



Traveling Exhibit

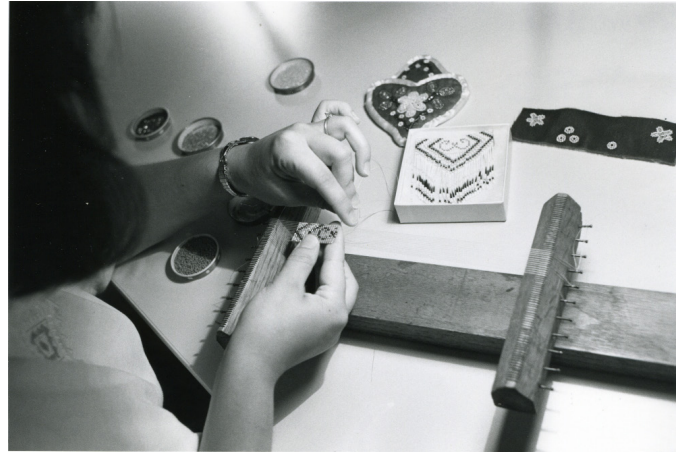
The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the Maine Folklife Center (MFC) a grant to conduct fresh field research and use archival materials from its collection to develop a new traveling exhibit. The core of the exhibit will be four free-standing panels (3' x 7') with photographs and text describing traditional fiber arts from Maine. These panels will be available to all Maine libraries through the interlibrary loan system. The content of the panels will come from new fieldwork expanding the existing small textile fieldwork collection of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History. Artists originally documented for the Remnants of Our Lives exhibit (which was featured at the Hudson Museum at the Maine Center for the Arts, Orono, Maine in 1992) represent Maine's historically significant Anglo American, Native American, Finnish, and Franco American communities. Fieldwork is needed to document



Sample of Elaine O'Donal's tatted lace.

the textile traditions of the state's emerging Asian and African immigrant and refugee populations. Minimal attention and resources have been devoted to these underserved and under-represented communities.

Accompanying the panels will be a handbook that will give some suggestions for putting together a public



Jennifer Sapiel Neptune's Penobscot beadworking.

event relating to the panels and a list of fiber folk artists from around the state who are interested in demonstrating. The handbook will include a CD with audio interviews from artists as well as the content of the exhibit for seeing impaired members of the public.

Fiber artists from our region will also be featured at the 2016 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront. The demonstrations and appearances on the narrative stage will help bring attention to the project.

-Pauleena MacDougall

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Fisheries and Oral History

This spring, I had the pleasure of participating in the 40th Annual Maine Fishermen's Forum, held on March 5th-7th at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine. I was part of a Saturday panel on the role and importance of fishery oral histories. The focus of the panel was a series of oral history clips brought by the panelists. Those fellow panelists included Joshua Wrigley (NOAA Voices from the Fisheries Project Manager), Dr. Teresa R. Johnson (Assistant Professor, Marine Policy, School of Marine Sciences, UMaine), Ben Martens (Executive Director of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association), Dan Kircheis (Fishery Biologist for NOAA Fisheries), and Natalie Springuel (Marine Extension Associate, the coordinator of the Downeast Fisheries Trail, a founder of the National Working Waterfront Network, Maine Sea Grant liaison to the Coastal Community Development Program of the National Sea Grant Network).

The panel was organized by Natalie who also served as moderator. During the Q&A period, there were a number of good questions from the audience, including one that gave each panelist a chance to share their unique perspective on how to



Panelists of the Maine Fisheries forum.

represent conflicting points of view in the communities they collect oral histories from. Natalie reported that during the Forum Banquet that evening a number of people "told me they thought the content added a great dimension to the normal offerings of the Forum." There was also discussion among the panelists on the possibility of linking our finding aids in some way so that people interesting in the topic would have more resources at their finger-tips, which would be an exciting development.

-Katrina Wynn

Penobscot Dictionary Update

The Penobscot Dictionary Project is well underway. It is a project that brings together Native culture, linguistics and digital humanities. On the one hand, we are engaged in on-going discussions with members of the Penobscot Language committee on Indian Island to make sure that our work helps their work in teaching and sustaining their language program. On the other hand, we are building a digital file with all of the linguistic information that we can incorporate into the dictionary. Working with a part of the dictionary that was digitally entered onto 5 1/4 inch floppy disks in the 1980s, the American Philosophical Society contracted with a laboratory in Philadelphia to transfer the digital files onto current media. Then the project's linguist Conor Quinn transferred those digital files into an XML-structured digital manuscript, with every original component separately tagged.

XML is a free open software that can be read by both humans and machines; it also supports Unicode which is a universal character set that can be used in any human language. This makes XML very democratic and useable by anyone with access to the Internet. It ensures interoperability—a concept important to archivists and librarians who must transfer data from older media to newer media. The use of XML presents a model for dictionary making that can take place without expensive software programs or extensive programming knowledge. Since in most cases indigenous languages are preserved by a small number of people with few resources, this method is an important contribution to dictionary making for marginalized peoples.

Currently Quinn, myself and several student assistants are correcting errors, and entering missing lexical items with the goal of having a robust and complete digital manuscript of the dictionary. Having the materials in an XML document makes editing easier, as much can be automated while keeping all formatting out of the database. Eventually the digital manuscript will be placed in a design program for final publication by the University of Maine Press.

-Pauleena MacDougall

From The Archives

There are many reasons that people contact me for copies of the material we have. Often it is a researcher working on a paper or a family member looking to remember and reminisce. There are also people who aren't directly related to those interviewed, but connected in some other way, those I think of more as hobby researchers. Recently, I had one such inquiry about collection MF 13: Cranberry Culture in Massachusetts. That collection is a series of 20 accessions featuring interviews done by Stephen Cole and Linda Gifford in 1982 and 1983 documenting cranberry growing in southeastern Massachusetts. Cole and Gifford have since published a book about the topic *The Cranberry: Hard Work and Holiday Sauce* (2009). I love hearing the stories behind requests and I thought you might as well. The following text documents the request.

Hello, I grew up in Wareham, MA and am in my late 60s. A group of us have a face book page called "Wareham, Massachusetts: The Greatest Town On Earth" where we discuss the history of the town. I was searching through the Net and came across the interviews that were done by Stephen Cole and Linda Gifford in 1983 about the Cranberry industry in Mass. I personally knew some of the folks interviewed and worked for two of them over the years. I would very much like to be able to share those interviews within our group and the town's historical group and others that have an interest in history in our area. ... I talk to their families frequently and they were unaware that their parents had been interviewed. It is hard to explain, but cranberries were a way of life for many of us growing up in the 40s and 50s, and the families of many within the villages depended on the income from working the bogs to help them through the winter. The bonds still remain strong between families of that time even though the times have changed and people have moved to other areas. Audio recordings of the voices of the past would surely bring a tear to many that lived this life.



Photo of Phillip Brackett taken at Chop Chaque Bog, Mashpee, MA.
NA1666 P05467

-Katrina Wynn

Maine National History Day

UMaine hosted this year's Maine National History Day on Saturday March 28. The Maine Folklife Center, Special Collections at Fogler Library, the Hudson Museum, and the Page Home and Farm Museum, all had scavenger hunt activities for the students. The scavenger hunt took place between the presentations and the award ceremony and fully half of the 278 middle and high school students participating in Maine National History Day came to the Special Collections/Maine Folklife Center location (which were combined for convenience). At the Maine Folklife Center station the students had to answer five questions ranging from "What is an example of the types of things the Maine Folk Center researches?" (Traditional Maine related occupations like fishing) to "What is a Wood Spirit?" (Mischievous and playful forest spirits who are symbols of plant rebirth and unity with nature, also called a Tree Spirit). The answers were all on the poster displays from previous Folklife Area exhibits at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront.



Group Working on the scavenger hunt.

-Katrina Wynn

Downtown Bangor Public Humanities Day

The 3rd Annual Downtown Public Humanities Day, organized by the Maine Folklife Center and the UMaine Humanities Center was a success! The kick-off event on the evening of Friday January 23, 2015, Humanities 20x20 PechaKucha at Coe Space, was a packed event with audience members listening to talks on a diverse range of humanities themed topics including the French language, online quizzes, and suicidal authors (see full listing on page 5). On Saturday, at each event roughly a dozen people (some sticking around for multiple events, many just coming to one) braved the day-long snow storm to participate. All events were free and open to the public. Thanks to everyone who helped set up the event and to everyone who came out to participate. The day was fun and informative and we look forward to next year.

-Katrina Wynn

Events:

Bangor Area Children's Choir Winter Concert at the Discovery Museum, directed by Robert Ludwig.

Discussion on the role of the book in the digital age at the Bangor Public Library with Pauleena MacDougall, Michael Alpert of UMaine Press, Deb Rollins of Fogler Library, and Barbara McDade of Bangor Public Library

Tour of the University of Maine Museum of Art led by Director George Kinghorn.

Discussion by artist Brenton Hamilton on the historic photography processes in contemporary art, specifically focusing on the work of artist Dan Estabrook whose work was on display.

Philosophy tea discussion of wonder and the relationship of wonder to knowledge with the UMaine Philosophy Club at the Bangor Public Library, led by Kirsten Jacobson, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UMaine.

Film screening (excerpts) and discussion with David S. Weiss, founder of Northeast Historic Film, at the Bangor Public Library. Films focused on logging in Maine and the legacy of MFC's founder Sandy Ives.



UMaine Museum Event attendees.

All photos courtesy of UMaine Humanities Center/Kathy Rice



Bangor Area Children's Choir Winter Concert at the Discovery Museum.



Discussion on the role of the book in the digital age.



Philosophy tea discussion of wonder and the relationship of wonder to knowledge with the UMaine philosophy club at the Bangor Public Library.



Discussion by artist Brenton Hamilton on the historic photography process in contemporary art.

Humanities 20x20 PechaKucha Lineup:

Chuck Donnelly (Acadia School of Music): "Building Bridges and Community with Traditional Music"

Michael Grillo (Art, UMaine): "Renaissance Paintings: There Then, Here Now"

Greg Howard (English, UMaine): "Fiction and Image"

Pauleena MacDougall (Folklife, UMaine): "The Airline Road"

Erin Rhoda (Bangor Daily News): "Digital Postcards from Maine"

Josh Roiland (Communications & Journalism and Honors, UMaine): "Understanding David Foster Wallace"

Jane Smith (Modern Languages and Classics, UMaine): "Languages and the Humanities"

Kate Webber (Maine Humanities Council): "LOL: Humanities: Finding Meaning in Social Media"

- Lineup courtesy of pechakucha.org



The International Society for Ethnology and Folklore

This June, in my capacity as Archives Manager of the MFC, I will give a paper at The International Society for Ethnology and Folklore's (SIEF) 12th Biennial Congress in Zagreb, Croatia. SIEF is an international (though European heavy) organization focused on ethnology and folklore. It is similar to our American Folklife Society. I will take part in the panel "Archives, Digital Collections, On-Line Databases and the Internet" which is being convened by Lauri Harvilahti (Finnish Literature Society) and Kelly Fitzgerald (University College Dublin). This is the abstract for the panel, which seemed tailor made for a contribution by the MFC:

"The Internet has opened up entirely new possibilities to make archives accessible for a wide audience. More and more materials of interest for archives are created digitally, either expressly for the archive, as fieldwork recordings, or as products of cultural expression and communication. The central role of a digital archivist differs greatly from an archivist that works with traditional (analog) material. There is a crucial need for on-line cataloguing in order to create linked databases. It is important to create an international list of metadata for a traditional archive."

Specifically, the conference organizers requested papers about "on-line databases and digital corpora: the challenge of creating common platforms and solutions" and "preservation of digital items: standards in file formats and metadata" both of which, through our experience digitizing the MFC archives and working with said digital material, are areas with which we have experience. Not only do we feel we have something to contribute to this discussion, but also much to learn from it. We are especially interested in the discussion of standards for metadata and databases for digital cultural archives. The other accepted papers are from a wide range of institutions, each with different expertise, which will allow for a vibrant discussion. Those include: Finnish Literature Society; National Folklore Collection; Dublin City University; Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia; University College, Cork; Academy of Athens; The Arni Magnusson Institute for Icelandic Studies; Estonian Literary Museum/University of Tartu; Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest / University of Pécs, Pécs.

Following is the abstract of the paper I will present.

Digital Curation Standards: Reflections from Digitizing the Maine Folklife Center's Collection

Author: Katrina Wynn (University of Maine)

Despite being a relatively new field, and one that by its very nature changes rapidly, standardization is a major concern in digital curation. As a digital archivist, I want to follow the best standards possible so that the Maine Folklife Center's (MFC) archives are digitized correctly and conserved properly. However, there are few digital practices that have been accepted as "archival standard." The best practices are concepts: duplication, checks, and migration. Technology changes so swiftly that standards for format and metadata are hard to develop.

The long-term preservation of digital material needs detailed metadata to support it. For that to be truly effective, the metadata needs to be in a standard format that doesn't rely on institutional memory. Happily, there seems to be progress in the standardization of metadata for archives. Many people use or take into consideration The Dublin Core Metadata Element Set. It is used, for example, by Digital Commons, which is one of the on-line database formats the Maine Folklife Center has chosen to participate in for public access to its collections. Even within their Dublin Core based metadata, I found we needed to modify the elements to fit our needs as a cultural archive.

As Archives Manager of the MFC, I have overseen the digitizing of our collection, set digital policies, and explored a number of on-line databases. I would like to share what I learned from those experiences with the community as we work to set international standards for digital cultural archives.

-Katrina Wynn

Spring Semester Language and Culture Lecture Series

The Language and Culture lecture series, a new interdisciplinary series on the University of Maine campus, has just wrapped up its first sequence this spring. With its focus on investigating linguistics, an area of study that resists the boundaries of a single discipline, the series invites a diverse collection of discourses, including those of academic fields in both the arts and sciences, and personal experiences with expression and communication. Among its wide variety of topics, the Language and Culture series is concerned with addressing language in contemporary culture and historical tradition, challenges to expression and communication, the development and diversity of human voices, and the role of language in shaping identities and ideologies.

For its inaugural presentation in February, the series welcomed Pauleena MacDougall to give, “An Overview of the Challenges to Languages in Native America.” Students braved the cold and, what’s more, even pre-break fatigue to participate in Pauleena’s presentation, which highlighted the incredible diversity of Native American languages in the United States and the many social and political challenges speakers face in contemporary culture. Many students remarked that it introduced them to several unique ways of articulating the world and engaged them in important issues about the future of languages indigenous to America.

In March, Sarah Harlan-Haughey followed up with a talk on how the Vikings changed English. The presentation illustrated the early history of the English language—a journey characterized by wartime occupations, changing hairstyles, and Sarah’s own elegant renditions of Old Norse texts. It exhibited the historical roots of everyday English words and the contemporary debates surrounding their origins, while emphasizing the rich heritage we take up in our everyday speech.



Above: Pauleena MacDougall, Sarah Harlan-Haughey, Taylor Cunningham, and Katrina Wynn

UMaine Professor of Philosophy Kirsten Jacobson, the last speaker this semester, presented

“The Work of Words” on April 15th. This third talk of the series produced a wonderful discussion between Jacobson and the attendees.

The Language and Culture lecture series received a great turn out from wonderfully engaged students, faculty and community members this semester. Discussions have been full of energy, enthusiasm, and critical inquiry. We hope to welcome many more voices into the linguistic community to help us engage with a deeply powerful component of our lives.

Language and Culture Lecture Series is organized by Honors student Taylor Cunningham, who is also minoring in Folklore.

-Taylor Cunningham

Northeast Folklore Update

Crab Picking: An Endangered Maine Cottage Industry

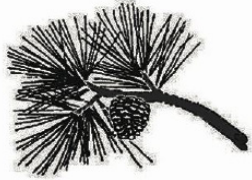
Our latest volume covers the industry of crab picking in Maine. The author, Blossom Kravitz, discusses how crab picking changed from being an unregulated cottage-industry, to one that is now heavily regulated. The new regulations come in sharp contrast to the lack of regulation on the fish industry. Strong picking regulations affect pickers’ ability to work while the lack of regulations of fishing threaten crabs as natural resources.

Using the oral history methods Kravitz recorded the unique voices and stories of Maine crab pickers, who have much to say about their cottage industry today.

The book was released in April.



Maine Folklife Center



5773 South Stevens Hall
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469
Email: Folklife@maine.edu
www.umaine.edu/folklife/
Editor: Pauleena MacDougall
Editor/designer: Katrina Wynn and Kaitlyn Wood

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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