

Old Ways in the New World

America is a nation of immigrants who brought with them from their communities in the Old World, music and dance, crafts and skills. Although little in the way of material possessions may have been carried to their new homes by the immigrants, they carried in their minds and hearts other treasures: stories, ballads, dances, crafts and culinary customs. Some of these expressions have survived intact: in others, the new environment wrought changes in style, content or meaning.

In the Old Ways in the New World area of the Festival each presentation is a celebration of shared ways as craftsmen, musicians and dancers from abroad and their American counterparts come together to carry on traditions particularly strong on festive occasions.

Initially, scholarly research is carried out to determine which immigrant groups' cultural traditions are rooted deeply enough in U. S. communities to permit their being presented in meaningful comparison with Old World forms. Those folklife traditions which are important in American ethnic communities are studied. Based on these studies, proposals are presented to the nations involved inviting their participation in the Festival. Such participation may include the financial support of research and provision for round-trip transportation of their national group to Washington. Many organizations are drawn in: The Smithsonian Institution, embassies of foreign nations, U. S. Embassies abroad, the U. S. Department of State, the Foreign Ministries and cultural agencies of other nations, and countless others in the U. S. and abroad who assist in many ways.

After a proposal has been accepted, the cooperative efforts of the Smithsonian Institution and foreign nation folklorists, anthropologists, and ethno-

musicologists, result in the selection of the American ethnic tradition bearers and their foreign counterparts who appear at the Festival.

Documentation is accomplished through tape recording, photos, films, videotape. Planning and completing all field research, negotiations with foreign governments and arrangements for mounting a meaningful presentation on the Mall requires year-round activity on the part of the Smithsonian's Division of Performing Arts.

Touring Performances Schedule Old World Participants Across the U.S.

Following the 1974 Festival, groups of folk performers from eight foreign countries will go on national tour to major American cities and ethnic communities.

The post-Festival tours of participants to communities of kindred origin in the U.S. represents an expansion of the "Old Ways in the New World" theme which will continue each summer through the Bicentennial. Each of the sponsoring communities will provide home hospitality and an opportunity for sharing on a person-to-person basis with a local ethnic population. Informal celebration, feasting, sight-seeing and receptions are planned as well as public concert presentations, emphasizing the cultural bonds between America and other nations of the world.

A partial schedule follows:

Scandinavian Tour: Seattle, June 18-20; Spokane, June 21-30; Philadelphia, July 8-10; Chicago, July 11-13; Hancock, Mich., July 12.

Tunisian Tour: Expo, July 9-11; Toledo, July 12-14; Boston, July 15-17.

Greek Tour: Detroit, July 4-6; Baltimore, July 16; Philadelphia, July 17-19; Toledo, July 20-22; Chicago, July 23-25; St. Louis, July 26-28.

African Diaspora Tours: (two) Toledo, July 9-11; St. Louis, July 12-14; Chicago, July 15-18; Atlanta, July 15-17; Detroit, July 19-21; New York, July 22-24; Spokane, July 22-24; Hempstead, July 25-27; Philadelphia, July 25-27.



The Festival of American Folklife goes on the road with folk performers from eight foreign countries following the Festival. Tours to major American cities and ethnic communities were made possible through the cooperation of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Five State support grants were made by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Scandinavia

The Fiddle

It is historically established that string instruments like the bowed harp, were known in Sweden, the largest of the Scandinavian countries, as far back as the 12th century.

The Scandinavian fiddle tradition is the foundation on which the Scandinavian presentation is based. A traditional fiddlers' procession will be one of the highlights of the area daily (July 3-7). The fiddle is played as a solo instrument, in concert with other fiddles or other instruments, and as the accompaniment for folk and old time dancing.

Both Hardanger fiddles and regular fiddles will be played, and fiddle-makers will build both kinds of fiddles. Other instrumental music will include both double-action and single-action accordions, the Norwegian **langeleik** (dulcimer) the **tusselfloyte** (wooden flute), and the Finnish **kantele** (table harp). Both folk dance and **gammaldans** (old-time dance) in the characteristic Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian styles will be demonstrated.

Songs will be in the air: Norwegian folksongs and singing games and Swedish immigrant songs. All music and dancing events will take place on the Scandinavian stage or in the informal stage in the **kaffestova**, the Norwegian coffee shop. Finnish, as well as Swedish and Norwegian cooking will be demonstrated and a variety of Scandinavian foods will be for sale, to be enjoyed at tables in the **kaffestova**, or carried home. For those who want to try some of the traditional foods at home, recipe books will be for sale.



A Traditional fiddler's procession will be a highlight of the Scandinavian presentation in the Old Ways in the New World area daily, July 3 through 7.

Tunisia—

Captivating Poetry of Traditions

Tunisia is a land rich in glorious memories. This part of North Africa was occupied by peoples who were known to the Romans as Numidians—and who were later called Berbers by the Christians. Many legends and a religious history surround this aristocratic republic, which for many centuries remained the rival of Rome. Its vestiges bear witness to its greatness: the ruins of the new Tyre, the shrines and tombs, the houses, etc. This city's power and wealth made it an all-too-tempting prey for the powers which surrounded it. Its shores were very wealthy, not to say coveted: they were invaded by the Romans, the Vandals, the Byzantines, the Arabs. Beyond this mixture of races and civilizations, it is the country itself which has left its own mark on the people. Among Tunisia's charms are the dance of the women; the different forms of expression from the seacoast North to the desert of the South; the Ma'luf, the patterns in the carpets; the astonishing contrasts.

Tunisian Presentation

July 3-7, Festival visitors may join Tunisians from the Old and New Worlds in celebrating folk traditions that afford them a common cultural identity. Participants in the Tunisian presentation will include thirty musicians and dancers, as well as craftsmen from Tunis and the Sahil, and twenty emigrants from these regions who now live in Montreal, Quebec. The program will feature a variety of musical traditions, some associated with specific social activities and some associated with specific regions of Tunisia. Tunisian food will add to the festivities. Visitors will observe the preparation of some foods traditionally served on special occasions, and taste others in a café where small groups of musi-

cians perform folk music. Presentations taking place simultaneously in different parts of the Tunisian area will allow even the visitor with only a short time to stay, the opportunity to experience personally several aspects of Tunisian folklife.

The main stage will feature concerts by each of the performing groups from Tunisia, joint performances by Old and New World Tunisians, and workshops on the style and social context of particular musical traditions.

Cafe Tunis will offer Tunisian food for sale, informal musical performances, and opportunities to meet and talk with individual participants. In these things it resembles Le Kerkennah and L'Etoile de Quebec, two restaurants where the Tunisians of Montreal spend a large part of their time.

In the food demonstration tent, experienced cooks from the two Tunisian restaurants in Montreal will explain how they make their favorite dishes. Visitors will see and taste such characteristically Tunisian food as **couscous** (steamed semolina with vegetables) and **mashwiyya** (grilled vegetable salad).

The "Old Ways in the New World" workshop tent will explore aspects of Tunisian traditions daily. Presentations in this area will offer visitors a thorough introduction to such topics as dance movements, costumes, and instrumental techniques.

In the Tunisian crafts tent, artisans will give continuous demonstrations of four traditional crafts that thrive in Tunisia today: carpet weaving, musical instrument making, metalsmithery, and embroidery on heavy canvas. Questions about materials and techniques will be relayed by interpreters provided to facilitate communications between visitors and participants.



Apostolos Athanasiadis a lyra player from the Pontic Greek community performing at the Festival of American Folklife, Old Ways in the New World area. Photo by Martin Koenig.

Greece

Musicians, dancers and singers from two culturally distinct Greek communities, the Pontic and the Karpathian, will meet their American counterparts on the Mall during the second week of the "Old Ways in the New World" program. Pontic traditions will be represented by performers from Northern Greece and the greater New York City area. As the Pontic Greeks lived for centuries in settlements on the coast of the Black Sea, their native traditions differ from those borne by mainland Greeks. Their subtle yet powerful dances, costumes, music and instruments (**lyra**, accordion, drum, clarinet) will present interesting contrasts with the Karpathians' music, played on **tsambouna** (bagpipes), **lyra** and **laouta**, and their dances. Karpathians from Baltimore, New York City and Vancouver will participate in the presentation of their folklife traditions, along with relatives and friends from the islands of Karpathos and Rhodes (off the southeast coast of Greece) and the port of Athens.

Foreign performers will come from villages, towns and cities, appearing in the traditional dress they still wear daily.

Structures and Events

At the main stage there will be formal music, song and dance demonstrations, participatory dance sessions, and **glendi**. These are community celebrations of feasting, music-making and dancing observed at all festive occasions. On one or two days of the Festival, participants will sit down together and celebrate their reunion with a **glendi**.

The **kafeneion**, or cafe, is the center of all social activity in the Greek community. Here people meet to talk, drink, play **tavli** (backgammon), learn the latest news and spontaneously play music, sing and dance. The **kafeneion** at the Festival will create a similar

atmosphere of relaxation and open communication.

Visitors can sip coffee and wine, savor traditional nut and honey pastries, rent **tavli** sets, if they like, while musicians play and watch people dance. Thematic workshops will also be held at the **kafeneion**; topics for discussion and demonstration will include comparative musical forms, music, song and dance traditions as related to the life cycle, **tavli** instruction as well as song and dance workshops.