**The Folklore Society’s Coote Lake Award Nomination for**

**Edward Fletcher CASS, MA, PhD, ACIB**

I would like to nominate Edward Fletcher Cass for the award of the Coote Lake medal for his outstanding contribution to folklore research in the field of traditional drama and for his leadership of the two principal UK societies devoted to the promotion of academic research in the field of folkloristics.

Through his work as an independent scholar and later as a vital member of the James Madison Carpenter Collection research team, based at the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen, Eddie has made significant contributions both to the recognition of the extent of the work of previous researchers and to our understanding of the diversity and complexity of traditional drama in the UK and beyond. While he has not attempted to supply overarching theoretical statements, his grasp of the detailed ethnography and nuances of the individual cases is unrivalled. Not only is this apparent in his academic articles but in his meticulous work cataloguing and annotating the Carpenter Collection, such that the first volume of the critical edition, which is devoted to traditional drama, is ready to go to press. This seminal volume will present his tireless research over many years, with musical assistance from Dr Elaine Bradtke, bringing to light and interpreting Carpenter’s extraordinary collection. This will be the first major contribution to the field for a number of years and will remain an important resource for all future scholars in the field.

In his leadership of the Folklore Society and the Society for Folklife Studies, Eddie has been singular in his purpose to promote the profile of both organisations and unselfishly to give support and encouragement to fellow scholars, both amateur and professional. Eddie is a great teamworker who understands the benefits to all of a philosophy of openness and fairness, of mutuality and collegiality, and of nurture and critical frankness. I commend his nomination to members of the Folklore Society.

Below I have appended a recent curriculum vitae.

Nominated by Ian Russell

Seconded by Jacqueline Simpson

**Edward Fletcher CASS, MA, PhD, ACIB**

PhD, Lancaster University, 1996, thesis ‘The Cotton Factory Times, 1885-1937: A Family Newspaper and the Lancashire Cotton Community’

## Recent Employment

Research Fellow, The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, 2004-the present

Research Assistant. National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield, 1997-2004, working on 1) the James Madison Carpenter Online Catalogue, 2) research into the pace-egg plays of Lancashire and Yorkshire: their history, performance and textual variations, 3) research into the history of nineteenth century printed chapbook folk play texts: their printing history and textual origins and variations

## Relevant Voluntary Activities

President of The Society for Folk Life Studies, 2011-

Vice-President of The Folklore Society, 2011-

President of The Folklore Society, 2008-2011

Director of FLS [Folklore Society] Enterprises, and Editor, FLS Books, 2008-2011

# Recent Publications

‘James Madison Carpenter and George Baker: An Analytical Description of an Artistic Relationship’, ***Folk Life*, 52:1 (2014)**

# ‘Alex Helm (1920-1970) and his Collection of Folk Performance Material’, *Folklore*, 122 (2011), 1-15

# ‘T. Fairman Ordish and the British Folk Play’, *Folklore*, 121 (2010), 1-11

# ‘The James Madison Carpenter Collection: Reflections on its Past and on its Future’, in *The Workings of the Anglosphere: Contributions to the Study of British and US-American Cultures, presented to Richard Stinshoff*, ed. by Anton Kirchhofer and Jutta Schwarzkopf (Trier: WVT Wissencschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2009), pp. 202–212

‘The Printing History of Peace Egg Chapbooks’, in John Hinks & Catherine Armstrong, eds., *Book Trade Connections* (Oak Knoll Press & British Library, Print Networks Series, 2008), pp. 161-79

‘The English Folk Play in the Second Folk Revival’, in *Mumming in Cross-Border and Cross-Community Contexts* (Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, 2007), pp. 57-73

‘The Lower Heyford Folk Play. James Madison Carpenter’s use of Dialect in his Cylinder Transcriptions’, *Folk Life*, 45 (2007), 40-48

With Paul Smith, *The Printing History of Peace Egg Chapbooks with an excursus on the history of British folk play scholarship and the texts of some chapbook versions* (Incline Press, Oldham, 2007)

*The Pace-Egg Plays of the Calder Valley* (London: The Folklore Society, 2004)

With Peter Millington, eds., *Folk Drama Studies Today. The International Traditional Drama Conference 2002* (Sheffield: Traditional Drama Research Group, 2003)

With M.J. Preston and Paul Smith, ‘The Peace Egg Book: An Anglo-Irish chapbook connection discovered’, *Folklore,* 114 (2003), 29-52

‘J.M. Carpenter, Ethel Rudkin and The Plough Plays of Lincolnshire’, *Folk Life*, 41 (2003), 96-107

With Julia Bishop et al. The James Madison Carpenter Online Catalogue at the University of Sheffield (http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/carpenter/)

With Steve Roud, *‘Room, room, ladies and gentlemen: An Introduction to the English Mumming Play*, (London: English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Folklore Society, 2002)

With Morris Garratt, eds., *Printing and the Book in Manchester* (Manchester, Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society, 2001)

# *The Lancashire Pace-Egg Play: A Social History* (London: Folklore Society, [2001])

With M. J. Preston and Paul Smith, *The English Mumming Play. An Introductory Bibliography* (London: Folklore Society, 2000)

**Papers 2002– 2011**

# ‘The James Madison Carpenter Collection of British Folk Plays’, Presidential Address given to The Folklore Society, 15April 2011

# ‘Alex Helm (1920-1970) and his Collection of Folk Performance Material’, Presidential Address given to The Folklore Society, 28 March 2010

# ‘T. Fairman Ordish and the British Folk Play’, Presidential Address given to The Folklore Society, 24 April 2009

‘The Printing History of Peace Egg Chapbooks’, Print Networks Annual Conference, University of Birmingham, 26-28 July, 2005

‘Lincolnshire Plough Plays in the Collections of James Madison Carpenter and Ethel Rudkin’, Society for Folk Life Studies Conference, Wisbech, 12-15 September 2002

‘Cataloguing the James Madison Carpenter Folk Drama Collection’, Traditional Drama Research Group, International Drama Conference, University of Sheffield, 19-21 July 2002