

## Editorial



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The second issue of Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology journal in 2023 is an open issue, so readers could enjoy and compare four various articles dedicated to different areas of scientific research. This could be taken as a proof of variability and openness of the social sciences, especially contemporary ethnology and cultural/social anthropology.

The article titled *Digital Research – Principle and the Case of the Ethnological Collection of Research Reports* was written by Andrej Gogora, a researcher and the Head of the Research Collection Department of the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology SAS (IEASA SAS) in Bratislava. This article is focused both on theoretical starting points and practical experiences during processing of the Collection of research reports (CRR) preserved at the IEASA SAS. The author is not only analysing the five selected principles of conceptual preparation and practical building of digital research collections, but also exemplifying these principles on the concept and strategy of digital conversion and computer processing of the CRR. These particular collections have been built by the IEASA SAS staff since 1946 and nowadays it contains over 1,500 documents (a total of 158,00 items in various formats), which were not easy to process. There was a need for a revision of metadata, their standardization and adaptation to current standards and only then digital curation could follow. Andrej Gogora shows this process on concrete examples (each collection, including CRR, is unique and draws attention to specific modifications) and also shows us how this mass of information was used in the past and what could be done with it in the near future with the help of the digital curation.

The second article with the title *Easter Holiday and the Pandemic – the Case in Slovakia in 2020* was written by Katarína Popelková from IEASA SAS and we could perceive it as a kick-off for the planned special issue on the topic *Contemporary Holidays and Their Transformations* (Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology 4/2023). The author presents an analysis of data from an exploratory online questionnaire survey conducted in Slovakia in spring 2020 when the date of the Easter holiday

overlapped with the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The data analysis is based on the concept of eventisation introduced by Winfried Gebhardt (2000). According to this concept secularised and individualised ways of spending holiday time influence the pluralisation of contents and the forms of “traditional” holidays. This concept was proved by the results of the questionnaire evaluation – it turned out that the emergency pandemic situation accelerated the development from “traditional” Christian holidays to personalised events even more. More details about the ways how people spent their Easter holidays during pandemic year 2020, can be found in K. Popelková’s article.

The third contribution to this issue is concentrated on the topic, which was not been explored much in the past by Slovak scholars – the presence of the Soviet army garrisons in former Czechoslovakia after the invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies in August 1968 in order to suppress liberalisation reforms. The article entitled *They Had Beautiful Boots and Bananas There. (In)visible Presence of Soviet Soldiers in a Small Town* uses the example of the small town Zvolen in the central Slovakia. Katarína Košťalová from the Department of Social Studies and Ethnology, Faculty of Arts at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, based her article on the study of archival materials, contemporary regional press, and field research using memories of the witnesses of these times. The author explains in detail whereabouts in the town the presence of Soviet soldiers was visible or invisible and in which situations the soldiers, their families and local citizens came into official and unofficial contact. One of these rare opportunities was shopping in a special army store, so-called *Russian Tuzex*, where “they had beautiful boots and bananas”. Most of the citizens of Zvolen, however, were not very enthusiastic about the presence of the Soviet military garrison.

The last article, written by Karel Altman from the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, is called *Czech and Slovak Tramping Movement as a Shared Cultural Heritage* and it is dedicated to the history and present of mutual relations between Czech and Slovak tramps, as well as the role of tramping in Czech and Slovak history. It turned out that tramps from both countries were always supporting and inspiring each other during the whole century under different political and social circumstances, surprisingly even more after the division of the former Czechoslovakia into two independent states. This contribution pays particular attention to the Czech-Slovak and Slovak-Czech annual *potlach* (local version of *potlatch*) as a manifestation of the mutuality of tramps from both countries and an expression of the common cultural heritage.

In the last part of this issue you’ll find a few book reviews, including an extensive one written by Jana Ambrózová from the Institute for the Management of Culture and Tourism, Culturology and Ethnology, Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, which deals with an important and complex topic, discussed in the book *Intangible Cultural Heritage Under National and International Law. Going Beyond the 2003 UNESCO Convention* (Cornu, Vaivade, Martinet, Hance, Eds., 2020).

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