Lévi-Strauss called “classic.” He published *Storytellers: Folktales and Legends from the South* with the University of Georgia Press in 1989 and has written many articles and essays. His most recent book is *Roots of a Region: Southern Folk Culture* (University Press of Mississippi, 2007). His *Kamp: A Memory Novel* is as yet unpublished.

Professor of English at the University of Texas at San Antonio, **Norma Cantú** received her PhD from the University of Nebraska and edits the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo: Borderlands Culture and Tradition book series for Texas A&M University Press. She is the co-editor of *Chicana Traditions: Continuity and Change* (University of Illinois Press, 2002). She is the author of the award-winning *Canícula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera* (University of New Mexico Press, 1995), part of a trilogy that also includes *Cabañuelas*.

Matt Clark (1966–1998) received his MFA from Louisiana State University, where he also studied folklore. He later joined the LSU faculty, was coordinator of the Graduate Program in Creative Writing there, and taught folklore courses as well. He was particularly interested in urban legends, which became a basis for his novel *Hook Man Speaks* (Berkley Books, 2001).

Frank de Caro is professor emeritus of English at Louisiana State University and lives in New Orleans. He received his MA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins and his PhD in folklore from Indiana University. His books include *Folklife in Louisiana Photography: Images of Tradition* (Louisiana State University Press, 1990), *The Folktale Cat* (August House, 1992), *Ballad Girls and Other Poems* (Garden District Press, 2005), *An Anthology of American Folktales and Legends* (M. E. Sharpe, 2008), and (with Rosan Augusta Jordan) *Re-Situating Folklore: Folk Contexts and Twentieth-Century Literature and Art* (University of Tennessee Press, 2004).

Holly Everett is an assistant professor in the Department of Folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her research specialties include material culture, belief, music, and tourism. Her book *Roadside Crosses in Contemporary Memorial Culture* was published by the University of North Texas Press in 2002.

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With a PhD in folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania, **Neil R. Grobman** taught English, writing and folklore at several universities, including the University of Kentucky and the University of Oregon. He is currently an editor for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and lives in Delaware. His novel *Lost in Redskirt Forest*, was published by AuthorHouse in 2002.

Carrie Hertz is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University and is editorial assistant for *Museum Anthropology* and *Museum Anthropology Review*. Her research focuses on museum and material culture studies with a special emphasis on clothing and self-adornment. Her dissertation will be an ethnographic examination of uniforms in the United States.

Edward Hirsch received his PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and taught at Wayne State University and the University of Houston. A recipient of Guggenheim and MacArthur fellowships as well as the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, he is currently president of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in New York. His books of poetry include *Wild Gratitude* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *Lay Back the Darkness* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003). He is also author of such prose volumes as *How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry* (Harcourt, 1999). His most recent book of poems is *Special Orders* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2008).

Laurel Horton, with an MS in library science from the University of Kentucky and an MA in folklore from the University of North Carolina, is a folklorist and an internationally known quilt researcher. She wrote her thesis on quilt making in Rowan County, North Carolina, and is the author of *Mary Black's Family Quilts: Memory and Meaning in Everyday Life* (University of South Carolina Press, 2005).

Rosan Augusta Jordan received her PhD in folklore from Indiana University and had a long career teaching English and folklore at Louisiana State University. With Susan J. Kalčík she co-edited *Women's Folklore, Women's Culture* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1979), and she is also co-author (with Frank de Caro) of *Re-Situating Folklore: Folk Contexts and Twentieth-Century Literature and Art* (University of Tennessee Press, 2004). She lives in New Orleans.

After careers in antiquarian bookselling, academic editing and data processing, **Paul Jordan-Smith** received his PhD from the Folklore and Mythology Program at UCLA in 2005. His dissertation was on English country dance and he edited, with Laurel Horton, a special issue of *Western Folklore* on traditional music and dance communities. A grandson of folksong collector Ethel Park Richardson, he grew up hearing her songs and his father's folktales and eventually wound up retelling tales and legends in *Parabola Magazine*, which he helped found in the 1970s. He has contributed essays and articles to anthologies and folklore journals. Now retired, he teaches folk dance in Seattle and writes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

Curator's Distinguished Professor of English, Folklore, and Women's Studies at the University of Missouri, **Elaine J. Lawless** teaches courses across all three disciplines. She also holds appointments in anthropology and religious studies, directs the Folklore, Oral Tradition and Culture Studies Program, and is director of the Center for Arts and Humanities. Author of many scholarly articles, her books include *God's Peculiar People* (University Press of Kentucky, 1988); *Handmaidens of the Lord* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988); *Holy Women/Wholly Women* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992); *Women Preaching Re-Volution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997); *Women Escaping Violence* (University of Missouri Press, 2001), and *Troubling Violence: An Auto/Ethnographic Performance Project*, with M. Heather Carver (University Press of Mississippi, forthcoming 2008).

Cynthia Levee changed her name from Cynthia Levy "long before the season of Katrina . . . in honor of the embankments built to hold back the waters of the Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain" from her native New Orleans. She received her MFA and PhD degrees from Louisiana State University, where she studied folklore, and teaches in the English Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Jens Lund received his PhD in folklore and American studies from Indiana University. In addition to being adjunct faculty at the University of Washington, he has, since 1975, been involved in a variety of public-sector folklore projects for the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and arts agencies and museums in twenty-three states. He developed, researched, and edited Washington's Northwest Heritage Tours highway audio tours and has, since 2004, been program manager of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program. He was awarded the 2004 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize by the American Folklore Society. He is the author of *Flatheads and Spoonneys: Fishing for a Living in the Ohio River Valley* (University Press of Kentucky, 1995).

Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Georgia College and State University, **Mary Magoulick** is a former Peace Corps volunteer who received her PhD in folklore from Indiana University. Her dissertation was based on two years of fieldwork with Native American communities in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and her publication and teaching interests focus on verbal art (especially Native American), folklore and literature, popular culture, women's studies, nature, and travel.

William Bernard McCarthy, who died in 2008 while this book was in press, grew up in East Tennessee and spent a number of years in Louisiana before studying for his doctorate in folklore at Indiana University. An emeritus professor at Penn State, he has also taught at three small Southern mountain colleges. His books include *The Ballad Matrix* (Indiana University Press, 1990), *Jack in Two Worlds* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994), and *Cinderella in America* (University Press of Mississippi, 2007). He married with three children and lived in Kittery, Maine.

Joanne B. Mulcahy directs the Writing Culture Summer Institute and teaches at The Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Her awards include fellowships from the Oregon Institute of Literary Arts, the British Council, and the Alaska Humanities Forum. She received the New Letters nonfiction award and has held writing residencies at Hedgebrook, UCross, the Mesa Refuge, and other centers. Her essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *The Stories That Shape Us: Contemporary Women Write about the West* (W.W. Norton, 1996), and *These United*

States (Nation Books, 2003). She is the author of *Birth and Rebirth on an Alaskan Island* (University of Georgia Press, 2001) and the forthcoming *Remedios: The Healing Life of Eva Castellanoz* (University of Washington Press).

Fiction writer as well as anthropologist, **Kirin Narayan** is professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin and author of the novel *Love Stars and All That* (Pocket Books, 1994). She wrote *Mondays on the Dark Night of the Moon: Himalayan Foothill Folktales* (Oxford University Press, 1997) in collaboration with Urmila Devi Sood, a Kangra storyteller, and is also author of *Storytellers, Saints, and Scoundrels: Folk Narrative in Hindu Religious Teaching* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989), which received both the Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing and the Elsie Clews Parsons Prize. She is co-editor of *Creativity/Anthropology* (Cornell University Press, 1993) and edited an edition of Mary Frere's classic folktale collection, *Old Deccan Days* (ABC-Clio, 2002). Her memoir *My Family and Other Saints* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2007.

Ted Olson is associate professor at East Tennessee State University, where he teaches Appalachian studies and American literature. He is the author of *Blue Ridge Folklife* (University Press of Mississippi, 1997) and co-editor, with Charles K. Wolfe, of *The Bristol Sessions: Writings about the Big Bang of Country Music* (McFarland, 2005); he edits *Crossroads: A Southern Culture Annual*.

Daniel Peretti is a doctoral candidate in folklore at Indiana University with particular interests in mythology, material culture, holidays, and literature. He lives in Bloomington, Indiana, with his wife Mandy.

Leslie Prosterman, currently a Senior Fellow at the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School University in New York, received her MA and PhD in folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. She consults and writes about aesthetics and culture, art, folklore, and civil society, and the politics of cultural institutions. Among her publications are "Subtle, Intangible, and Non-Quantifiable: Aesthetics, Law, and Speech in Public Space" in *The Arts of Democracy: Art, Public Culture, and the State* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2007), *Framing The Exhibition/Multiple Constructions* (Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery, University of Maryland, 2000), and *Ordinary Life, Festival Days: Aesthetics in the Midwestern County Fair* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995). A former associate professor of American studies and folklore at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, she now uses that time to write poetry.

A former president of the American Folklore Society, **Jo Radner** lives in the western Maine woods, "neighbor to weasels, bear, moose, and the ghosts of strong-willed ancestors." A storyteller as well as folklorist and oral historian, she creates personal tales and stories—and, occasionally, poems—about the people and history of northern New England. Professor emerita at American University in Washington, DC, she serves on the board of directors of the National Storytelling Network and was president of the Washington Storytellers Theatre. She conducts oral history classes in New England and occasionally teaches storytelling to teachers in the Lesley University Creative Arts in Learning Program.

Poet and critic, **Susan Stewart** received her PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and is professor of English at Princeton University. A former MacArthur Fellow, she is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her books include

The Open Studio: Essays on Art and Aesthetics (University of Chicago Press, 2005), *Poetry and the Fate of the Senses* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), and *Nonsense: Aspects of Intertextuality in Folklore and Literature* (Johns Hopkins Press, 1980). Her most recent books of poetry are *The Forest* (University of Chicago Press, 1995) and *Columbarium* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Jeannie Banks Thomas, whose work focuses on gender, legend, and material culture, is professor of English and director of the Folklore Program at Utah State University. Her publications include *Naked Barbies, Warrior Joes, and Other Forms of Visible Gender* (University of Illinois Press, 2003), *Featherless Chickens, Laughing Women, and Serious Stories* (University of Virginia Press, 1997), which won the Elli Kōngas Maranda Prize, and (with Diane Goldstein and Sylvia Grider) *Haunting Experiences: Ghosts in Contemporary Folklore* (Utah State University Press, 2007), which won the Brian McConnell Book Award.

Jeff Todd Titon grew up in New York and Atlanta. After college at Amherst and doctoral work at the University of Minnesota, he taught folklore and ethnomusicology at Tufts. Since 1986 he has been a professor at Brown, where he directs the PhD program in ethnomusicology. His folklore-related fiction, "Letter from Ole Bull to Sara Thorp," was published in the Summer 2004 issue of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

Libby Tucker teaches folklore at Binghamton University. In addition to articles in various folklore journals, she is the author of *Campus Legends* (Greenwood Press, 2005) and *Haunted Halls* (University Press of Mississippi, 2006) and has contributed memoir pieces and poems to the *Paterson Literary Review*, *Long Shot*, and the *Woodstock Journal*.

Margaret Yocom, who received her PhD in English from the University of Massachusetts, is associate professor of English at George Mason University, where she also directs the Northern Virginia Folklife Archive. A specialist in family folklore, oral narrative, material culture, and gender studies, she is currently working on a book about the traditional arts of the Richard family of Rangeley, Maine. Author of many published articles and active in public sector work, she is the folklorist for the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum, which published her *Logging in the Maine Woods: The Paintings of Alden Grant* in 1994. Her creative writing has appeared in *Voices*, *Friends Journal*, and the *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

Steve Zeitlin, who received his PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania, is co-founder and director of City Lore in New York, an organization that works for cultural preservation. Formerly a folklorist at the Smithsonian Institution, he has produced and developed programming for public radio and his commentary has appeared in *The New York Times* and *Newsday*. His numerous books include *A Celebration of American Family Folklore* (Pantheon, 1982) and *Because God Loves Stories: An Anthology of Jewish Storytelling* (Simon and Schuster, 1997). Zeitlin also directs the People's Poetry Gathering, a national poetry festival in New York City.