

## FOREWORD

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ISSN 1392–2831 *Tautosakos darbai XXI (XXVIII) 2004*

*Volume XXI (XXVIII) of Tautosakos darbai / Folklore Studies closely follows traditions of this publication by its structure and contents, although introducing some delightful innovations too. Firstly, we have quite a few contributions by foreign scholars here; secondly, several articles reveal connections of folklore and the fine arts; and thirdly, herewith we start publishing the Lithuanian folklore bibliographies: materials of 2003 have been edited by Leonardas Sauka and Rita Repšienė.*

*The first part of the volume presents articles, thematically related to the materials of the third international scholarly conference “Ethno-Confessional Processes in the Baltic Region: Convergences and Divergences”, belonging to the international project “The Crossroads of Cultures”, and taking place on May 3–6, 2004 in Druskininkai. Bronė Stundžienė discusses issues of historical poetics, emphasizing the importance of the rites of passage to the folk songs poetics; Rita Repšienė presents her survey of the interpretative possibilities of the ‘Other’, as an important mythical and ideological image; while Laima Anglickienė analyzes the peculiarities of the image of Jew in Lithuanian folklore. Several authors have paid attention to the animal world in folklore: thus, Lilija Kudirkienė discusses the image of cuckoo in folklore of various European peoples; Nijolė Laurinkienė describes the mythic images of snake and serpent in Lithuanian oral tradition; whereas Dainius Razauskas and Tatjana Civjan chose hedgehog as the main subject of their article, for its important role as helper in the creation legends.*

*The new investigations, presented in the second part of the volume, are attractive for the wide range of subjects they cover. Important conclusions are drawn regarding both the layers of the ancient traditions and the modern folklore phenomena. Here, Vita Grybauskienė raises questions related to the linguistic heritage, namely, the Lithuanian mythological toponyms; Daiva Vaitkevičienė discusses specifics of the ancient drinking ritual; Gražina Skabeikytė-Kazlauskienė analyzes peculiarities of the modern teasing rhymes; while Dalia Zaikauskienė deals with modern tendencies in the development of proverbs, and Povilas Krikščiūnas describes changes of the chain letters effected by the modern communication systems.*

*Under the heading of “Folkloristics Abroad”, three interesting contributions by foreign authors are presented. Vilmos Voigt surveys the spread of the popular motive of the woman, destroying the man’s life, in European cultural history. Regina Bendix and Dorothee Hemme analyze the famous German fairy tale route, created according to the narrative images of the Grimm Brothers’ tales, and Tok Thompson deals with reflections of the ancient culture in the tourist shops of Ireland.*

*Leonardas Sauka and Bronė Stundžienė survey the present and the future problems of the folklore scholarship under the title of “Folklore Scholarship in the Strategy of Humanities and Social Sciences”. Valdimar Hafstein introduces news related to the folklore preservation from the World Intellectual Property Organization, based in Geneva.*

*Under the heading of “Folklore of National Minorities”, eighteen wedding songs of Lithuanian Poles are published (edited by Gustaw Juzala, melodies edited by Živilė Ramoškaitė).*

*As a unique testimony of the past traditions, description of Lithuanian wedding customs in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the region of Pušalotas, made by Antanas Juška and translated from Russian by Stasys Skrodenis, gets published here.*

*The modern folklore is represented by a handful of folklore texts from the wedding newspapers, edited by Povilas Krikščiūnas.*

*This year abounds in anniversaries of glorious people: Jonas Balys turns 95, Ambraziejus Jonynas – 85, and Donatas Sauka – 75. They all get celebrated in our publication as well. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vladas Jakubėnas, a Lithuanian composer in exile, having passed away 28 years ago, is also commemorated.*

*As usual, reviews of the recent publications on folklore in Lithuania and abroad, as well as chronicle of conferences, seminars, and meetings, are presented at the end of the volume.*

*We would like to thank Gediminas Lankauskas, Ph.D., from the Montreal University, Canada, for kindly assisting us in editing this volume.*