

MUSICAL FOLKLORISTICS BY OSKAR KOLBERG: CRYSTALLIZATION OF THE SUBJECT

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Summary

The origins and development of Lithuanian folkloristics are closely related to corresponding phenomena in the neighboring countries and to certain outstanding personalities, who made significant contributions to Lithuanian folkloristics. Among such prominent figures of the 19th century, the famous Polish folklorist and ethnographer Oskar Kolberg (1814–1890) should definitely be named.

O. Kolberg started his folkloristic activities in the first half of the 19th century, when folkloristics, ethnography and ethnology had not yet established themselves as scholarly disciplines. His scientific studies set basis for their formation.

O. Kolberg was pioneer of folkloristics. His attitude to folklore was not the same all the time; it was changing along with crystallization of the concept of folk music and folk music text, or folklore text. While examining O. Kolberg's folkloristic activities, his Lithuanian and Polish collections, the author of the article seeks to reveal these changes, interpreting them as general development of folkloristic activities and conception of folklore as a whole, which manifested itself by several clearly articulated and significant steps. It includes shift from perception of folk melody as a mere pretext to create a piece of music in dur-moll system to its conception as an authentic text, and from this authentic text – to grasping its multiple functional context.