

Z OBSAHU: Z.ŠKOVIEROVÁ: Kooperácia v dedinskom spoločenstve.

Y.A.JELINEK: Židia na Slovensku v 19.storočí.

Z. BEŇUŠKOVÁ: Prejavy religiozity v spoločenskom živote slovenskej dediny. E.KOWALSKÁ: Kláštory františkánov na Slovensku a národnostný problém v 17. a 18. storočí.

G.KILIÁNOVÁ - E.KREKOVIČOVÁ: Research on Slovak Erotic Folklore.

3

41

1993

Na obálke:

1. strana: Detail výzdoby dreveného piestu (Kráľová pri Modre), z r.1823, s motívom

stromu života a Adama s Evou.

4. strana: Figurálny motív Adama a Evy na habánskom džbáne z druhej polovice

17. storočia.

Foto A.Paul, z publikácie Slovenské ľudové umenie II., Tatran, Bratislava 1954. K článku G.Kiliánovej a E.Krekovičovej: Research on Slovak Erotic Folklore.

Dear Reader,

Slovenský národopis (Slovak Ethnology) is a quarterly with a long tradition, edited in the Slovak language by the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. This review publishes papers from all spheres of Slovak folk culture, past and present, including minorities and Slovaks abroad. The journal's articles range from research on the folk culture of every region of Slovakia (folk architecture, arts and crafts, costumes and clothing, folktales, songs, customs, traditions, etc.) through information on activities of ethnological research centres and museums, archival materials, book reviews to theoretical and comparative analyses of topical issues. The most interesting studies are published in English, and all the articles in Slovak have extended English summaries.

As the only periodical specifically devoted to the comparative study of Slovak folk, *Slovenský národopis* deepens the understanding of folk cultures throughout the world.

By becoming a regular subscriber of *Slovenský národopis* you will help to support an authoritative review for everyone interested in Slovak folk culture.

HLAVNÝ REDAKTOR Milan Leščák

VÝKONNÉ REDAKTORKY Lubica Chorváthová Zora Vanovičová



REDAKČNÁ RADA

Stanislav Brouček, Lubica Droppová, Božena Filová, Emília Horváthová, Václav Hrníčko Josef Jančář, Milan Kiripolský, Soňa Kovačevičová, Eva Krekovičová, Martin Mešša, Ján Mjartan, Ján Podolák, Zora Rusnáková, Peter Salner, Miroslav Válka

V prezentovanom čísle Slovenského národopisu sú online sprístupnené iba publikácie pracovníkov Ústavu etnológie SAV (v obsahu farebne odlíšené). Ostatné práce, na ktoré ÚEt SAV nemá licenčné zmluvy, sú vynechané.

Slovenský národopis je evidovaný v nasledujúcich databázach

www.ebsco.com
www.cejsh.icm.edu.pl
www.ceeol.de
www.mla.org
www.ulrichsweb.com
www.willingspress.com

Impaktovaná databáza European Science Foundation (ESF) European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH): www.esf.org

41	/1	0	0	2
TI	/ 1	"		J

OBSAH	21. etnomuzikologický seminár (Jana D r o b o-
	v á)
ŠTÚDIE	Konferencia "Velkoměsto – prostor společen- ských a kulturních inovací" v Libliciach (Viera
Š k o v i e r o v á, Zita: Kooperácia v dedinskom spoločenstve	Feglová)
Jeli nek, Yeshayahu A.: Židia na Slovensku v 19. storočí: poznámky k dejinám	j o n c) 372
B e ň u š k o v á, Zuzana: Prejavy religiozity v spoločenskom živote slovenskej dediny v 2.	RECENZIE – ANOTÁCIE
polovici 20. storočia	Palen J.John: The Urban World (Alexandra B i
Slovensku a národnostný problém v 1718. storočí	t u š í k o v á)
Kiliánová, Gabriela – Krekovičová, Eva: Research on Slovak Erotic Folklore 313	Folklore, Folklorism and National Identification (Marta B o t i k o v a)
DIGITION.	Kovačevičová, S.: Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš
DISKUSIA	(Peter S a l n e r)
Rozhovor s Prof. Jerzy Bartmińskim (Milan	Lidé z príměstí Prahy (Zuzana B e ň u š k o v á) 378 Alltägliche Stalinismus? (Peter S a l n e r) 378
Leščák)	Keller J.: Nedomyšlená společnost (Rastislava Stoličná)
MATERIÁLY	Karpińska G.A. – Kopczyńska-Jaworska B. – Wozniak A.: Pracovać żeby żyć, żyć żeby
S r b, Vladimír: Romové v České republice 1991 331	pracovać (Peter S a l n e r)
Petráš, Milan: Klenovské syrce	Lami S.: Stratila som partu (Kornélia J a k u b í -
C h u r ý, Slavko: Z obsahu majetkových inven- tárov závislého obyvateľstva v Liptove kon- com 18. a v 1. polovici 19. storočia	k o v á)
In the Lagrangian Commence	
ROZHLADY-SPRÁVY-GLOSY	11 11112
PhDr. Ján Tibenský, DrSc. sa dožil 70 rokov	603/773/77
(Ondrej P ö s s)	CONTENT
tík)	STUDIES
Rudolf Žatko a národopisná veda (1913–1976) (Elena P r a n d o v á)	Š k o v i e r o v á, Zita: Cooperation in the Rural Community
Anna Zambrzycka-Kunachowicz (1931–1993) (Leszek Dzięgiel)	Jelinek, Yeshayahu: Jews in Slovakia in the 19 th Century: Some Remarks on their History 271
XII. valné zhromaždenie Slovenskej národopis- nej spoločnosti pri SAV a vedecká konferencia Ľudová kultúra a etnická identifikácia (Hana	Beňušková, Zuzana: Expressions of religiousness in the social life of the Slovak village in the 2nd half of the 20th century 297

Kowalska, Eva: Franciscan Monasteries in Slovakia and the Ethnic Problem in the 17 th and 18 th Centuries	Dorfes in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts 297 K o w a l s k a, Eva: Franziskanerkloster in der
Kiliánová, Gabriela – Krekovičová, Eva: Research on Slovak Erotic Folklore 313	Slowakei und das nationale Problem im 17.–18. Jahrhundert
DISCUSSION	Kilián o vá, Gabriela – Krekovičová, Eva: Research on Slovak Erotic Folklore 313
Interview with Professor Jerzy Bartmiński (Milan	
Leščák) 326	DISKUSSION
	Gespräch mit Professor Jerzy Bartmiński (Milan
MATERIALS	Leščák)
S r b, Vladimír: Gypsies-Romanies in the Czech Republic in 1991	MATERIALIEN
Petráš, Milan: Klenovec's Cheeses	S r b, Vladimír: Zigeuner-Romas in der Tsche-
Churý, Slavko: From the Contents of the	chischen Republik 1991 331
Property Inventory of the Inhabitants in Liptov	Petráš, Milan: Käse aus Klenovec
in the End of 18th and the First Half of 19th	Churý, Slavko: Aus dem Inhalt der Vermö-
Century	gensinventare der Einwohner in Liptov Ende des 18. und in der ersten Hälfte des 19. Jahr-
HORIZONS	hunderts
PhDr. Ján Tibenský, DrSc. turns 70. (Ondrej	PADIDOCALA
P ö s s)	RUNDSCHAU
Dr.György Tábori is 80. (Ján B o tík) 357	PhDr. Ján Tibenský, DrSc. feiert den 70. Ge- burtstag (Ondrej P ö s s)
Rudolf Žatko and Ethnology (Elena Pran -	Dr.György Tábori achtzigjährig (Ján B o t í k) 357
d o v á)	Rudolf Žatko und die Volkskunde (1913–1976)
(Leszek Dzięgiel)	(Elena Prandová)
XII. General Assembly of Slovak Ethnological	Anna Zambrzycka-Kunachowicz (1931-1993)
Association and the Conference "Folk Culture	(Leszek D z i ç g i e l)
and Ethnic Identification" (Hana H l ô š k o -	XII. Generalversammlung der Slowakischen
v á)	ethnologischen Gesellschaft bei der SAW und die wissenschaftliche Konferenz "Volkskultur
21 Ethnomusicological Seminar (Jana Drobo-	und die ethnische Identifikation" (Hana
v á)	H1ôšková)
Identity (Soňa K o v a č e v i č o v á) 366	21. Ethnomusikologisches Seminar (Jana Dro-
Conference "Big City - a Place for Social and	b o v á)
Cultural Innovation" in Liblice (Viera F e g -	Symposium über kulturelle Grenzen und natio- nale Identität (Soňa K o v a č c v i č o v á) 366
lová)	Konferenz "Großstadt – der Raum der gesell-
Exhibition from K.L. Zachar's Collection (Juraj Z a j o n c)	schaftlichen und kulturellen Innovationen" in Liblice (Viera F e g l o v á)
BOOK REVIEWS – ANNOTATIONS	Austellung aus den Sammlungen K.L. Zachars (Juraj Zajonc)
	BÜCHERBESPRECHUNGEN –
INHALT	ANOTATIONEN
STUDIEN	
Škovierová, Zita: Kooperation in der Dorf-	
gemeinschaft	
Jelinek, Yeshayahu: Juden in der Slowakei	
im 19. Jahrhundert: Anmerkungen zur Ge- schichte	
Beňušková, Zuzana: Äusserungen der Reli-	
giosität im sozialen Leben des slowakischen	

ŠTÚDIE

RESEARCH ON SLOVAK EROTIC FOLKLORE WITH THE FOCUS ON CONTEXT STUDY

GABRIELA KILIÁNOVÁ EVA KREKOVIČOVÁ

Národopisný ústav SAV, Bratislava

1. Following the sexual revolution of the nineteen sixties, in Czechoslovakia as well as in other countries, discussions on sex and taboo began to appear in the media.

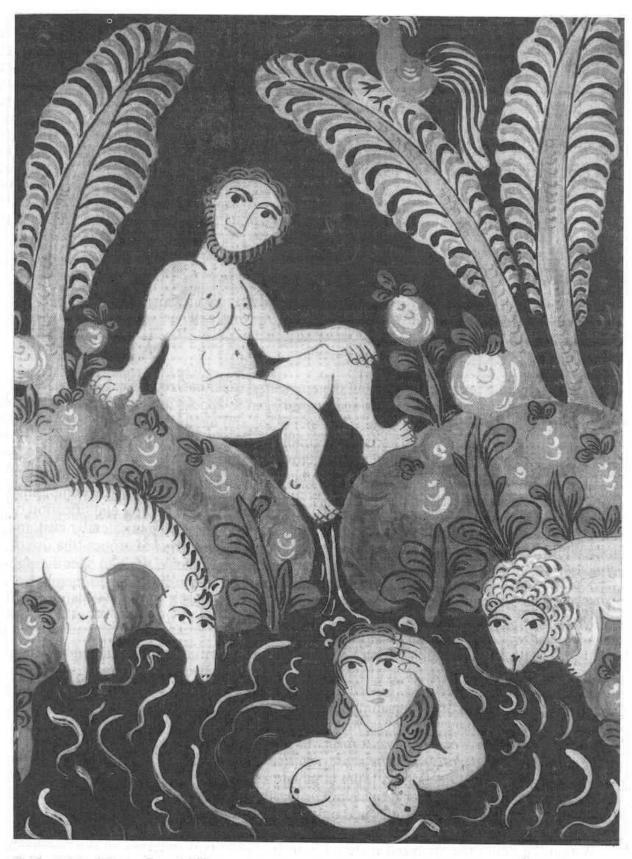
The discussions unceasingly weigh arguments for and against the presence of erotic scenes in films and on television and debate children's exposure to information about sex.

They do not appear to have reached a satisfactory solution.

In folk culture, it seems, a solution was somehow reached. Folklore with erotic motifs functioned more or less openly, and at a certain age, every member of the community spontaneously became acquainted with it. This is indicated in the natural classification of such manifestations in folk rites, in the rites of the life cycle, and also in calendar customs and youth rites. With it can be assumed the relation of hidden forms of erotics (the use of symbols, developed systems of metaphors, equivocal expressions, etc.) to specific age periods in human life. At a certain age, an individual becames a full-fledged member of the community by being "initiated" into the "secret" language of the group (which included the knowledge of erotic symbols). This can be considered as a specific form of "intimate" socialization of the individual into the community.

In this respect, erotic folklore can be thought of as a form of *sexual education* which clearly was not restricted to the narrow sphere of family but, on the contrary, shared by the wider community. In concrete circumstances, folklore with erotic motifs always functioned as an expression of the tension between *convention* and *anticonvention*. We understand erotic folklore here as expressions of the *sexual relations between men and women presented in anecdotal and humorous form*, in which eroticism is unambiguously evident and interpreted and perceived by the representatives themselves in the first semantic plan. We are not, therefore, dealing with the complete range of erotic motifs in folklore but only a strictly delimited category, focusing, primarily on the folklore manifestations of the so-called "low style" of folk erotics and only to a limited degree on manifestations of the "high style".²

Within the genre the analyzed material is restricted to two spheres: on the one hand folk tales, anecdotes and jokes; on the other hand, jocular erotic songs. Erotic motifs in



D. Benický: Adam a Eva. Maľba na skle 1975. U súkromného majiteľa. Foto K. Šilinger.

Slovak folklore are most frequently found in anecdotes and humorous songs. Using published and archival materials supplemented by our own field research, our study concerns the period from the end of the nineteenth century to the present.³ Our study is the first

attempt to analyze erotic motifs in Slovak folklore.

In Slovakia, traditionally an agrarian country with few developed industrial centers, manifestations of the traditional folk culture could still be traced in the rural areas almost until the first half of the twentieth century. This culture, although it was not isolated and was subjected to various non-traditional influences, nevertheless preserved a certain archaic type of peasant-pastural culture. The serious and rapid deterioration of the archaic folk culture began during the middle of the nineteenth century and accelerated after World War II as a result of planned industrialization, urbanization of rural areas and the collectivization of farming. However, even in the nineteen seventies and the nineteen eighties the specific cultural development of Slovakia made it possible to study many prose and musical forms from older periods of development, as well as the newer forms which are part of the contemporary repertoire. We carried out this research under natural conditions and under the conditions of uninterrupted intergenerational continuity. Thus, our attention is focused above all on contextual study, and the question of erotic symbolism is left aside.

2. So far little attention has been devoted to the study of erotic component of Slovak folklore. Folklore collectors and folklorists at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century simply avoided the question of erotics in their works,

as did their counterparts in other European countries.

Erotics and sexuality received only marginal attention in the ethnographic study of family, social life and rituals (e.g.wooing). An in other countries (e.g.Hungary), these problems were studied in connection with weddings, where erotic elements even today play an integral role of the ceremony. That role was stressed by J. Komorovský following the Slavic comparative basis. More recently, P. Popelka called attention to that role in material collected in the Moravian–Slovak border region. Popelka defines the following forms of erotic expressions: customs, songs, dances and types of conduct. Further contributions include the Pavol Stopka's collection of songs from Drietoma.

The List of Slovak Tales by J. Polívka, includes several stories with erotic motifs in the chapter entitled "Jokes and Anecdotes". A more objective representation of erotic motifs in folk prose is found in a wide array of still unpublished materials which were collected in from throughout Slovakia by the students of the Slavic Department of the Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava under the guidance of Professor Frank

Wollman between 1927 and 1942.9

The question of erotics and pornography came to the foreground in literature and literary science during a short period at the end of the nineteen – sixties and the beginning of the nineteen – seventies. ¹⁰ An extensive anthology of anonymous folk, semi-folk and non-folk poetry of the erotic and lascivious verses and songs from the fifteenth to the first half of the nineteeth century was published for the first time in 1969. ¹¹ This was followed by an anthology of prose texts from the same period. ¹²

New information on erotics in folk culture was presented during a conference of Czech and Slovak ethnologists and folklorists entitled Morals in the Traditional Folk Environ-

ment.13

The impulse for this article resulted from work on the Encyclopedia of Folk Culture in Slovakia¹⁴ and also from participation in the IXth Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research in Budapest 1989, which included a session about erotic motifs in folklore.¹⁵

3. From the semantic and functional perspective, erotic motifs in Slovak folklore have developed in parallel at *two fundamental levels*:

A. Ritual.

It is possible to uncover several layers in well-known materials: a. erotics in the sense of fertility, providing abundance, prosperity (e.g. calendar customs, christening and wed-

ding songs);

b. erotics in the case of the direct imitation of sexual intercourse as the life symbol, the opposite of death (evident in youth plays during watching the dead which continued in some Ukrainian villages in Eastern Slovakia until the nineteen-seventies, or in carnival dramatic scenes and masks throughaut Slovakia);

c. erotics as the expression of carnival culture of the "world turned upside down" 16

(carnival manifestations in the calendar and also in family ritual folklore).

B. The second level is represented by: the amusing form of erotic manifestations outside of rituals, especially on the principle of Bachtin's "low" and the reverse values of the "world turned upside down". Though this level can be also found in rituals and in fact it may be "omnipresent", the entertaining function of erotics in human life cannot be unambiguously connected only with the most recent periods of development. It may be presumed that it has roots in the past.

3.1. The ritual level has been preserved in the ritual folklore, particularly in song. Narration is being developed mainly in the free entertaining function. An exception is represented by the narration during the watching over the dead which today is an extreme-

ly rare phenomenon.17

In songs, the erotic motifs can be observed especially in the ritual repertoire where erotic songs dominate weddings and carnivals. This is natural since these events were close together in the ritual calendar. Special attention should be given to the christening songs sung exclusively by women, containing an expressively erotic flavor. For exemple, in Kysuce region in northwest Slovakia these songs are connected with the superstition that a godmother mus be merry on her way to baptism in order that the child may be happy. The link with the carnival culture of the "world turned upside down" is also indicated by the overlapping of christening, wedding and drunkards' songs which demonstrated the negation of the norms of the community.



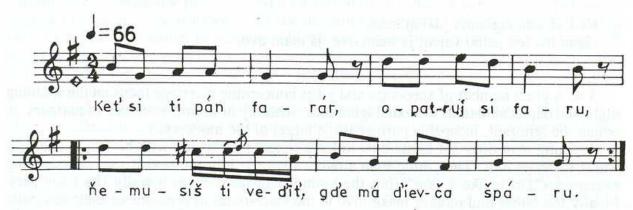
I drank the liquor, and I didn't get drunk, I slept with the boys, and I didn't get pregnant. Pila som pálené, ňeopila som sa, líhala som s chlapci, ňeprespala som sa. I drank the liquor, and drink it I will, I slept with the boys, and I will sleep with them still.¹⁸ Pila som pálené, a i píjať buďem, líhala som s chlapci, ešťe líhať buďem.

3.2. The nature of the "world turned upside down" is manifested in a specific way in the relatively widespread songs and jokes about priests which highlight erotics as a taboo for catholic priests. Recorded sung-banters¹⁹ do not contain many types or motifs along this theme, but the few are widespread.



Ararom, ararom, (Rhyming nonsense words) Don 't give to priests, but give to rectors, you will have it before God.²⁰ Ararom, ararom,

ňedavaj farárom, ale daj rechtorom, buďeš mať pred Bohom.



- Since you are the priest, take care of your parish, (:you don't have to know, where a girl has her slit.
- Since you are the priest, take care of your church, (:you don't have to know where a girl has her bed.:)²¹
- Keď si ti pan farár, opatruj si faru, (:ňemusiš ti veďieť, gďe má ďievča škáru.:)
- Keť si ti pan farar, opatruj si kosťel, (:ňemusiš ti veďieť, gďe má ďievča posťel.)

In contrast to such songs, the narration consists of a rich and very popular humorous

cycle about catholic priests. The invectives are aimed at the immoral priest:

A priest persuades a young, pregnant woman that she and her husband conceived their child too quickly and it is necessary to "finish" its head (hair); a young woman and her husband make use of an amorous priest to enrich themselves; a husband catches his wife with a priest and mocks them; the wife hides her priest-lover from her husband (a second lover) but the silly priest reveals his presence.²²

The main motif of several narrations is the love relation between a catholic priest and

his housekeeper:

A servant (gipsy, wayfarer) discloses the illegal relation between a priest and his house-keeper and takes advantage of the situation; a priest reproaches a lad during confession for his love affairs but the latter wittily reminds the priest of his forbidden relation with his housekeeper; a priest wants to exchange an old housekeeper for a young one but to his shame he does not succeed.²³

3.3. An erotic tinge is common in many episodes in the large cycle of humorous narrations, jokes and songs about gipsies. Here the gipsy craftily plays the role of the joker or jester to gain a woman (or several). In other, contrasting narratives, the gipsy is the silly, jealous, deceived husband.²⁴

A young gipsy takes his wife to a physician and, as he is very jealous, accompanies her into the surgery. The physician explains that the wife can be cured by the means of "anointment from inside" and he himself executes the "anointment from inside" directly in her husband's presence. The gipsy admires the physician's abilities and is very grateful to him for curing his wife. 25 We can find a very similar motif in banters.

Since you gave to the gipsy, give to me too, the gipsy has only one egg, I have two, I have two.²⁶

Keď si dala cigánovi, daj aj mne, cigan má len jenno vajco, ja mám dve, já mám dve.

3.4. A great number of anecdotes and jokes concerning marriage focus on the wedding night and depict situations of sexual ignorance, inability or improper choice of partners, in which the ignorant income has provided the transfer of the marriage.

which the ignorant, incapable partner is the target of the mockery.

A young man does not know how to have sexual intercourse with his wife. The wife wants to leave him. The young man's father explains him the sexual intercourse using examples ("Do it like a dog") but the young man takes them literally (he bites her). Finally, the father and mother make love in the store-room in presence of their son, who holds the lamp for them. The son is then able to satisty his wife, but always in the store-room and always with his farm-boy holding the light.²⁷

Anecdotes and jokes about unfaithful spouses express admiration for the skill of the unfaithful partner and his witty answers and they mock the cuckolded husband. Others mock flighty and unfaithful women who after the (pretended) death of their husbands are quick to look for a new one. Humour focuses on conceited, devout and over-virtuous women and girls who fall pray to a cunning soldiers (wayfarer, lads, etc.) and thus allow him to win a bet.²⁸

A maiden does not want to marry, preferring to became a nun. Her father builds for her a chapel to which she goes and prays. A lad pretends to be the statue of Saint John and complains of being cold. The girl takes "the saint" home and, according to his instructions, warms him with her own body.²⁹

The punch line of numerous anecdotes and jokes consists in situation humour sur-

rounding the act of sexual intercourse.

A father and mother try a new position called the "deer jump" explained to them in a letter from their globetrotting son. After the experiment the father sends a telegram to his son: the deer jump was unsuccessful your mother poked her eye out and my hind end is in plaster of Paris.³⁰

These motifs can be also found in folk songs:

I don't want a tall woman, since I would need scaffolding, when my desire were the greatest, the scaffolding would tumble down.³¹ Nescem já visokej ženi, potreboval bich lešeňí, kebich bol najlepšej chuťi, tedi sa lešenjé zrúťi.

In this quite numerous group of so called "married couple" songs, which are sung mostly during wedding celebrations erotica does not figure in the first semantic plan.

4. Our own research has shown that the fairy tales for adults also contained many erotic motifs. Several Slovak examples of such stories can be found in the archives. For example, one animal tale tells of a bear (wolf) farming together with a man. The man always deceives the bear when dividing the crop and finally castrates him. When the animal tries to take its revenge in the same way, the man substitutes his own wife for himself (AaTh 153).³² In a variant of type AaTh 571 B, a deceived fiancé rescues a snake and learns a magic formula from him. He then attends the wedding of his unfaithful fiancé, and during the wedding night he uses the formula to chain together the young couple and subsequently the whole wedding party.³³ Erotic motives appear also in the variant of the "Haughty princess" type (AaTh 900) in which a princess has particular interest in "the one who has two".³⁴ In another story a prince is looking for a girl "having two" or "none".³⁵ A helper (a witch, an old woman) assists one who has fallen in love with the princess/prince to pretend through cunning to possess the required exceptional abilities. The tales for adults are tending to a humorous conception of erotic motifs and they contain implicit lesson.

5. The aforementioned tension between convention and anticonvention in folklore was always realized in a particular small group and in the given situation. In a concrete social group the same expressions (both verbal and sung) could gain various meanings. Shifting of meaning was not rare, e.g. by changing certain words in a generally well-known song which originally had no erotic content. Doing so in certain situation has yielded certain paraphrases or parodies of songs from the common repertoire. This is illustrated well by the comparison of the "decent" and "indecent" (sometimes obscene) forms of the same

song:

She was retting hemp, retting hemp, when into her boot jumped a frog, and you little frog jump quickly out, cause I'll call the police to pull you out, she was retting hemp, retting hemp, when into her boot jumped a frog.³⁶

Močila konope, močila, žabka jej do čižmi skočila, a ti, žaba, žabulienka, viskoč von, lebo ťa dám višikovať žandárom, močila, konope, močila, žabka jej do čižmi skočila. Litte Annie was retting hemp when a frog jumped up her cunt, it wasn't hemp, it was only flax, jump, little frog, out of my ass.³⁷ Anička konope močila, žabka jej do pički skočila, neboli konope, leš bol len, viskoč mi, žabička, s pički ven.

6. In general, in narration, there is no intention to describe the sexual intercourse of the main characters in detail. The narration concentrates mainly on exclusive, extraordinary and comic relations and situations.

In contrast to narration, a song often gives the description of the sexual intercourse, if only briefly. It is generally expressed in four verses, less frequently in two or three stanzas. It is expressed by a witty condensation, built on the principle of similarity and using an rich, elaborated, and very variable system of metaphors and stereotype symbols (both within "higher" and "lower" styles of folk erotics).³⁸

I gave him a small piece, he made me a big hole.

Dala som mu malú trošku, on mi spravil velkú nošku.

I have a pipe, you have a match, we can light up any time.

Ja mám fajku, ty máš pipku, môžeme si zapalovať každú chvilku.

Annie has a spiningwheel, John has a spindle, if they put them together, it would make a nice twirl.³⁹

Anička má kolovrátek, Janko zase vreteno, ked to dajú dohromadi, to bi sa im vrtelo.

It is not uncommon to find a thoroughly vulgar expression for an action or an organ. Such expressions are very often exceptionally obscene. They are frequently not interpeted and may be labelled as pornography.⁴⁰

What kind of scribe is he, what is he writing at night, (:he is sticking his pen into cunts and swinging his ass.:)⁴¹

Čože je to za písara, čo to v noci píše, (:pichne pero do pičurki a len ritú kníše.:)

From the perspective of frequency and incidence it may be stated that the representation of erotic motifs is more frequent in the song reprertoire than in narration. While themes of desire and love prevail in the song repertoire, such topics do not appear to be a preferred component in narration.

7. In songs short, mostly one-stanza forms prevail. Often they have four lines of six syllables and a loosse relationship between melody and text (sung to a comman tune). The well-established role of these songs in the actual repertoire becomes clear from the fact that their melodies are included in the majority of the developed levels of musical style in both old and new Slovak folk songs. Others can be found which use semi-folk or non-folk melodies. The poetic language of these songs is considerably differentiated, demonstrating the wide range of poetics in folklore:

1. The poetically elaborate language of folk songs in different genres (lyrical love

songs, dancing songs, etc.) which do not use vulgarisms.

2. Texts of lower poetic value which use common speech, hidden meanings, and the polysemantics of words and symbols.

3. Obscene songs which do not avoid vulgarisms and taboo expressions from common speech, expressed at various aesthetic levels, from the poetic to the thoroughly base.

4. Texts which correspond to the medieval tradition of the "world turned upside down", overlapping of erotics with the "low", the vulgar or dirty. This group of erotic songs is closely related to a similar phenomena in childrens folklore – rhymes for amusement, for determining the order of play, and so on – which revolve around taboo expressions in language.

Erectly we will si-sit
And we'll be eating shi-shi
/:Shish-kebab with pansley and horserodish:/42

Posedajme ro-rovno, buďeme jesť ho- ho-/:hovädzinku, baštrnáčik aj s chrenom.:/

Adult and childrens folklore, as well, often includes such "mimicry" texts, in which the erotic or indecent meaning is merely implied and the second part of the text or its conclusion offers a completely different explaration.

She sat under the pine Crying that hers was tiny /:A rose pretty, red, in rosemary grafted:/

She asked God for dew,
that for her it would grow,
/:a rose, pretty, red,
in the rosemary grafted:/
She asked God for rain,
that for her it would gain,
/: a rose...:/43

Sedela pod borovečku, plakala že má maličku, /:ružičku peknu červenú, do rozmarínu štepenú:/

/:Prosila od Boha rosi, abi jej narástlo čosi:/ /:ružičku peknú červenú štepenú...:/ /:Prosila od Boha dažďa, aby jej narástla väčšia:/ /:ružička...:/

8. The process of communicating folklore with erotic motifs was marked by several specific signs and functions. Manifestations were linked functionally to *specific situations*. The aim of erotic folklore was, apart from entertainment, the loosening of social atmosphere in groups *overcoming psychological barriers*, i.e. "breaking the ice." In this respect, one of the most important signs was intimacy. Here the barriers and taboos were precisely defined and were applied mainly in contact with "foreigners". The atmosphere of intimacy was enhanced by verbal and sung banters which, at the same time, could have a provocative effect:

That I had such skill, I never knew he trapped me doorway, and started to screw.⁴⁴

Aňi som ja ňeveďela, že som taká vrtká, zacvikol ma medzi dvere a už ma aj trtká: These songs are, in a certain sense, indicators of the degree of intimicy in a particular group and a particular situation. Erotic folklore as psychologically relaxing regulator is based on the antithesis between the public and the intimate.

The intimacy inside the group had precisely defined limits:

a. in songs and rituals we can mainly find group, not personal intimacy. The research of P. Popelka concerned the fact that the expressions of eroticism in wedding only rarely concerned personal relations of specific individuals. Such erotic folklore fulfilled an important psychoregulating function (releasing emotions) through this non-personal eroticism.

b. Simultaneously it is apparent that certain expressions (e.g. in verbal banters or in the parodies of burial laments) were addressed or ascribed to particular members of the group.

They were personal.

8.1. Erotic folklore is connected with the special *performers* whose breaking of taboo in certain situations is tolerated by the group. Mostly they include humorists, good singers, and those able to improvize, male and female alike. It is assumed that they are married. In spite of the emancipation process among the young people at present, the most important representatives of this kind of folklore are not young, singles. The performer of erotic folklore is an individual with firmly fixed status or, at the opposite extreme the person with the lowest status in the group.

8.2. The method and timing of performing erotic folklore is closely related to the situation of the *particular* performance as well as to the type of audience. The specificity of the songs and dances (in the contrast to other folklore phenomena) is that they are frequently interpreted so they build a limited but stable core of erotic songs and dances which is familiar to all adults (and in some cases also to adolescents). Some song types

have a predominantly regional radius. This is relevant mainly for ritual folklore.

It is also possible to identify a stable core of folklore narratives with the erotic motifs. Performing opportunities may be heterogenous or homogenous from the point of view of generation and gender. In the sexually homogenous (all male or all female) groups the interpretations become more open and motifs are more differentiated (including intentionally "male" and "female" jokes, the described female christening party songs and so on). In sexually heterogenous audience the interpretations withidraw into more symbolic language, and the group is polarized along male–female lines. In some cases and in some situations, however, the interpretations of erotic folklore can develop very open, unambiguous and pointed forms. This occurs if the audience is composed from a single generation – for example a group only of adolescents or only of adults, etc.

In our opinion, based on our field researches, there would seem to be a wider repertoire and higher frequency of erotic folklore among male performers. Women perform erotic folklore mostly in a sexually homogenous group or on particular occassions (on

a christeting party, wedding) where the audience expects it from them.

The performance of erotic folklore today is closely linked to humour, both in everyday narration and singing (neighborly chats, groups of men in pubs, groups of women doing needle-work, of working men or women, weddings and christenings). In these performance situations erotic folklore has a primarily entertaining and regulatory function, and less of an exclusively ritual function.

In narration often occurs the use of erotic metaphors and symbols in a special form of communication – a specific form of situation commedy, the aim of which is to entertain the audience. The communication is developed on the principle of the dialogue and is the result of momentary improvization. The performers use the commonly known tools of

folklore communication around the mentioned antithesis between convention and anticonvention. This particular situation commedy with the erotic motifs or erotic undertone we can find in any informal group without respect to the social status of its members, or its rural or urban millieu.

11. Conclusion

Folklore phenomena with erotic motifs form a body which, according to O. Sirovát-ka, 46 have a greater chance of surviving in the active repertoire than any other form. This body of folklore cannot be effectively replaced, particularly by mass culture. This is true particularly because of the aforementioned connection between intimate language and small groups and the human need for intimacy in the contemporary civilized world.

In Czechoslovakia this trend has continued more intensivly because the erotics was long taboo in the oficial culture: erotic folklore did not have parallel streams of eroticism

in the "higher" culture or mass culture.

In the sixties, as the sexual revolution was occurring throughout Europe, certain political developments allowed the beginnings of discussions on this theme in Czechoslovakia as well. Near the end of sixties, the first significant professional and popular publications about sex and erotics were published, and erotic motifs appeared once again in art, and in mass culture – in movies, press, literature etc. For a short time censorship was dramatically loosened.

But the whole process was stopped in the beginning of seventies in the period of so-called "normalization" (the strengthening of the totalitarian political regime in Czechoslovakia). Free discussions were stopped by the censorship and the problem was frozen for the next twenty years. Similarly forbidden were all expressions of religion in the official culture. Mass culture in Czechoslovakia in the seventies and eighties thus appeared very prudish but without any connection to Christian norms, a peculiar situation, especially in comparison to western European countries. After the political changes of November 1989, there was an explosion in the number of erotic journals, movies, erotic entertaitment etc., which promoted a quick reaction from Slovak church circles and from the Christian – Democratic Movement, a political party, which responded by initiating legislation for new regulations.

How the current Slovak government will resolve these tensions is not yet clear, but the past offers an important insignt. For the forty years after the Second Word War, while expressions of eroticism were limited by the pressure of the official ideology, they continued in small informal groups. Erotic folklore remained one of the few channels for transmitting this constant, very human theme.

NOTES

- 1 RÖHRICH, L.: Erotik, Sexualität. In: Enzyklopädie des Märchens. Band 4, Lieferung 1, Berlin/New York, 236.
- 2 BARTMIŃSKI, J.: Jaś koniki poil. Uwagi o stylu erotyku ludowego. Teksty 14/1974/ 2, 11-24.
- Apart from the investigations of authors from all regions of Slovakia in the 70s-80s of 20th century, the following sources were used:
 - Textový archív Národopisného ústavu SAV (Textual Archives of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, henceforth: TA of EI SASc).
 - Wollmanov archív Národopisného ústavu SAV (The Wollman Archives of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, henceforth: WA of EI SASc).

Piesňový archív Národopisného ústavu SAV (Song Archives of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, henceforth: AS of EI SASc).

Vedecký archív Slovenskej národopisnej spoločnosti pri SAV (Scientific Archives of the Slovak Ethnographical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, henceforth: SA of SES).

Piesňový archív Umenovedného ústavu SAV (Song Archives of the Institute of Arts of SASc, henceforth: AS of IA SASc).

POLÍVKA, J.: Súpis slovenských rozprávok (List of Slovak Tales). vol. 5. Turč. Sv. Martin 1931.

- LEŠČÁK, M.: Súčasný stav humoristického rozprávania na Spiši (The Present State of Anecdotes in the Region of Spiš). Post graduate thesis. Bratislava 1971.
- 4 TATRAY, Z.: Erotikus jelképek a népművetszétben. In: HOPPÁL, M. SZEPES, E. (ed.): Erósz a folklórban. Budapest 1987.
- 5 KOMOROVSKÝ, J.: Tradičná svadba u Slovanov (The Traditional Wedding among Slavs). Bratislava 1976.
- 6 POPELKA, P.: Erotika v svatebním veselí (Erotics in the Wedding Feast). In: FROLEC, V. (ed.): Svatební obřad. Brno 1983, 66-76.
- 7 STOPKA, P.:.Svadobné pesničky (Wedding Songs). Self-published. Undated.
- 8 POLÍVKA (above, note 31).
- 9 KOLEČÁNYI, M.: Počiatky tradicionalistiky na Slovensku (The Beginnings of Traditionalistics in Slovakia). In: Pocta Fr. Trávníčkovi a F. Wollmanovi. Brno 1948, 219-224.
- 10 Revue svetovej literatúry 1, 2, 4 (1969), 5 (1970).
- 11 MINÁRIK, J. (ed.): Piesne a verše pre múdrych a bláznov (Songs and Verses for the Wise and the Fools). Bratislava 1969.
- 12 MINÁRIK, J. (ed.): Slovenský Dekameron I (Slovak Decameron I) Bratislava 1980. MINÁRIK, J. (ed.): Slovenský Dekameron II (Slovak Decameron II) Bratislava 1987.
- 13 Slovenský národopis 31 (1983) 1. Národopisné informácie (1984) 3.
- 14 Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska (Encyklopedia of Folk Culture in Slovakia). Bratislava, Veda. Manuscript to be published.
- 15 IX. Congress of the ISFNR, Budapest June 10-17, 1989. Abstract of the paper "Zur Problematik der erotischen Motive in der slowakischen Folklore" published in Folk Narrative and Cultural Identity. Summaries I. Budapest 1989, 119.
- 16 BACHTIN, M.M.: Francois Rablais a lidová kultura středověku a renesance (Francois Rablais and Folk Culture of the Middle Ages and the Reneissance). Praha 1975.
- 17 GAŠPARÍKOVÁ, V.: Folklórne prejavy pri strážení mŕtveho na východnom Slovensku (Folklore Manifestations in Watching the Dead in Eastern Slovakia). In: Musaica 18/1967/85-98.
 HÜBSCHMANNOVÁ, M.: Slovesná tvorba slovenských Romů (Verbal Creation of Slovak Gipsies Roma). In: Slovenský národopis 36/1988/80-91.
- 18 Riečnica, north-west Slovakia, christening song. Own research. To preserve rhyme schemes and forms, in translating songs and poems has occasionally been necessary to make minor changes in word order and word choice. For purposes of verification, the Slovak text always accompanies the translation.
- 19 Short, witty, pointed, verbal or sung forms aimed at mocking someone or something.
- 20 Liptovská Teplička, eastern Slovakia, ritual song. It was sung by girls while dancing (in dancing circles). Own research.
- 21 Riečnica (above, note 18).
- 22 Spišský Hrušov, north-eastern Slovakia, J. Butvin, WA of EI SASc. Sebechleby, southern Slovakia, J. Grajciar, WA of EI SASc. Žibritov, central Slovakia, M. Havlujová, WA of EI SASc. Terchová, north-western Slovakia, L. Šimovič, WA of EI SASc.
- 23 Veľká Maša, central Slovakia, M. Václav, Wa of EI SASc. Rybany, western Slovakia, R. Žatko, WA of EI SASc. Žakarovce, north-eastern Slovakia, R. Žatko, WA of EI SASc. Klubina, north-western Slovakia, K. Andel, TA of EI SASc, n. 251. LEŠČÁK (above, note 3) 56-57.

- 24 Stožok, central Slovakia, E. Paulíny, WA of EI SASc. Rybany, western Slovakia, R. Žatko, Wa of EI SASc. Terchová, north-western Slovakia, L. Šimovič, WA of EI SASc. Nová Bystrica, north-western Slovakia, own research.
- 25 LEŠČÁK (above, note 3) 45-46.
- 26 Drietoma, western Slovakia, P. Stopka, AS of EI SASc.
- 27 Horný Vadičov, north-western Slovakia, own research.
- 28 Žibritov, central Slovakia, M. Havlujová, WA of EI SASc. Rozhanovce, eastern Slovakia, J. Irmler, WA of EI SASc.
- 29 Spišský Hrušov, north-eastern Slovakia, J. Butvin, WA of EI SASc.
- 30 LEŠČÁK (above, note 3) 46-47.
- 31 Drietoma (above, note 26).
- 32 Žibritov, central Slovakia, M. Havlujová, WA of EI SASc.
- 33 Heľpa, central Slovakia, M. Kolečányi, WA of El SASc.
- 34 Terchová, north-western Slovakia, L. Šimovič, WA of EI SASc.
- 35 Žibritov, central Slovakia, M. Havlujová, WA of EI SASc.
- 36 A generally known song, own research.
- 37 Drietoma (above, note 26).
- 38 BARTMIŃSKI (above, note 2) 18.
- 39 Drietoma (above, note 26).
- 40 BARTMIŃSKI (above, note 2) 18.
- 41 Drietoma (above, note 26).
- 42 Region of Trenčín. AS of EI SASc.
- 43 Drážovce, central Slovakia, M. Jarek, AS of EI SASc.
- 44 Riečnica, north-western Slovakia, own research.
- 45 POPELKA (above, note 6) 71.
- 46 SIROVÁTKA, O.: Funkce folklóru v životě vesnice (The Function of Folklore in Village Life). In: FROLEC, V. (ed.): Revoluční proměny jihomoravského venkova. Brno 1980, 198–204.

Vydáva Národopisný ústav Slovenskej akadémie vied v Slovak Academic Press, spol. s r.o.

Ročník 41, 1993, číslo 3 Vychádza štvrfročne

Hlavný redaktor:

PhDr. Milan Leščák, CSc.

Výkonné redaktorky:

PhDr. Ľubica Chorváthová PhDr. Zora Vanovičová

Redakčná rada: PhDr. Stanislav Brouček, CSc., Doc. Ľubica Droppová, CSc., PhDr. Božena Filová, CSc., Doc. Emília Horváthová, DrSc., PhDr. Václav Hrníčko, PhDr. Josef Jančář, CSc., PhDr. Milan Kiripolský, PhDr. Soňa Kovačevičová, DrSc., PhDr. Eva Krekovičová, CSc., PhDr. Martin Mešša, PhDr. Ján Mjartan, DrSc., Prof. Ján Podolák, DrSc., PhDr. Zora Rusnáková, CSc., PhDr. Peter Salner, CSc., PhDr. Miroslav Válka, CSc.

Adresa redakcie: Jakubovo nám. 12, 813 64 Bratislava

Registr. č. 7091

Cena 39,- Sk (jednotlivé číslo), celoročné predplatné 156,- Sk

Rozširuje, objednávky a predplatné (aj do zahraničia) prijíma Slovak Academic Press, spol. s r. o. P.O. BOX 57, Nám. Slobody 6, 810 05 Bratislava

SLOVAK ETHNOLOGY

Quarterly Review of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Vol. 41, 1993, Number 3

Editors: Milan Leščák, Ľubica Chorváthová, Zora Vanovičová

Address of Editor: Jakubovo nám. 12, 813 64 Bratislava

Distributed by Slovak Academic Press, Ltd., P.O. BOX 57, Nám. Slobody 6, 810 05 Bratislava, Slovakia and Slovart, A.C., odd. časopisov, Jakubovo nám. 12, 811 09 Bratislava

L'ETHNOLOGIE SLOVAQUE

Revue de l'Institut d'ethnologie de l'Académie slovaque des sciences

Année 41, 1993, No 3

Rédacteurs: Milan Leščák, Ľubica Chorváthová, Zora Vanovičová

Adresse de la rédaction: Jakubovo nám. 12, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovaquie

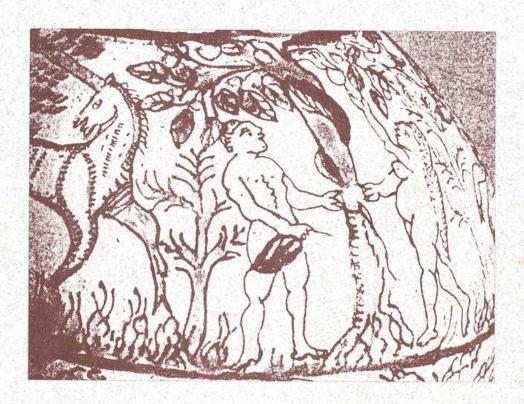
SLOWAKISCHE ETHNOLOGIE

Zeitschrift des Ethnologischen Institutes der Slowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften

Jahrgang 41, 1993, Nr. 3

Redakteure: Milan Leščák, Ľubica Chorváthová, Zora Vanovičová

Redaktion: Jakubovo nám. 12, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia



MIČ 49 616

