

About the Authors

Margaret Hiebert Beissinger received her Ph.D. in Folklore and Mythology, with a specialty in Romanian and South Slavic, from Harvard University in 1984. She has carried on field research in Romania, both collecting her own materials and consulting archival holdings in Bucharest. She is presently working on a book treating epic poetry among the Romanian gypsies.

Associate Professor of Anthropology at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge), *Jill Brody* has likewise conducted fieldwork on oral tradition, in her case among Tojolabal Mayan communities in Mexico near the Guatemalan border. Her prior publications include articles on discourse genres and conversational strategies in Tojolabal.

Luisa Del Giudice published literary criticism (on Boccaccio, Petrarch, and Tasso) before focusing on Italian folklore, primarily ballads. She has edited *Western Jerusalem: University of California Studies on Tasso* (1984), and her field-collected narrative songs are soon to be distributed in a commercial recording directed by ethnomusicologist Robert Leydi.

Chair of the Folklore and Mythology Program at UCLA, *Joseph Falaky Nagy* has written widely on medieval Irish literature and Celtic mythology and its relationship to other Indo-European mythologies. His numerous publications include articles in *Ériu*, *Arethusa*, *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie*; a survey essay in *Oral Tradition* (1:272-301); and *The Wisdom of the Outlaw* (1985).

Walter J. Ong needs little introduction here. His many books and myriad shorter works—among them *The Presence of the Word* (1967), *Interfaces of the Word* (1977), and *Orality and Literacy* (1982)—have established whole new areas of investigation in the cultural and psychological aspects of comparative studies in oral tradition. His *Festschrift* was published as volume 2, number 1 of *Oral Tradition*.

Like three other authors in this issue, *Jeff Opland* has put his fieldwork, in this case principally among the Xhosa-speaking peoples of South Africa, to excellent use in his writings on oral tradition. As an Africanist and an Anglo-Saxonist, he has contributed important studies in both fields, particularly *Anglo-Saxon Oral Poetry* (1980) and *Xhosa Oral Poetry* (1983).