

*Folk tradition has for centuries shared the space of spread with the written culture. The period of their mutual influence is so long and diverse to merit analysis as a special cultural phase comprising all kinds of aspects and expressions of interactions between oral and written creative manifestations of humanity. This volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies is for the most part focusing on various connections between orality and writing.*

*The first four articles are directly concerned with tangled relations between folk tradition and individual creativity. Živilė Ramoškaitė encourages the readers to return once again to Maironis' poems and introduces their transformation into folksongs. The author discusses patterns of mutual influence between two lines of creativity: folklorization of Maironis' poetry and professional musical compositions inspired by the poet's talent. Aušra Kavaliauskienė describes in her article the traditional clothing and attire of Lithuania Minor as reflected in works by Ieva Simonaitytė. Works of this writer that has been termed the chronicler of this region are regarded as a significant historical source; while analysis of clothing and attire is based on abundant and unique ethnographic materials from museum collections. The literary scholar Eugenijus Žmuida discusses the layer of mythical worldview displayed in lyrics by Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas. In his analysis of the mythical image of earth both in the early and late compositions by Putinas, the author of the article convincingly reveals its impressive transformation. Bronė Stundžienė focuses on investigation of the manuscript heritage by a self-educated Samogitian farmer Jonas Brežinskis, who was rather active in the social life of Lithuania in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both life and the rich and varied writings by this enlightened man reflect significant advance of literacy in the western Lithuania, which evolved along with the Christian culture that was more deeply rooted in Samogitia than in other Lithuanian regions.*

*The second chapter consists of articles dealing with folklore dissemination and its transformations in the modern society. Researcher of the modern folklore from Moscow, Darya Radchenko introduces her theoretical study targeting increasingly relevant methodological issues of searching for and collecting of the internet folklore. She particularly emphasizes the necessity of understanding the actual ways that texts exist (or are created, modified and spread) in the internet, and what kind of communication processes take place there. Gražina Skabeikytė-Kazlauskienė analyzes*

*the contemporary layer of a single folklore genre – the anecdotes. Having chosen the repertoire of the children’s anecdotes to focus upon, the author discusses the influence exercised on the children’s favorite anecdotes by the grown-ups’ folklore belonging to the same genre, as well as revealing the predominant themes and characters, and comparing the analogous folk traditions of Lithuanians and the neighboring peoples.*

*Parallels between the Lithuanian folklore and that of the national minorities residing in Lithuania are revealed to the readers in publication of the modern hymns performed at Lithuanian and Polish funerals, edited by Aušra Žičkienė and Kristina Syrnicka. The editors also introduce the tendencies in translation of the popular hymns from Polish to Lithuanian (and vice versa) that they have discovered in the course of their ongoing detailed research of the modern funeral singing, along with melodic similarities of these hymns.*

*“Publications of Texts” also continue the keynote line of this volume: namely, the relationship between oral and written culture. A collection of mementos and dedications penned on the back of photograph portraits of the graduates of the Šiauliai Normal School in 1939, edited by Rasa Kašėtienė (Senkutė) and Vita Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutienė is published here.*

*The anniversary of the famous researcher of literature and investigator of the old writings, professor Jurgis Lebedys is commemorated and celebrated in this volume. His centenary anniversary presents a fitting opportunity for Leonardas Sauka to discuss the exceptionally valuable contribution by Lebedys to the Lithuanian folklore studies.*

*Voices of the young generation of ethnologists are heard in the chapter describing the “Fieldwork Experiences”. Having shared his impressions from the student fieldwork session that took place in the parish of Žeimelis in the beginning of this year, Martynas Vingrys invites the readers to enjoy a handful of impressive folk narratives. These stories were recorded by the fieldworkers in Vileišiai village from an amazing storyteller Ona Jakuškienė.*

*Two publications dated 2012 that are vastly different but nevertheless in their own ways represent the folk culture have inspired the respective articles by Jurgita Ūsaiytė and Giedrė Čepaitienė. The former shares her insights while reading the recent publication of Latvian folksongs, i.e. the collection by Krišjānis Barons edited in as many as four languages. This book prompted Ūsaiytė’s interest in the history of publication of Latvian folksongs in general. Giedrė Čepaitienė in her turn introduces the autobiographical survey by the enlightened man from Suvalkija region Simanas Kudirka, eloquently entitled “My Odyssey”, which she has edited. This small book is particularly relevant to the folklore community because it reflects the increasing nowadays tendency of recording and publication of the autobiographic memoirs of*

*the elder generations describing not only their individual life experiences, but also the community traditions that have to some extent affected them.*

*The most important new publications are also reviewed and annotated in the special chapter. Modesta Liugaitė-Černiauskienė offers her review of the collective monograph Vernacular Religion in Everyday Life: Expressions of Belief; Eugenijus Žmuida discusses a study by Marina Larionova investigating the roles of myth, folktale and ritual in the Russian literature. Two short annotations are also published: Jurga Sadauskienė introduces a book by Virginijus Savukynas “History and Mythologies: in Search of Identity in the 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> Century Lithuania”, while Aušra Žičkienė writes of the study by Gustaw Juzala Semantyka kolęd wiosennych: Studium folklorystyczno-etnomuzykologiczne.*

*The first half of this year was rich in various events related to folklore and folkloristics. Echoes of many of them can be found in the chronicle.*

