

## Colin Cater on the influence of Ewan MacColl

**Colin:** But it was British folk music, and very aggressively so. In that instruments were discouraged, and half a dozen of the university's— people in the university who were interested in singing, got an absolutely wonderful opportunity to develop [at Bert Worth's folk club in Reading].

**Sue:** You know, I've not heard of that kind of club, that had that distinct policy from the beginning.

**Colin:** Um, well, you have a think to back to the influence of Ewan MacColl, and Bert [Lloyd]. Ewan was an arrogant old bugger, but he was brilliant. He was a brilliant writer, he was a brilliant researcher, and he was a compelling singer. Whether he was a brilliant singer or not, I mean, history will judge. But the overall package. Now, Ewan brought with him a quite clear agenda that was not entirely his own agenda – that was I've got the book up here, where is it? I've got an international folk song journal up here – but quite clearly what Ewan was doing he was doing in tandem with Pete Seeger, he was doing in tandem with Hamish Henderson, he was doing in tandem with a whole group of people all round the Western world, and they were all tied in... but one of the things that was coming out very, very strongly was that you promote the culture of your own nation, and of the ordinary people of your own nation.

**Sue:** And how did you respond to that?

**Colin:** I mean, it was a road to Damascus job.

*Read more about the interview on Essex Archives Online: [SA 30/7/1/7/1](#)*