

*The 48<sup>th</sup> volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies starts with the new investigations in folklore. The problems that authors of the articles tackle this time are rather diverse and involve revisiting the traditional worldview, meaning and value of the traditional folklore texts, and communicational aspects of folklore. Thus, Modesta Liugaitė-Černiauskienė deals with the unsolved case of the Lithuanian ballads. While analyzing motives and images used in the Lithuanian ballad “Augo ant dvaro liepelė” (“A Linden Tree Was Growing in the Yard”), the author seeks to establish their connections with a similar Belorussian ballad. The layer of ritual semantics that is discerned in these texts and the ballad-like rendering of an individual event suggest different perspectives of interpretation. Jurga Sadauskienė focuses her analysis on the emotional contents of folklore, surveying in her article the approach to the emotional quality of folksongs adopted by the Lithuanian folkloristics. Vita Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutienė uses folkloric narratives of dreams as means for closer analysis of the social communication. These folklore texts are regarded in her article as an important way of intercommunication and of strengthening the relationships between the community members. Vita Džekčioriūtė deals with Lithuanian folk beliefs and customs in order to highlight the mythical meaning of frog in Lithuanian traditional worldview.*

*In this volume, a study by Norbertas Vėlius on the ancient semantic layers in the wedding songs and customs is published. By the original intent, the study was meant to make part of a book on symbolical meanings hidden in the ritual folksongs. Here, the whole surviving manuscript is published, consisting of two chapters summarizing motives of the traditional Lithuanian wedding songs in relation to certain aspects of rituals and customs. This unfinished study is introduced by Bronė Stundžienė, who also presents a concise retrospective view of N. Vėlius scholarly career, which involved both distancing and subsequent returning to the folksong analysis.*

*In the traditional chapter of the “Publications of Texts”, a number of folk-belief legends edited by Lina Būgienė are published. These legends were recorded in 1904–1905 in the Šiluva parish by the biology professor Pranciškus Baltrus Šivickis from his family members and acquaintances. Excellent quality of the recordings and abundance of the popular traditional stories make this publication interesting and valuable.*

*In the chapter “From the Book Shelf”, three publications are introduced, two among them being quite recent – printed this year. Giedrė Bufienė surveys the collection of articles in English, dedicated to the Estonian folklore professor Arvo Krikmann*

on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The detailed survey comprises fascinating annotations of all the 27 articles, including both scholarly investigations of paremias and narratives and celebratory essays. Austė Nakiėnė in turn shares her insights sparked off by reading the book written by the professor of the University of Washington Guntis Šmidchens and entitled *The Power of Song*. Its author discusses development of nationalism in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, the history of the national songs, anthems and hymns, with special emphasis on the recent phenomenon of the Singing Revolution. In the third book, introduced by Bronislava Kerbelytė, the scientific and literary heritage of the poet and researcher of Assyrian culture Voldemaras Šileika is published. The reader is going to be intrigued not only by the life of this erudite of Lithuanian descent, but also by the Assyrian and Babylonian texts that he translated into Russian in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Publication of these texts is bound to attract interest of folklore researchers as well. Several charms from the book, translated into Lithuanian by B. Kerbelytė, are presented in her survey.

In the next chapter, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of folklorist, ethnographer and composer Oskar Kolberg is commemorated. Živilė Ramoškaitė presents his works, amazing in their scope and meaning even today. This year, the famous American folklorist Alan Dundes would have celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. On this occasion, David Elton Gay briefly discusses the reception of this scholar in the American folkloristics, while Vilmos Voigt shares personal memories of his long-time communication with A. Dundes.

The “Pro Memoria” is dedicated to remember the American folklorist of Hungarian descent, researcher of folk narratives Linda Dégh-Vázsonyi who passed away last summer.

Further, two book reviews are published. Daiva Račiūnaitė-Vyčiniėnė discusses the monograph by Nijolė Laurinkienė *Žemyna ir jos mitinis pasaulis* (*Žemyna and Her Mythical World*) published in 2013. Jūratė Šlekonytė reviews the collection of Lithuanian folktales in Russian, edited and translated by B. Kerbelytė.

As always, the volume concludes with the chronicle of important scholarly events related to the folklore research and taking place in the second half of 2014.