NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN MERCURY SERIES MUSÉE NATIONAL DE L'HOMME COLLECTION MERCURE

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR FOLK CULTURE STUDIES PAPER No. 43

CENTRE CANADIEN D'ÉTUDES SUR LA CULTURE TRADITIONNELLE DOSSIER No 43

THE CCFCS COLLECTION OF
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: VOLUME ONE
AEROPHONES

POY W. GIBBONS





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ROY W. GIBBONS

OBJECT OF THE MERCURY SERIES

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ABSTRACT

This catalogue presents the aerophones (wind instruments) in the Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies collection of musical instruments. It gives a brief history of the collection and the 136 entries represent a diverse sampling of folk instruments from a wide range of world cultures. Authenticated folk and ethnic instruments are found under Main Entries, with photographs, illustrations and detailed descriptions of the specimens. Reproductions, mass-produced objects, and undocumented artifacts are briefly described under Miscellaneous Entries. Two indices are supplied at the end of the book: one is an alphabetical listing of the instruments and the other arranges the items according to country, culture or area of origin.

RESUME

Ce dossier présente le catalogue des aérophones du Centre canadien d'études sur la culture traditionnelle. On y trouvera un bref aperçu historique de la collection. Les 136 instruments répertoriés représentent un échantillon d'instruments de musique populaire que l'on rencontre dans diverses cultures. Le catalogue se divise en deux parties: a) le répertoire principal qui comprend la description détaillée des instruments authentifiés accompagnée de photographies et de dessins graphiques; b) le répertoire secondaire qui comprend une brève description des instruments produits en usine ou non documentés. Deux index complètent le dossier: une liste alphabétique de tous les instruments et une liste par pays ou aire culturelle d'origine.

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INTRODUCTION

The CCFCS Collection of Musical Instruments: Volume One, Aerophones is the first in a series of three catalogues presenting the complete collection of musical instruments of the Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CCFCS). As the title suggests, this volume presents those instruments commonly referred to as the winds. Strings, (chordophones) and percussion instruments, (idiophones and membranophones) will be presented in the remaining catalogues. Each volume aims to introduce the collection to a wider circle of museum curators, general anthropologists and musicologists through photographs, illustrations and detailed descriptions of the instruments.

The primary purpose of the CCFCS artifact collection is to depict the diversified heritage of Canada's population through a variety of artifacts. These include textiles, costumes, folk-art, furnishings and musical instruments, among others. A given artifact may be used for educational, historical and research purposes within Museum programmes.

The CCFCS collection of musical instruments was begun in the early 1960s by the Folklore Section of the Ethnology Division, National Museum of Canada. In 1966, the Folklore Section was upgraded in order to intensify research into folk traditions in Canada. By the fall of 1967, the Division consisted of two professional folklorists administering a burgeoning research programme. Three years later, the Folklore Division was reorganized as the Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies within the newly-formed National Museum of Man. An Ethnomusicology Section was added in 1972 to provide direction for research and to augment the music instrument collection. A gradual reduction in staff in the past seven years has resulted in significant backlogs in documentation and research. Since 1980, the emphasis has shifted from one of mere collection to contextual research, in which artifacts have been interpreted in terms of their cultural symbolism and function. Further, present holdings are being critically re-examined, in order to foster better public awareness and understanding. It is in this spirit of improved collections management that the CCFCS has undertaken this three-volume series on its present collection of music instruments.

The CCFCS collection is a diverse sampling of ethnic and folk artifacts from a wide range of world cultures. It includes over 145 aerophones, 75 idiophones, 40 membranophones and 200 chordophones. Many of the items were used in, made in, or imported to Canada. Others are reproductions made by skilled Canadian craftsmen. Most specimens were either purchased or donated by benefactors wishing to enrich our understanding of the Canadian heritage.

2 Introduction

The classification of musical instruments in the CCFCS is based on the Hornbostel-Sachs Systematik*, a system devised early in this century by Erich von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs. The Systematik is a numerical classification system which divides musical instruments into four categories based on their physical characteristics of sound production: idiophones (i.e. gongs and cymbals), membranophones (i.e. drums), chordophones (i.e. string instruments), and aerophones (i.e. wind instruments). Subdivisions are based on the visual forms of the instruments, or by the playing action.

The Hornbostel-Sachs Systematik is a practical method of organizing a large collection of musical instruments such as that of the National Museum of Man. It provides a framework of consistent terminology for description, and offers a standard reference for those who need an efficient method of retrieving information.

The CCFCS Collection of Musical Instruments: Volume One, Aerophones, is presented in two parts: Main Entries (Catalogue #s 1-90) and Miscellaneous Entries (Catalogue #s 91-136). The first part contains authenticated folk and ethnic instruments from many regions of the world, while the second part covers reproductions, massproduced items and undocumented specimens. Both sections follow the aerophone subdivisions outlined in the Systematik: flutes, reeds, and horns.

In Part One, each class of instrument is introduced by a brief description with occasional historical information, followed by one or more catalogue entries. In several instances, it has been necessary to combine the introduction with the entry, due either to limited information in the literature or minimal documentation on our specimen. In both cases, the catalogue number appears as the first item on the left-hand side of the page for each entry. This is followed by its designation, acquisition number in parentheses, and the country, culture or area of origin. This in turn is followed by a description of the artifact, photographs and illustrations. Dimensions are given in metric measure. The catalogue entry is concluded with the location and date of the acquisition. Entries in the Miscellaneous Entries follow the same format as the Main Entries, but the descriptions are briefer and lack photographs or illustrations.

*Erich M. von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs, "Systematik der Musikinstrumente. Ein Versuch," Zeitschrift für Ethnologie Vols. 4 and 5 (1914): 553-590. ("Classification of Musical Instruments," trans. Anthony Baines and Klaus P. Wachsmann, The Galpin Society Journal 14 (1961): 3-29).