

Péter Bálint

The Sacred, Saints and Sanctity in “Religious” Folk Tales

Keywords: folk-tales, tale-tellers, saint and saintness, prophets, demons, exorcism, mana, phenomenology

A major problem of the researcher of folk texts is to properly define the meanings of saint and saintness, and to follow the changes of their meanings during different historical periods. The interpretation and the text-creating function of these notions show significant differences in certain tale-tellers in both the catholic and protestant communities. In his book about a saint man, Sándor Bálint collects all the features and activities which are characteristic of a man called a prophet

Vilmos Tánzos

The New Cultural Economy of the Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc) Pentecost Pilgrimage Feast

Keywords: pilgrimage from Șumuleu Ciuc/Csíksomlyó, ritual drama, religious festival, heritage, cultural economy of the space

The Pentecost pilgrimage from Șumuleu Ciuc/Csíksomlyó is described by ethnographic literature as a religious ritual drama, including elements of local folk customs. Restarted in 1990, this event presents a radically changed cultural economy: the use of space, time and rituals has been modified; furthermore, the non/religious meanings of the pilgrimage have become more accentuated. The present essay conceives the pilgrimage as a ritual event in space and time, as a visual “spectacle”, and presents the process of its transformation from the point of view of cultural economy: the boundaries of the real or conceptual worlds are blurred in so-called processes of *enworldment*, and so-called *unworldment* processes completely dismantle these old worlds, while deworldment processes also create new worlds that may occur anywhere, i.e. are not bound to a specific place.

Mária Irén André

From the Baobab to the Fern. Primary Schoolchildren's Knowledge about Plants in Gyimesközéplök (Lunca de Jos)

Keywords: Lunca de Jos, herb knowledge, knowledge transfer, cultural keystone species, ethnobotany

The current paper is based on a research carried out at the Majláth Gusztáv Károly Elementary School in Lunca de Jos, Harghita County, Romania, between 2017-2018. The research highlights the students' changing knowledge on plants and herbs and the sources of this knowledge. At the

same time the analysis focuses on the parents' knowledge on the local flora as well and also reflects on knowledge transfer between the children/ youth and the middle aged from the village. Based on the collected data, the paper also contains an ethnobotanical presentation of a culturally determined keystone species, the European spruce (*Picea abies*).

Péter Halász

Moldavian Hungarian's "Love Foretelling" and Its Distortions

Keywords: Moldavian Csángós, beliefs, magical acts, curses, incantations

I use the term "love foretelling"– which in a broader sense could more commonly be described as "love divination"– to define the set of habits and beliefs that can be observed in traditional peasant life before marriage, at the time of choosing one's partner. The purpose of this practice for young people is to "foretell" each other, but especially for themselves how, or who their lover and then their spouse would be. We can divide these inquiries and practices, which serve to foretell their future loves, into two groups. One is when they passively seek information about the characteristics of the person ordered and expected to be one's partner by various, mainly irrational, means; the other, when they primarily want to influence their potential future spouse's emotions with magical acts. By the very nature of things, unfulfilled love interest often shifts to the opposite extreme, and instead of intensifying the affection it takes the form of vengeance, distorted into curses or bewitchment.

Noémi Kicsi

Short History of Unitarian Cantor Training Courses from Transylvania after 1948 (1950–1976)

Keywords: cantors, training courses, Unitarian Church of Transylvania, confessional schools, Department of Religious Denomination, communist authorities and the Securitate.

The present paper follows the history of training courses of the Unitarian cantors between 1950–1976, based on archival materials of the Hungarian Unitarian Church from Transylvania, documents, interviews and published articles. The analysis tries to reveal the remaining possibilities of religious education under the severe control of communist authorities and the Securitate, mainly the training of cantors when traditional confessional colleges were nationalized by the State in 1948.

István Máté

Like Their Predecessors or Unlike Them. The Life and Work Strategies of the Reformed Pastors of Kalotaszeg

Keywords: reformed pastors, Reformed Church of Transylvania, Kalotaszeg (Călata) area

Although the reformed pastors of the 21st century in the Kalotaszeg area carry out several administrative tasks, their primary goal is to spread the Word. Understanding the Biblical message cannot be separated from their socialization, family background, personal qualities and the expectations of the church. What is the difference between the ministry and preaching of reformed pastors of various ages serving in the Kalotaszeg area, based on what they say in their interviews?

Eszter László – Melinda Székely

The Traditional Costume of Szék in the Past and Present – “The costume is an asset with a burden”

Keywords: traditional costumes, the undressing from traditional costumes, folklorism, folklore and identity, village Szék (Sic)

In this article we attempt to give an in-depth presentation of the traditional costume of Szék (Sic) village from Cluj County. In addition to presenting the parts of women's and men's wear, the specifics of the age group and especially the combinations available in women's wear are also discussed. We emphasize separately the winter-summer and the festive-everyday features and differences. Behind these perspectives, our unconcealed intent is to help the traditional costumes used by nowadays dance groups to be more authentic in some way by respecting the tradition. Our experience shows that in many places of the Carpathian basin the costumes of the choreographies of dances from Szék do not reflect faithfully the traditions of the village which are very much alive today as well. Regarding the future of the traditional costume from Szék, we plan to continue our research in order to provide for the future generations a reliable knowledge, which disappeared over the last two decades as a result of undressing from traditional costumes.

György Ruzsa

An Icon Based on Greek Tradition, with Russian and Ukrainian Influence, of Serbian-Transylvanian Provenance: the Silver Icon of Theotokos Kasperovskaya

Keywords: The Theotokos of Kasperovka, metal icons, Russian silver, Лев Федорович Олекс (Lev Fedorovich Oleks) controlling master

The Theotokos of Kasperovka, or, more exactly, the Kasperovka icon of the Theotokos (Russian Касперовская икона Божией Матери, Касперовская Богоматерь, Касперовская Богородица) represents a version of the Eleousa iconographic type. The icon originates in Transylvania. Legend has it that the ancient icon, painted on canvas glued to a wooden panel, was brought by a Serbian man from Transylvania, who eventually settled down in the Herson Governorate, in the late 16th century. Finally, it was inherited by a lady landowner called Kasperova. In 1840, while she was praying in front of the icon, she noticed that the darkened faces in the icon had brightened up and the whole icon had been renewed in a miraculous way. After this the icon worked several wonders of recovery. During the Crimean War (1853-1856) it also helped the city of Odessa. The icon ended up in the Odessa Cathedral of The Dormition of the Virgin, where this relatively small icon (31 x 26.5 cm) is displayed with a richly decorated cover. The silver icon described here partly follows the traditions of ancient iconography. In the icon, the head and shoulder image of the Theotokos with the Infant Jesus can be seen. The Mother of God bends toward her son with moving tenderness. The Infant holds a roll in his hand, touching his chin with it and embraces his Mother with his left arm. (Moscow, 1888. Controlling master: Лев Федорович Олекс = Lev Fedorovich Oleks.)

László Letenyei

Bashi, a Recently Identified Ethnic Group on Both Sides of the Philippine Sea. A Late Review on *The Song of the Ancestors* (1991) of Dezső Benedek

Keywords: cultural anthropology, Taiwan, Orchid Island, Batan Island, Philippines, the ethnic group Bashi, the ethnic group Yami (Tao), the mythology, the epic folklore

Dezső Benedek, Cluj-Napoca-born American cultural anthropologist, folklorist and linguist spent four years of fieldwork in the 1980s in South East Asia. One of the indisputable merits of the research is that it has identified an ethnic group (the Bashi) that has for centuries been regarded as two distinct fragments of people: the Yami (also known as Tao) on the Taiwanese Orchid Island and the Batan on the Northernmost archipelago of the Philippines. Benedek began collecting the mythological treasures and epics of the Bashi people at the very last moment. There is no doubt that this discovered folklore can greatly help the Bashi in their search for 21st century identity. I am sure that many other contemporary anthropological texts will sink into oblivion when the epics collected by Dezső Benedek are still, or increasingly (in the course of a few generations) recited by grateful posterity.

Vilmos Voigt

The Poetry of Károly Bari and Folklore

Keywords: Károly Bari, a Hungarian Gypsy poet, talented peasant poets, Hungarian Gypsy folklore, poets from peasant background

The famous Hungarian Gypsy poet and painter, Károly Bari (born 1952 in a tiny Gypsy village in North Hungary) started to publish poetry in Hungarian language from 1966 on. His oeuvre (containing about 30 books and hundreds of articles) is well known also in Europe. For more than twenty years he has collected and published traditional Gypsy folklore in South-East Europe in more than 20 books or CD anthologies. As a poet he has recently published his complete poetic works: *A mozdulatlanság örökbefogadása. Összegyűjtött versek, prózai írások és képzőművészeti alkotások 1966—2018* ('Inheriting the Immovable'. Collected poems, prose and paintings – 1966—2019) Kalligram, Budapest, 2019.) pp. 359 + 7. My paper deals with Bari's own poetry (and not with folk songs or popular songs). The works express a very sophisticated written poetics. My analysis follows the grouping of the verses, elaborated by the poet. The key program is to contrast the works by an exceptionally talented poet – who knows well the Gypsy folklore, but his own poetry is absolutely different. Already in 19th century literature, there was a constant debate whether talented peasant persons could reach the aesthetic level of professional poetry. Bari's poetry is above the limit, and only in a proxy way can we denominate it. Bari's works prove that exceptionally talented peasants could create the poetry of the highest level.