

EDITORIAL

The 2nd issue of Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology of 2014 was dedicated to recent folkloristic and ethnomusicologist research in Central and South-Eastern Europe in the general processes of paradigmatic changes in humanities since the 2nd half of the 20th century. The folkloristics of this period as part of ethnology and also ethnomusicology is characterised by a major expansion of the research fields, the deepening of interdisciplinary approaches and research methods (the concepts and analytical tools used), and massive anthropologisation. The second line of research is represented by a focus on summarising the image of folklore, perceived as cultural heritage and linked in Central Europe to a historic period that is already closed in terms of style.

The topics raised in the call for papers to be published in the Slovak Ethnology journal, issue 2/2014, met with a positive response by many researchers¹. Besides authors from Slovenia (S. Poljak-Istenič, K. Šrampf, M. Kropelj), the Czech Republic (M. Pavlicová and L. Uhlíková, P. Janeček), Hungary (M. Domokos) and Slovakia (H. Urbancová, J. Belišová), whose papers were published in issue no. 2/2014, other authors, too, were willing to have their articles published, and successfully passed the review procedure. After one year, the editorial board decided to publish an issue in English again. The results of research in the form of articles, discussions and research reports are presented by experts also from other countries: Poland, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. In particular, they offer interesting materials on their research of current processes. Three case studies from new fields of research, which are presented in our journal, enrich the picture of current folkloristic research in the post-Communist part of Europe. They deal with the characteristic forms of religious rituals in Poland or with the building of a new identity through religious symbols in a specific Bulgarian locality. The third case study focuses on the processes of identification of the members of a diaspora living in a different ethnic environment (Serbs and Montenegrins in Argentina). A paper by another Polish author is thematically linked to the article by M. Domokos from Hungary (2014), and deals with folkloristics, mass media communication research and other fields of science, and the up-to-date and relatively “new” issues of internet communication.

For over a decade, the academic focus of Teresa Smolińska from Opole was on the research of narrative genres and the present forms of rituals and their transforma-

1 For more details see Krekovičová, E.: Editorial, In: *Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology*, 62(2), 158-162.

tions in the Silesia region on the border between Poland, the Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia) and Germany. The published study by this author forms part of an important field of scientific research of transition processes at the turn of the 20th and the 21st century, like the research of rituals. The paper provides a perspective of the complicated relation between churches and traditional folk rituals of a calendar cycle in Poland. The author observes this relation through case studies of selected ritual expressions in new places – in the streets of Polish towns and in the new political, economic and social reality. The author explores the world of urban processions linked, on one hand, to the annual church cycle (e.g. calvarias before Easter, Corpus Christi processions, carolling during the Three Kings holiday) and, on the other hand, to calendar rituals accompanied by folk religiousness. These forms of folk religiousness as part of the lives of urban people of the 21st century also represent a certain contrast to the general tendency of secularisation of society, so typical for change processes since modern times.

Albena Georgieva based her paper on the concept of collective memory by J. Assmann, and presents the results of her research in a concrete rural locality in south-western Bulgaria after the political changes in 1989. The author observed “live” the process of creation and domestication of the symbols of local identification of the population related to the case of St. Nedelja’s Chapel near the village of Garmen in south-western Bulgaria. During the examined period (in 1998–2001), the original narration of a family related to the chapel became a symbol adopted by the members of the local community, just as holidays the celebration of which is linked to the same chapel.

The research report by two authors from Belgrade – Branislav Pantović and Mileša Stefanović-Banović – offers interesting material on the research of a diaspora, the members of which come from south-eastern Europe but live outside of it, in South America. In general, the results of the field research of this small minority from former Yugoslavia (Serbs and Montenegrins originating mostly from Croatia and Montenegro; approximately 30,000 people according to official sources) point out similar processes taking place among diaspora ethnic minorities.

The research on electronic communication represents a big, scientifically attractive and, at the same time, a difficult challenge for folkloristics and for many other fields of science. This mainly refers to the need to create “other”, “new” approaches and methodological tools. Janina Hajduk-Nijakowska entered the debate with an attempt to provide a picture from the folkloristic perspective, while highlighting the need to create a new paradigm at the level of genres. She proposes to create new genre systematics for research on the forms of internet communication. A small comment to add: this topic appears to have many different levels, which requires, along with a single-field perspective, also multi- or trans-disciplinary approaches, for example, a broader view of fine arts disciplines in connection with the globally determined specific poetics of these communications.

The SN2/2015 issue is supplemented by news and book reviews, through which our readers can learn not only about what is new in Slovak ethnology, but also about the work of our colleagues abroad. The report by Vladimir Roganović from the Institute of Ethnography of the Serbian Academy of Sciences (SASA) informs about the content of the last year’s Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnography, published in Belgrade.

EVA KREKOVIČOVÁ,
Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava