

FOREWORD

The 42nd volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies could be characterized by considerable variety of its publications. That is clearly noticeable in its contents: theoretical articles dealing with issues of folklore research, ethnology, mythology and ethnomusicology comprise four different thematical chapters. The first one, labeled “Horizons of the Cultural Landscape”, includes the most recent research by the scholars from the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Bronė Stundžienė and Vita Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutienė, inspired by the recent folklore fieldwork sessions. In her analysis of the cultural landscape of Švenčionys region, B. Stundžienė employs the emphatic principle, still rather rarely used in folkloristics, attempting to perceive and interpret her subject from the point of view of the local inhabitants. The conclusions of her article are illustrated by the supplement edited by the author and consisting of the vivid narratives recorded in Pašaminė and Reškutėnai villages, brimming over with contemporary reflections of the folkloric consciousness. V. Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutienė, while drawing on testimonies by the elder generation of Samogitians about the visits of the deceased in the dreams, analyzes the relationship of these dreams with the Catholic religious tradition and practices. The article also reveals obvious ties between these oneiric narratives and the popular religious didactic literature from the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries, aimed at the common folk.

The traditional worldview is also touched upon in one way or another in the articles comprising the second chapter as well. Radvilė Racėnaitė, the specialist in oral folklore, reveals the symbolic meanings of the broom, sweeping and litter in Lithuanian folktales, legends, folksongs, various small folklore genres and customs. The moral image of drunkards in Lithuanian proverbs and proverbial phrases, its connections with the didactic literature from the 19th century and the humorous-didactical folksongs is reviewed by the paremiologist Rasa Kašėtienė. Whereas Miglė Lebednykaitė, the doctoral student from the Vilnius Academy of Arts, focuses on the various kinds of aprons from the 19th – beginning of the 20th century and the different attitudes towards them by the traditional Lithuanian communities and those of the neighboring countries, also touching upon the symbolic meanings of aprons.

This volume also includes publications dealing with issues of the Baltic mythology. The article by the mythologist Dainius Razauskas, entitled “God’s Grandchild: the Human Place in Lithuanian Cosmology” and almost equaling a study in its length, encourages renewed discussions on cosmology. Having amassed and reviewed a

considerable data of the Lithuanian folklore and that of the other peoples, the author presents original interpretations of the images of Sun, Moon and stars. A new interpretation of the folktale Eglė the Queen of Serpents, revealing clashes between men and women upon the issue of controlling life and death and affecting the crucial shift of the cultural pattern in the ancient worldview, is given in the research publication by the literary scholar Eugenijus Žmuida.

The chapter on ethnomusicology comprises recent research by ethnomusicologists Austė Nakienė and Rūta Žarskienė. Their studies have been inspired by the collection of the sound recordings of the Lithuanian folklore by Eduard Wolter (1908–1909), returned to Lithuania after more than a century from the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv. While analyzing the ancient modes of singing from eastern Aukštaitija, southern Dzūkija and Suvalkija preserved in those recordings, A. Nakienė brings the readers' notice to the style of the bourdon accompaniment, hitherto escaping the scholarly attention. R. Žarskienė in turn reviews the history of spread and development of the bagpipe – one of the most popular European musical instruments, also analyzing its role in Lithuania, including its repertoire and place in the rural customs and rites, subsequently revealing the influence of this instrument on the Lithuanian ethnic culture.

The new chapter entitled “From the History of Folksongs” and meant to have its continuation in the subsequent volumes, presents a publication by Kostas Aleksynas discussing a particularly popular song from the national revival period, *Vai, ko nusižvengei, bėrasis žirgeli* [‘Oh, Why Did You Neigh, You Bay Horse’] and its author, the children’s poet Adomas Kerevičius (Adas Keraitis).

The chapter on the Lithuanian folklore in the foreign archives discusses treasures of our folklore heritage preserved abroad. The archivist from the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Rima Visackienė reviews the folksongs and instrumental music performed by the elder generation of the Lithuanian emigrants and recorded in 1949–1959 in America by Jonas Balys. The doctoral student from the Vilnius University and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Lina Sokolovaitė analyzes the complicated history of the Lithuanian folklore manuscripts, recorded during the interwar period in Geročiai and preserved in the Estonian Literary Museum.

The publications of folklore texts this time include witty examples of the modern folklore. The 93 season’s greetings edited by Povilas Krikščiūnas reveal the panorama of this genre from the second half of the 20th–beginning of the 21st century. The similar period is represented by the Lithuanian children’s nicknames, systematized by Gražina Skabeikytė-Kazlauskienė and collected in the course of two recent decades, because the number of informants also includes grown-ups remembering the ways that different names used to be ridiculed in their childhood.

Under the heading of “Anniversaries”, D. Razauskas congratulates the researcher of Lithuanian mythology Nijolė Laurinkienė in the name of her colleagues from the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore on the occasion of her birthday, wishing her many long and fruitful years of creative work. Laima Purlienė reminds the readers of Juozas Averka, or Uncle Juozas, as he used to be called by his numerous “pupils” – fosterers of folksongs from Dzūkija, and his influence on the folkloric movement. Our readers should not be surprised by the title of publication by Gražina Kadžytė, which is actually dedicated not so much to Jonas Basanavičius, the 160th anniversary of whom is celebrated this year, but rather to his ten years younger brother Vincas. The publication, vividly revealing the Suvalkija-style mentality of the time, is interspaced with apt quotations from the brothers’ letters.

The Pro memoria is dedicated to saying farewell to the prominent Lithuanian researcher of folklore and ethnology, the head of the Lithuanian Folklore Archives in 1935–1939, who emigrated from Lithuania after the World War II and lived in America up to 102 years of age, Jonas Balys. His contribution to the Lithuanian folkloristics is described by K. Aleksynas.

The volume also comprises a couple of lavishly illustrated accounts on this year’s two fieldwork sessions. V. Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutiėnė reveals her experience gained while visiting Rietavas and its neighborhood, whereas Saulė Matulevičienė describes the results of the complex fieldwork carried out in 2011 in Gervėčiai, which was also presented at the international research conference taking place in November in Vilnius University.

Under the heading of “Reviews and Annotations”, the recent research publications are discussed and evaluated: namely, the monograph by D. Razauskas-Daukintas on the stove in mythology (reviewed by E. Žmuida), the monograph by Aušra Zabielenė based on her doctoral thesis on the Lithuanian folklore groups (reviewed by A. Nakienė), the fundamental research publication by Alexandr Romodin, dealing with the musician’s personality in the ethnic tradition of northern Belorussia (by Gaila Kirdienė), and the monograph by the classical scholar of the Slovakian ethnomusicology Oskár Elsček on the probably most popular folk musical instrument of this nation, fujara (by Romualdas Apanavičius). Jurgita Ūsaiytė briefly presents the collection of articles by Stasys Skrodenis ‘Folklore and Life’, published last year.

The “Chronicle” of the recent events of folklore and folkloristics represents the most relevant issues of 2011.

The editorial board of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies and the special editor of this volume hope that the 42nd volume of the series is not going to disappoint its readers and fulfill their expectations by presenting new and insightful research articles and other publications.