

## FOREWORD

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*The 38<sup>th</sup> volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies provides the reader with possibility to feel the living pulse of the varied contemporary folk creativity, to get acquainted with reflections of classical and modern phenomena, to pay attention to individual folklore-related activities, to glimpse into the history of folklore research of one's own and of the other peoples, and to catch the passion of wandering deeper into other curiosities of the world of Lithuanian folklore.*

*The volume starts in celebratory mood: our heartfelt greetings are conveyed to Professor Donatas Sauka on his glorious 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

*Features of both contemporary and traditional folk narratives are discussed in the first chapter. Laima Anglickienė elucidates tendencies of development of modern children's horror stories. The article by Jūratė Šlekonytė is focused on the cultural and semantical aspects of the main image of the Lithuanian folktale "The Danced-out Shoes".*

*The study by Daiva Vaitkevičienė leads us deep into the mysteries of folk symbolism, encompassing the space of mythological interpretation of hat as symbol of fortune.*

*Questions related to small forms of folklore are dealt with in four articles. Dalia Zaikauskienė attempts to appreciate works by Lithuanian paremiologists against the backdrop of contemporary international studies in paremiology. Giedrė Bufiienė focuses on the origins of the proverbial phrase "Old woman could ride on that knife to Rīga", while Rasa Kašėtienė investigates the situational sayings that have hardly ever been paid scholarly attention to. The article by Aelita Kensminienė aims at describing various forms of time expressions and their perception in Lithuanian riddles.*

*Problems of musical folklore are examined in a couple of further articles. Daiva Račiūnaitė-Vyčiniene tries to revise the usage of terms denoting attribution to eastern Dzūkija and eastern Aukštaitija in musicology, also attempting to segregate those musical dialects. Rūta Žarskienė investigates the cultural history of traditional Lithuanian brass bands.*

*The Yatvigian Book composed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century still raises many questions. This page of folklore historiography is dealt with in an article by Rolandas Kregždys.*

*Two articles by foreign scholars elucidate the research tendencies in other countries. The Hungarian folklore researcher Vilmos Voigt discusses the situation of folktales in his country, listing the main publications and studies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and several previous and subsequent decades. The German linguist Rainer Eckert*

*analyses the word \*baltas in Eastern Baltic languages (particularly drawing on the Lithuanian and Latvian folksongs) and its correspondences in Slavic culture.*

*The recent experiences accumulated during the folklore fieldwork session taking place in Ignalina and Švenčionys districts are described by Vilma Daugirdaitė.*

*Under the heading of “Folklore of National Minorities”, contemporary Polish funeral hymns recorded in Vilnius region by Krystyna Syrnicka, and an article discussing them, are published.*

*In this volume, also comical and very recent folklore materials are reviewed. Bronislava Kerbelytė presents anecdotes describing the communist leaders and people’s situation, which had reached Lithuania from abroad, while Povilas Krikščiūnas publishes texts and illustrations on the topic “Women about women in electronic chain-letters”.*

*The following chapter presents two variants of the Eglė tale, found in the archives or scarce editions: one has been found in manuscripts by F. Fortunatov and V. Miler (1871), while another one was published in Polish by A. Połujański in 1858 (the materials were edited by Leonardas Sauka).*

*Several important anniversaries are celebrated this year. A particularly glorious centenary is celebrated by a famous folklorist and ethnologist Jonas Balys. Two publications (by Leonardas Sauka and Stanislovas Sasnauskas) are dedicated to him, followed by the supplement of his bibliography from 1995–2009. On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a literary critic, historian and poet Kostas Korsakas, his connections with folklore research are presented in the living memory of his granddaughter Radvilė Racėnaitė.*

*Among the reviews and annotations, Dalia Senvaitytė introduces the fundamental edition by Daiva Vaitkevičienė of the folk magic texts. She particularly appreciates the typology of the Lithuanian charms, devised by this scholar. Aušra Žičkienė discusses the monograph by Dalia Urbanavičienė on Lithuanian sutartinės accompanied by dancing or playing. Rytis Ambrazevičius responds to the review by A. Žičkienė, published in the 37<sup>th</sup> volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies. Lina Būgienė, while reviewing the publication of sources on St Brunon, particularly elucidates their folklore-related aspects. Lilija Kudirkienė reviews the No 18 of Letonica journal, paying particular attention to the prevailing tendencies in the analysis of traditional festivals. She also draws attention to the remarkable publication of Latvian folksongs in Siberia (from 1975 till 2009).*

*The volume concludes with the chronicle of important recent scholarly events.*