

Прикази

Reviews

Research on Cultural Heritage in Contemporary Society

New Books Published by the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (I.)

In this book review I would like to concentrate on some current books written by the Slovak authors, former and current employees of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) in Bratislava. The common topic of these four publications is the cultural heritage and its place in contemporary society.

As the first example we could mention a book by renowned Slovak folklorist and ethnomusicologist Soňa Burlasová titled *Naratívne piesne o zbojníkoch: Príspevok k porovnávaciemu štúdiu* [Narrative Songs about Robbers: A Contribution to the Comparison Study]. This book was published in Slovak language by the Institute of Ethnology SAS in 2015 and in its main focus are robber songs as a distinctive Slovak folklore genre which has received relatively much attention by researchers in Slovakia. This particular work represents a fundamental contribution to research in this field. Among narrative songs, often designated as ballads, robber themes – unlike other thematic groups usually with multi-national occurrence – are specific for this region. The book brings an analysis and a catalogue of different types of songs in a wider Central-European comparison. The author defines three main song layers: 1. internationally widespread types; 2. songs about robber heroes (Jánošík and Vdovčík); and 3. songs mainly about local robbers – novelistic songs. The book is very helpful particularly in Central Europe thanks to the unique parallel research both of the musical and textual components of the songs.

Next two books written by the same author – Mojmír Benža, are concentrated on visual arts and folklore, more precisely on folk costumes. The first one called *Tradičný odev Slovenska* [Traditional Clothing of Slovakia] was published with the cooperation of ÚĽUV (The Centre for Folk Art Production) in 2015. This scientific monograph is a synthesis of knowledge about traditional clothing in Slovakia. The author presents it from two perspectives: by types of parts of clothes, and by occasions on which they were worn. Further to the information presented in the Ethnographic Atlas of Slovakia, published by the Institute of Ethnology SAS in 1990, the author summarised in this new book the differences between the different types and forms of traditional clothing, and defined the common features of each of these groups. He dedicated special attention to changes in traditional clothing. A specific part of the book is formed by colourful drawings from the archive of the ÚĽUV Museum of Folk Art Production, most of which had not been published previously. The book is published in the *Tradícia dnes* (Tradition Today) edition in a bilingual Slovak-English version.

The second book by Mojmir Benža is titled *Tradičný odev Záhoria* [Traditional Clothing of Záhorie Region] and it was published with cooperation of the Museum of Záhorie Region in Skalica in 2017. This scientific monograph is the first result of the scientific project of the Institute of Ethnology SAS called From technology to decoration: An ethnological perspective of the manufacturing and meaning of items (2017 – 2020). Given book not only identifies and describes individual elements of traditional clothing of various inhabitants of Záhorie villages from 19th to the middle of 20th century, but it reflects also its local forms and changes during this time. The reader could better imagine all these facts thanks to many pictures of these clothing – both historical ones and also some clothing from museum collections.

The last example of books dedicated to the cultural heritage is the book *Maľované výšivky. Vymaľované inšpirované motívami slovenských výšiviek* [Painted Embroidery: Colouring Books Inspired by Slovak Emroidery Motifs] written by Juraj Zajonc and drawn by Marta Ondrušková. This book is primarily designed for relaxation purposes, but it brings not only entertainment (the reader could paint all drawn designs by himself/herself), but also the basic information about the different forms of traditional Slovak embroidery from the point of view of motifs and the relationship between folk and style art culture. The introduction and the texts accompanying each of the fifty ornamental compositions are an example of how it is possible to popularise ethnological knowledge about the traditional culture of Slovakia among the general public.

All of these four books reflect one of the main goals of scientific research in the Institute of Ethnology of SAS, which is research on cultural traditions and ways of life in Slovakia.

References

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- Burlasová, Soňa. 2015. *Naratívne piesne o zbojníkoch: Príspevok k porovnávaciemu štúdiu* (Narrative Songs about Robbers: A Contribution to the Comparison Study). Bratislava: Institute of Ethnology SAS, 118 pp., Ethnological Studies, 22.
- Zajonc, Juraj, & Marta Ondrušková. 2015. *Maľované výšivky. Vymaľované inšpirované motívami slovenských výšiviek* (Painted Embroidery: Colouring Books Inspired by Slovak Emroidery Motifs). Bratislava: Slovart, 104 pp.

Vladimír Potančok