

The 46th volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies focuses on the classical meanings and messages of folklore texts, which are analyzed here by folklorists, mythologists and ethnolinguists.

*By a lucky coincidence, the 100th anniversary of publication of the first collection of Lithuanian riddles, edited by Kleopas Jurgelionis, is celebrated by including into this volume two research articles on riddles. Aelita Kensminienė uses comparative analogues from other peoples' folklore, other folklore genres and data from customs and rituals in order to analyze the beginning and ending formulas of the riddles, to elucidate the structure of these small folklore pieces as well as the sources and changes of the formulas in question. Mariya Zavyalova turns her attention to the hitherto scantily analyzed imagery of the Lithuanian riddles and its mythological background, choosing to discuss the riddles that use images of animals in questions and have a house as the answer. The article by Jūratė Lubienė represents the ethnolinguistic approach; here, by comparing data from linguistics, traditional culture and mycology, the colloquial names for the common stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*), used in Lithuanian language and its dialects are discussed. The folk narrative is viewed from not only the folkloristic, but also from the mythological perspective in the article by Daiva Vaitkevičienė. Having chosen the fairytales as her basis for mythical reconstruction, this author reveals the correlation between the soul of the deceased in its various forms of embodiment, which in turn depend on the place of the burial, and the different ways of the burial. Radvilė Racėnaitė analyzes the traditional kinds of legends: namely, the etiological, folk-belief and place legends, seeking to reveal the folk notion of the memory places and elucidating the ways in which remembrances of the past, interacting with landscape, and evaluations of the visible surroundings are embedded in different genres of narratives.*

This volume also echoes the 16th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR), for the first time having taken place in Lithuania, by publishing the plenary paper given at the opening of the Congress by professor Vilmos Voigt, in which he discusses the general situation of the folk narrative research with special focus on the main works by the Lithuanian folklorists.

Under the heading "From the Archives", minutes from the meetings taking place in 1951 at the Department of Ethnography, the Lithuanian Institute of History, edited by Kostas Aleksynas and revealing the process of staging the first "Soviet" reader of Lithuanian folklore for higher schools, are published.

The important anniversaries usually present an opportunity to remember the key persons in folkloristics, to actualize their inheritance, or to return to the historical events that have become subjects of folklore or have influenced its development. Thus, on the

200th anniversary of Liudvikas Adomas Jucevičius, a survey of his most important life events and his activities in regional studies by Gražina Kadžytė is published. Jūratė Šlekonytė in turn contributes to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Finnish folklorist, one of the creators of the historic-geographic method Kaarle Krohn.

The chapter of the “Fieldwork Experiences” has hitherto been meant to include the impressions from the most recent investigations into the traditional culture. This time however, the field notes by Balys Buračas from his summer trip in 1929 are presented, edited by Vykintas Vaitkevičius and Evelina Simanavičiūtė. We expect this publication to be relevant to researchers from various disciplines in humanities; it is illustrated with photos by Buračas, carefully selected by the editors and aptly supplementing the information presented in the notes. This is a manifest evidence of the inseparable bond between the written and the visual (photographed) images.

We hope to interest our readers in the new chapter entitled “From the Book Shelf” and aiming to introduce both the recent books relevant to the folklorist community and the new facts related to the older publications. Here, Kostas Aleksynas, having discovered a copy of “Prussian Lithuanian Songs” published in the same 1905 as the other ones, and yet endowed with a different “Foreword”, discusses possible ways of appearance of such discrepancies. Giedrė Bufienė shares her impressions on the epistolary publication – the correspondence between two great folklorists, Alan Dundes and Wolfgang Mieder. Povilas Krikščiūnas analyzes a collection of articles on the contemporary Russian folklore, focusing on contributions relevant to the Lithuanian researchers.

As usual, the volume also contains reviews and annotations of the research works by Lithuanian and foreign authors related to the traditional culture (this time these include also a publication of the sound recordings): the collective monograph edited at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore “Homo narrans: Folk Memory at Close Range” (2012), the collective study by the ethnologists from the Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University on the contemporary schoolchildren-lore (2013), a book by Petras Kalnius, focusing on the search for the Samogitian ethnicity “Samogitians: from the 20th Century to the Beginning of the 21st One” (2012), an English collection of articles presenting a comprehensive analysis of the Latvian migration Oral History: Migration and Local Identities (2011), a diary by Pranas Bieliauskas from 1920–1957 (2012), the first volume of the initiated serial edition of Samogitian cultural heritage (2012), and the CD of Lithuanian songs recorded by the folk group of the Kaunas John Paul II Gymnasium (2012–2013).

In the chronicle, important scholarly events related to the folkloristics and traditional culture and having taken place in Lithuania during the second half of the year 2013 are referred to. Among them, the Latvian colleagues survey the most relevant things discussed this year at the traditional conference on Krišjānis Barons, also informing of the 90th anniversary of the Latvian Folklore Archives to take place in 2014, and inviting the Lithuanian researchers to participate at the international conference organized on that occasion.