

Sam Hinton to sing at Revelle

November 13, 1970

Folk-singer Sam Hinton will give a concert of songs ranging "From the Pilgrims to the Present" at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, November 21, in the Cluster Library on the Revelle campus of the University of California, San Diego.

Hinton, who is Associate Director of the Office of Relations with Schools at UCSD and a nationally known folk singer, will present what he calls "the acculturation of folksongs." The concert is free and open to the public.

According to Hinton, changes in folksongs relate to changes in culture; the differences between the American and English versions of a song show the differences in the cultures of the countries.

"There are obvious changes in the language," Hinton said. "More familiar words are substituted for strange ones or more common words for high falutin terms. In the English version of a song a horse may be a 'milk-white steed' while the American version calls it 'my buckskin bronc.'"

Hinton said the shift in a point of view may also be shown in the changes in a folksong. The pioneer, alone in the American wilderness, related to his deity in a distinctly individual way. Frontier life eliminated the church as a buffer between the deity and man and, because of this, frontier songs are more direct and personal.

Another example of the shift in a point of view is the outward expression of what is considered immoral. The American puritan ethic led to changes in many songs, Hinton said. For example, the English version of a song may celebrate the joys of love while the American version punishes and separates the lovers.

"Of course," Hinton pointed out, "I sing folksongs my way and some changes will reflect my personality."

The concert is the first in a series of events planned and sponsored by the Cluster Library and being offered as part of the library's policy of providing a variety of materials to support learning in addition to the regular support of the curriculum.