

Mátéffy, Attila

“The Devil Has No Other Bird than the Peacock.” On the Correspondences between Hungarian and Central Eurasian Creation Myths (A810, A812, K483)

Keywords: Earth-Diver, Hungarian etiological legends, Peacock Angel, Yazidi religion, methodology in folklore study, early Hungarian-Yazidi contacts

This paper elaborates, on the one hand, on the conceptual and historical links between a Hungarian etiological legend group representing the Devil as a demiurge and the peacock as his only bird, and the Earth-Diver dualistic creation myths (A812) represented in the Hungarian speaking area with 17 versions. On the other hand, it examines the opportunities of possible religious contacts between Manichaeism and Yazidi as well as early Hungarian semi-nomadic communities in Central Eurasia, especially in Greater Khorasan and in the Caucasus region during the 8-9th centuries that could result in the idea behind the association between the Devil and the peacock in the Hungarian legends under discussion.

The author of the paper reviews an ideological preconception as well, which dominates the discourse of the research of the Earth-Diver myths in the discipline of folkloristics in Hungary in the last half of a century. By doing so, the author uses the methods of comparative and historical study of folklore as well as of discourse analysis.

Magyar, Zoltán

The Legends of Saint Ladislav in Turda Area

Keywords: historical legends, cult of saints, Saint Ladislav, folklore of Transylvania

King Saint Ladislav (1077–1095) was one of the most popular saints of medieval Hungary, the cult of which spread over the whole Hungarian speaking area. His name and profile are known in the Hungarian cultural heritage as the protective saint of Transylvania. The veneration of Saint Ladislav lasted until the 19th–20th centuries in the form of pilgrimage traditions and legends. According to records as early as the 15th–16th centuries, various legends developed in the Turda/Torda area, one of the centres of medieval Transylvania, in relation to the Torda Gorge near the city, the origin of which was attributed to the legendary king by inhabitants of the area. In this geographic area the legend of King Saint Ladislav encompasses the miracle of water wringing from stone, the legend of petrified coins, the imprints of tracks in stone, as well as many other local traditions and migratory legends.

Bálint, Péter

The Man Sent by God in Folktales

Keywords: man sent by God, helping/assisting creature, beauty as divine attribute, guardian angel

The expression “Son of God” rarely occurs in folktales, tale-tellers rather speak about the messenger/ the man “sent by God”. ‘The Son of God’ is an abstract concept for them, although they suspect that it refers to the Messiah or a prophet. In the narratives we differentiate between the man “sent by God” and the helping/assisting creature. On the one hand, they define themselves in a different way; on the other hand, they behave differently while discoursing with the hero.

Iancu, Laura

The Role(s) of Universal Catholicism and Vernacular Popular Religion in the History of Moldavian Hungarians

Keywords: Moldavian Catholicism, popular religion, religious folklore, folk prayers

According to the study, the history of the Eastern Church of Vatican and the history of Moldavian Catholicism are closely intertwined. In Orthodox Moldavia, the Catholic Church was present not only as a religious institution, but also as a political and cultural force, and participated in the introduction and establishment of Western, Latin spirituality in Moldavia. As the Catholic population consisted of different ethnicities (Saxons, Poles, Hungarians), and because the church itself was institutionalized on the (geographical and religious) East-West border, the foreign (Western) church itself helped the assimilation of foreign ethnicities to the nation-state, involuntarily. In this environment, the ethnic survival of the Moldavian Catholic Hungarians is partly due to the fact that the Vatican’s attention was not primarily focused on the faithful, but on maintaining the mission and then, on the full legalization of the church. The operation of native-speaker cantors, the vernacular popular religiosity and religious folklore contributed significantly to the believers’ faithfulness to the church, and the preservation of their Catholic faith. The study discusses some of these deeply complex issues of history of church and religion.

Pócs, Éva

Religious Life Strategies in a Romanian Hungarian Community. The Themes of Research and Methodological Problems

Keywords: vernacular religion, lived religion, religious life strategies, the normative role of religion, Gyimes Valley

The topic of the book I am currently writing is the folk, local or vernacular religion of a Hungarian-speaking Roman Catholic community, the function of religion in everyday life, lived religion. The book is based on my altogether 9-months-long field research carried out between 2002 and 2018 at Gyimesközéplak/Lunca de Jos. The main themes of the book are religious life strategies from the point of view of the practitioners of lived religion. The first chapter of the book constitutes a literature review and a discussion of the methodological problems I encountered in the course of field research followed by the description and analysis of religious life strategies. These are: spiritual mediators between this world and the otherworld. Aspiring to being a good Catholic. Aspiring to a good death and salvation, fear of damnation. Worldly interests and desires. Explanations for crisis situations, disasters, fending them off, averting them. The central theme of the analysis: the coming into being of emic categories based on belief, experience (emotions), knowledge and socialization. The closing chapter will summarize the so-called archaic, “medieval” remnants and concludes that we are not dealing with the haphazard survival-like features of certain phenomena, but rather with an older stage of the entirety of lived religion which is characterized by intensive belief, the normative role of religion, the coexistence of sacred and profane, their inseparability among the majority of community members and accordingly the frequent preference for religious life strategies. Following an analysis of Orthodox influences I summarize the most important factors that have emerged from the analysis for maintaining religious faith: concrete daily needs (dangerous situations, disasters, etc.), familiarity with an axiomatic set of knowledge (“tradition”), religious experiences, socialization into belief and rituals (their transmission to the next generation), clerical influences, sermons, religious readings, repetitive rites, ritual fixity as well as some non-religious factors such as for example heritagization, festive representation.

Halász, Péter

“We Mourn by Day, We Watch by Night.” Preparing for Death and Customs Related to the Dead among the Csángó Hungarians of Moldavia

Keywords: customs and beliefs related to death, transformation of the cult of the dead, Moldavian Csángós

Customs and beliefs about the dead among the Csángó Hungarians of Catholic religion living in Moldavia are to some extent mixed with those of the Romanians of the Orthodox religion,

and they also contain some pagan traditions besides the heritage of the teachings of the Christian Church.

The study presents some aspects of the cult of the dead among the Moldavian Hungarian Csángós: the author deals with the signs of death appearing in sleep and while being awake, with the news of death, the bathing of the dead, with the laying of the dead in the coffin, the wake and mourning of the dead, and with the related beliefs.

Filep, Klára – László, Eszter – Székely, Melinda

The Functions of Traditional Women's Costume in Szék

Keywords: traditional costumes, the functions of traditional costumes, folklore and identity, local history and costumes, costumes in historical perspective, 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 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. Regarding the future of the traditional costume from Szék, we plan to continue our research in order to provide a reliable knowledge for the future generations, which disappeared over the last two decades as a result of undressing from traditional costumes.

André, Mária Irén

Plant Knowledge and Plant Use of Three Generations of a Family from Lunca de Jos in the Light of Knowledge Transfer

Keywords: Gyimes Valley, Gyimesközéplek (Lunca de Jos), herb knowledge, knowledge transfer, ethnobotany

The study presents a slice of the traditional herb knowledge through three generations of a family from Lunca de Jos that practices folk medicine. The paper discusses in details the folk knowledge about plants passed down from generation to generation, as well as the external knowledge that influences and shapes it.

Tóth, Mária Orsolya

The Consolidation of the Colony Near Luduş (1901–1915)

Keywords: Luduş, colonization, annual ministerial reports, archival documents, political economy

This paper examines the agricultural minister's annual reports in charge with the 20th century colonization. These accounts describe the political economy of Luduş Colony in the first 15 years (1901-1915), recording the period of accommodation and consolidation of the colonists. The colonization, the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and the newly colonized families contributed to the development of a new era on the local level as well. Beside the ministerial reports, the paper reveals 6 accounts of the local administrator (Luduş Colony) and 8 of the territorial head chief (Cluj-Napoca), found in the National Archives of Budapest. These archival documents are processed for the first time, so they reveal some so far unknown features about the communication between the state and the families established near Luduş, giving a new perspective on the anthropological and politico-economic research.

Lingvay, Julianna

Aspects of Journalistic Discourses about Rurality in the 19th Century Hungarian Provincial Press. The Case of Máramaros

Keywords: journalism, discourse analysis, representations of folk culture in the press, social imaginary about rurality, Máramaros/Maramureş region

Rapid changes in social realities during the 19th century have led to an increased interest in observing and studying them. Newspapers, magazines, calendars and other periodicals have been instrumental in consolidating and disseminating discourses and visual forms about the social world (urban and folk cultures). However, journalism and commercial print have been mostly ignored as constitutive contexts of social knowledge production.

This study sets out to investigate how the Máramaros, an emerging Hungarian provincial political newspaper framed rurality in the second half of the 19th century. It considers the first and most influential newspaper edited and printed in Máramarossziget/Sighetu Marmătiei. The region was located formerly in the north-eastern part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, nowadays is extended through the territories of Romania and Ukraine. Based on a thematic and discourse analysis of a sample of the news and other genres published between 1865 and 1874, this study reveals in what ways was newspaper production engaged in forming and reinforcing aspects of social imaginary about rurality and what categories were engaged in journalistic writing in defining provincial/rural life and customs. Considering the journalistic discourses in a broader context, the research also investigates how newspaper rhetoric has figured into some broader political and cultural debates and traditions.

Ruzsa, György

St. Mitrofan of Voronezh and His Folk Art Icon

Keywords: Orthodox folk religiosity, icon researches, Bishop St. Mitrofan of Voronezh

The study presents the icon of Bishop St. Mitrofan of Voronezh (1623–1703), painted on a wooden panel and found in Hungary, and its folk art connections.