

## FOREWORD

---

ISSN 1392–2831 *Tautosakos darbai* XXXI 2006

*Large part of the 31<sup>st</sup> volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies consists of the articles based on the papers delivered at the international scholarly conference “Folklore Research in New Europe”, which took place in Vilnius, in September 22–24, 2005. Most of the participants at this celebratory conference, designed to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lithuanian Folklore Archives at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore and the publication of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies attempted to review folklore collection, storage and preservation, archiving work and its further perspectives in their respective countries, as well as discussing other relevant issues related to folklore developments and its research. These things are reflected in the articles published in this volume. Thus, Gerda Lechleitner (Austria) presents a condensed survey of the history of the world’s earliest repository of sound recordings, i.e. the Vienna Phonogrammarchiv, its activities and the lasting impact on the folklore research. Similar information regarding respective histories and the future perspectives related to the digitization of the accumulated materials of the Polish, Irish and Latvian archives can be found in the articles by Jacek Jackowski, Rionach uí Ógáin and Aldis Pūtelis. Meanwhile Magdalene Huelmann draws a more generalized panorama of the folklore situation in the modern Germany. Lina Petrošienė discusses problems related to the folklore accumulation and research directions at one of the Lithuanian scholarly institutions, i.e. Klaipėda University. Other authors of the articles published in this chapter rather more concentrate on certain specific theoretical issues of folklore studies. Leonardas Sauka analyses the close relationship between Lithuanian folklore research and the literary scholarship, revealing their inner affinity and manifestations in the works by past and present scholars. David Elton Gay (USA) points out problems stemming from the insufficient appreciation of Christianity and its influence on the folkloric tradition, which should be especially relevant to certain researchers, preoccupied with reconstructions of its overly archaic mythological layers. Rytis Ambrazevičius (Lithuania) presents in turn an exhaustive survey of the universals of musical scale in ethnomusicology and psychology of music.*

*The international thematical scope of the first part is smoothly continued with the works by Latvian folklorists, published in the second chapter of the volume. Laila Vācere uses semiotic methods and the concept of sign in her analysis of the image of an apple-tree, which signifies the female life in the Latvian folksongs, while an experienced collector and disseminator of folk stories Guntis Pakalns concentrates on quite an unusual and scarcely explored topic, namely, personal attitude of the*

*folklorist towards the tradition and the impact of folklore publications upon its further development.*

*The next chapter, "From New Investigations", comprises an extensive study by Vita Ivanauskaitė, dealing with the role of an individual folklore creator and performer in the folkloric tradition. Individuality and tradition in narratives about dreams is also a subject of an article by Asta Višinskaitė. Meanwhile Jurgita Macijauskaitė-Bonda analyses the folklore of Lithuanian children practicing the meteorological magic.*

*The chapter "Fragments of the Baltic Mythology" starts with a conceptual article by Gintaras Beresnevičius, presenting an essentially new idea regarding the interrelations between Prussian tribes and the role of the female in the early political system of the Baltic and Germanic tribes, reflected by their legends. The next article is written by Jūratė Šlekonytė, who investigates interconnections observed in a much later piece of the Baltic and German ethnographical data, namely, descriptions of a game "Hunting Ražemukas", recorded in Lithuania Minor.*

*Folklore of the national minorities is represented in this volume by a couple of gipsy narratives, recorded and edited by Irena Žilienė.*

*Further, a considerable amount of the hitherto unpublished archived materials is presented, comprising traditional folktales of the beanstalk that grew up to heaven, edited by Dangirutė Giedraitytė.*

*Quite numerous are anniversaries commemorated in this volume. Leonardas Sauka compliments Konstantas Algirdas Aleksynas on having reached his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with a huge mountain of books, while directions and parameters of the scholarly activities by the academy professor Leonardas Sauka are in turn addressed on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday by Rimantas Skeivys. Researchers from the Centre for Latvian Studies at Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University Alvydas Butkus and Kristina Vaisvalavičienė commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great Baltic humanitarian Eduard Volter, while Algirdas Sabaliauskas invites us to remember Fridrichas Kuršaitis on the occasion of his 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Monika Kutkaitytė emphasizes the great importance of works by Liudvikas Rėza, which does not diminish even 230 years after his birthday.*

*As usual, at the end of the volume one finds book reviews and annotations, the chronicle of significant cultural events that took place during the recent six months, and the Lithuanian folklore bibliography of 2001, edited by Vitas Agurkis.*