

The first chapter of the 57th volume of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies is entitled “Reflecting on Tradition: Meanings, Expressions, Practices” and comprises several recent publications in folklore, ethnology and linguistic research. Andrius Kaniava, focusing his phenomenological research on narratives by the local Samogitians about the Šatrija Hill and Plateliai Lake, reveals in his article entitled “Walking along the Story Road: Research on Relationship with Place” how the human relationship with place is established in folklore texts. He analyzes the possible kinds of such relationship and its connections with the personal experiences of the storytellers. Another phenomenological study by Rūta Latinytė deals with the phenomenon of gift giving. The author analyzes personal experience narratives by her several informants and herself, focusing on situations when the act of the gift giving does not take place and the gift is rejected or not given, pondering on how such “ungiven gift” affects interpersonal relations and what kind of traces it leaves in people’s memory.

The article by Marius Smetona and his co-authors “Conception of Manor in the Lithuanian Worldview” draws on the ethnolinguistic methods developed by the Lublin School and analyzes the concept of manor. Using ample and highly varied data (including lexical materials, folklore, fiction, modern media, and the results from the youth opinion polls), the authors work out a detailed cognitive definition of the concept of manor. The subject of study by Jūratė Šlekonytė is the phenomenal popularity of the Lithuanian folktale “The Sister as Duck”. Using contextual analysis, the author sets out to establish when and how this folk piece, commonly called the tale of Sigutė, has acquired such popularity, and discusses its numerous adaptations in the professional art and popular culture.

Two of the articles from this chapter deal with cultural traditions of the Lithuania Minor. Aušra Žemyna Kavaliauskienė encourages her readers to reopen the classical novel by Ieva Simonaitytė Vilius Karalius and appreciate it as an ethnographic source on the traditional weddings practiced in the Lithuania Minor during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. Special attention is given to those components of the ritual that are described in more or less detail by Simonaitytė. The article by Elena Matulionienė presents an analysis of an important part of the female attire from the Lithuania Minor, namely, the ornamentation of the textile pockets (delmonas). The author analyses their floral motifs in detail, further discussing the similarities in decoration of comparable needlework pieces by women from the Lithuania Minor

and from other countries, and introducing the modern tendencies in producing and decorating such textile pockets, as well as their connections with the traditional décor.

The next chapter entitled “Tracing a Folksong” reveals the history of a popular folk romance *Vien tik vosilkų žiedai* (‘Only the Cornflower Blossoms’). The first publication by a Russian folklorist Aleksandra Archipova “How Olya Died and Folklore Was Born” analyzes the transformation of a fragment from the poem “The Madman” written in 1890 by a Russian poet Aleksey Apuchtin into a popular romantic song about a girl murdered by her jealous lover. The Lithuanian and some international versions of this folk romance are the subject of an article by Povilas Krikščiūnas, who has also translated the previous article from Russian. Besides, he has edited the publication of the Lithuanian variants in question that supplement his analysis.

Two important anniversaries of the Lithuanian folklore and culture are celebrated in this volume as well. In 2019, the 200th anniversary of the famous Lithuanian folksong collector and priest Antanas Juška is celebrated. In her article written for the occasion and entitled “The Great Songbooks: Origins of the Academic Lithuanian Folksong Edition in Folklore Publications by Brothers Juška”, Vita Ivanauskaitė-Šeibutienė analyzes the influence of the particularly voluminous and varied collections of folklore recorded by Antanas Juška and published with assistance of his brother Jonas in 1880–1883 on the formation of the academic Lithuanian folklore edition. The exceptional quality of these publications against the background of the earlier folksong source publications from the 19th century is highlighted as well, with particular emphasis on the image of Antanas Juška as the folklore collector. The cover illustration of this volume of the journal is also related to the anniversary of Antanas Juška, featuring a drawing by the artist Napoleonas Orda from the second half of the 19th century of the Veliuona Town, its church and the Nemunas River. Admittedly, in Veliuona parish Juška recorded the majority of his folksongs and the traditional wedding customs.

Another important date commemorated in this volume is the 100th anniversary of the Lithuanian folklore researcher Ambraziejus Jonynas. Gražina Kadžytė surveys his high merits to the Lithuanian folklore, including his biography, research works and public activities.

The next chapter is dedicated to the works of the young Lithuanian ethnologists. Here, for the first time in the history of publication of our journal, a study by a gymnasium student is published. This work was awarded the first prize in the competition of the young philologists in 2019, and its author Modesta Čaplikaitė investigates the folk cosmetics traditionally employed by the women from Merkinė parish in order to enhance their beauty.

Modesta Liugaitė-Černiauskienė presents a detailed survey of the most important scholarly event of the six previous months, namely, the international ballad conference

taking place in Vilnius and entitled “Human Relationships in and through Songs: Meanings and Contexts”.

Reviews of three recent publications are presented in this volume as well. Jurgita Macijauskaitė-Bonda reviews the eagerly awaited and recently published collection of the Lithuanian riddles edited by Aelita Kensminienė. Bronė Stundžienė discusses the book edited by Ainė Ramonaitė and Paulius Narušis on the five decades of existence of the folk group Ratilio, which describes the history of this famous Lithuanian folklore ensemble starting with Soviet times. Jurga Sadauskienė reviews the publication Paskutinis užvėręs vartus (‘The Last One to Close the Gate’) by the Museum of History of the Lithuania Minor, based on the memoirs by an enlightened person from the southwestern Lithuania Julius Radtke.

Relevant research conferences and seminars are surveyed in the chronicle, which also contains information on a recently defended thesis.