

Linda Legh (1918-2014)

This fine hungarian-born folklorist has been said to have re-shaped the world's understanding of marchen and legends, even as she left behind her a massive legacy of scholarly research in two parts of the world, the whole continent of Europe, and the North American continent, in her eighteen books, and more than two hundred articles. Her work was as both collector and interpreter of the tales of the people, with a particular emphasis on the lives of the performers as in their own native and appropriate contexts.

Her life changed when, in 1964, she had accepted a professorship at Indiana University. Her *Folktales and Society* (1969) is an account of a post WWII study of peasant communities in Hungary, and the tales themselves were to be presented in her *Hungarian Folktales: The Art of Zsuzanna Palko*.

The significance of her work is bound up with the way in which she noted the differences between the two mental climates, something leached out in the journal *Indiana Folklore*, a prestigious publication which she founded in 1968 and in which she sought to capture the spirit of legend, of the tension between belief and disbelief, and the highly dramatic elements in the story, or the rendition of the believed events and activities.

Later she would bring together a number of her articles in the fine *Legend and Belief: Dialectics of a Folklore Genre* (2001). An excellent obituary of her is given in *Folklore*, volume 126, Number 1, April 2014, pp. 95-97.

Edward Fletcher Cass (1937- 2014)

There died in Manchester on 17th September, 2014, Dr Eddie Cass, the President of the Society for Folk Life Studies (2011 to 2014). He had been eminent in a number of folk fields in the early twenty first century. He had had a number of occupations before he became involved in Folklife studies, having worked in a pharmacy, as a coal miner, and in banking, where he eventually became a bank manager. Libraries, museums, and antiquities engaged his mind, and his passion for understanding the lives of ordinary people was remarkable.

An early retirement in 1993 enabled him to give generously of his time—to folk play texts; to trade union papers; producing research on the Mumming Plays; and being the joint editor of *Folk Drama Studies Today* (2003). He was also renowned as a scholar of folk drama in the north of England, from 1997 to 2004 serving as research fellow in the National Centre for the English Cultural Tradition, at the University of Sheffield. In 2004, he became a Research Fellow in the Elphinstone Institute at the University of Aberdeen. He was also President of the Folklore Society (2008 to 2011). A plain man, of much insight, and a northern warmth, he was, just before his death, awarded the Coote Lake Medal for his remarkable achievements in the scholarship of folklore.

He embodied everything that was best in both the Folklore and the Folk life Societies.

J. S. Ryan.