REPORTS

Introduction and West Slavic Sections of:

"Slavic Folkloristics in the Years 1994-1998
A Reference Bibliography of the Most Important Items"

Edited by Krzysztof Wroclawski, Poland (Warsaw, July 1998)
Translated by Robert Rothstein

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

The present bibliography is intended to bridge the gaps in information that Slavic folklorists have felt in recent years as the exchange of scholarly publications and personal contacts have become significantly more difficult. I made the decision to prepare such a reference bibliography, intended for the internal use of the International Commission on Slavic Folklore of the International Committee of Slavists, very late – just before the 12th Congress of Slavists in Cracow. I accomplished this plan with the help of representatives of the various national folkloristic communities, whom I asked to prepare a list of at least ten folkloristic-ethnographic publications (books) that had appeared in their countries since the last International Congress of Slavists in Bratislava in 1993 (i.e., in the period 1994-98), if possible with concise annotations. I was interested in a list of significant items such as encyclopedias of folklore or of folk culture, lexicons, books by particular authors, and, finally, thematic collections. I was not interested in journals or the latest volumes of serial publications since the international folkloristic community is generally well informed about their publication. A lack of time made it impossible to agree on a common approach, which led to a lack of uniformity in the sections for particular countries as well as the need for editorial intervention on my part. I tried to limit such interventions to a minimum and to honor the authorial sovereignty of the material that I received. (There are significant differences, for example, in the extent of the annotations, or even whether there are any.) Unfortunately I did not receive an answer from Belarus so the bibliography contains no Belarusian section.

I hope that this selective bibliography will prove useful despite its draft character. In closing I would also like to appeal to Slavic folklorists to establish close cooperation with the editors of the information bulletin Slavistická folkloristika, which has been published (currently in Bratislava) since 1989 at the initiative of our Commission. If this organ of the Commission, which has already accomplished a great deal, can attract a larger body of regular contributors from all the Slavic countries (as well as others) and can achieve appropriate distribution in our folkloristic community, it will be able to play its designated role
as our chief source of information. Because of this role I begin the bibliography with a note from Hana Hlůšková of the editorial board of the bulletin as a way of once again encouraging cooperation with the editors.

I have arranged the particular national sections in alphabetical order according to the Latin names of the countries. Publications are similarly listed in the alphabetical order of their authors, or, in the case of collective works, of their titles.

Finally I felt that it would be useful to include a selective list of Slavic journals specializing in folklore. Including their contents would increase the size of this bibliography too much.

Warsaw, July 1998

Krzysztof Wrocławski
The International Information Forum for Folklorists, *Slavistická folkloristika*

*Slavistická folkloristika* – the informational bulletin of the International Commission on Slavic Folklore of the International Committee of Slavists. Editorial offices: Ústav pro etnografii a folkloristiku AV ČR (Institute for Ethnography and Folkloristics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic), Brno (Czech Republic), and Ústav etnológie SAV (Institute for Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), Bratislava (Slovak Republic). Published since 1989.

The first issue of a periodical that has now served for eight years as an information forum for Slavic folklorists appeared in 1989. The political and institutional changes that took place after 1989 and economic conditions have affected the work of the small editorial board (initially four members), but these circumstances have had no negative impact on the conception and the size of the bulletin. While two issues of the periodical were published the first year, since 1990 it has appeared as one double issue per year for financial reasons.

The motive for creating the bulletin after the 10th International Congress of Slavists in Sofia in 1988 was the need to increase information about the work of the various national folklore sections of the International Commission on Slavic Folklore. The publishers hoped through exchange of information to guarantee contacts among folklorists and Slavists of Slavic-speaking countries, and also among scholars from non-Slavic countries. These intentions were formulated in the first issue by PhDr. Viera Gašparíková, Dr. Sc., who then chaired the Czechoslovak Section on Slavic Folklore of the Czechoslovak Committee of Slavists and who remains a member of the editorial board of the bulletin. They are being carried out by contributors from scholarly and pedagogical institutions all over Europe, mainly however from the Slavic countries, who provide information primarily about publishing activity and working meetings (conferences, seminars, congresses) in the field of Slavic studies and comparative folkloristics in their countries. From its beginnings the bulletin has had a clear conception and stable sections. Editorials are devoted to the most relevant conceptual and organizational problems of Slavic folkloristics (the state of research, the topics addressed at Slavic studies congresses, the formation of new institutions for Slavic studies). In their editorial commentaries O. Sirovátka, V. E. Gusev, H. J. Uther, V. Gašparíková and J. Doruňa have evaluated the existing scholarship in Slavic folkloristics and outlined ranges of problems that should be the object of research in the future. They have emphasized the need for expanding international cooperation and for broader comparative investigations involving the non-Slavic cultures of Europe, which has become much more possible after the political changes that took place at the end of the 80s in the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
The regular sections “Information” and “Literature” provide solid reports on scholarly events that have taken place; concise annotations on publications, periodicals, scholarly monographs and folkloristic studies published in journals and collections; and information on current projects on which particular scholarly or pedagogical institutions are working. The section “Personalia” recalls the birthdays of outstanding living and deceased scholars in the Slavic field, and especially in folkloristics.

The editorial board of the information bulletin Slavistická folkloristika would be happy to receive contributions from additional colleagues and, upon request, will be glad to send future issues free of charge. Contributions as well as requests for the periodical should be sent to:

Redakcia SLAVISTICKÁ FOLKLORISTIKA
Ústav etnologie SAV, Jakubovo nám. 12
813 65 Bratislava, Slovensko.

Hana Hlôšková, Bratislava
A Selection of Folkloristic Publications from 1994-1997
(Prepared by Jana Pospíšilová)


The previously unpublished and most extensive part of the regional collection of 1819 in Bohemia. A facsimile edition, containing Czech and German texts, song melodies and transcriptions of instrumental music.


The collection includes, among other things, contributions on verbal folklore, song and dance.


A synthesizing study of folklorism and a listing of particular important individuals, folkloric ensembles, festivals and institutions that belong to that cultural movement of the last one hundred years.


A collection of 136 song texts with melodies from an Eastern Moravian district; also contains part of the repertoire (107 songs) of one outstanding singer. His manuscript memoirs are also appended.


A collection of previously unpublished folk ballads from the Moravian-Slovak border. Contains 160 song texts melodies, a scholarly study and indexes.


Papers dealing with the problems of home and children’s identity, children’s culture and folklore, including anecdotes.

Collections of published and previously unpublished legends from the Czech and German communities of Brno.


This collection of 169 song texts with melodies and with comparative commentary contains manuscript materials from the center of the largest Moravian city and from its rural environs. Included are indexes and thumbnail portraits of the collectors.
FOLKLORISTICS IN POLAND (1994-1998)
(Selected and annotated by K. Wrocławska)


This work deals with the daily (and annual) organization of time in Slavic traditional culture. The author draws attention to the non-homogeneity of time and space in the magic and religious understanding of the world and points to the isomorphism in treating time and space that is characteristic of the traditional world view.


The author’s goal was to find the essence of musical folklore as a bearer of the traditional values centered on the sacred. She does this from the multiple perspective of various disciplines (philosophy, religious studies, sociology and ethnology, cultural anthropology, folkloristics, etc.). She treats the development of ethnomusicology in relation to studies of traditional music and also in connection with the interpretation of folk art. The discussion of folk music in the book illustrates the author’s thesis about the unity of human needs and possibilities and the unity of the values that are closely connected to the religious world view that lies at the basis of traditional culture.


Papers from various areas of the humanities, from broadly conceived cultural studies and from ethnography. The authors examine the concept of HOME as a cultural archetype and linguistic stereotype and show its place in various ideological and axiological systems. A humanistic perspective reveals the close connections between the fundamental concepts of folk culture and their functions in the history of national culture at various levels of its use.


The book contains materials from a symposium of Polish and Slovak folklorists held in Opole on October 9-10, 1995. The discussions dealt with the present state of folkloristics (in Poland and in
countries with a similar level of development of civilization), its chances for development and its place among the other humanistic disciplines and in university education.


The author deals with the phenomenon of the intersection of mass genres with elite culture and the question of the popularization of high-art conventions. He attempts to discover the program that governs the generation of texts that function in such a way and to characterize the fate of mass-audience works, which is independent of the intentions of their creators.


A description of the orally transmitted folk dreambook as a folklore genre; its relation to the printed dreambook (a genre of popular literature). The (oral) folk dreambook of the title is treated as a collection of texts consisting of a description of a dream and its symbolic interpretation. The book includes among other things a typology of narratives about dreams and, as an appendix, a dictionary of dream symbols and a separate dictionary of the meanings of dream images.


A collection of papers divided into three parts. Part I, “Kolberg’s Works,” includes current evaluations of the significance, methodology and theoretical views of the most distinguished Polish ethnographer, folklorist and ethnomusicologist. Parts II and III, “Musical Folklore in Contemporary Culture,” contain papers devoted to current research on folk music and folksong, on the characteristics of native musical folklore and of national music and also studies of the role of musical folklore in the educational process.


The dictionary contains entries from the theory of popular literature (mass-audience literature), entries for categories above the genre level, historical and contemporary genre entries, as well as name,
title and thematic entries. It concentrates not only on Polish mass-audience literature, but also pays significant attention to translated literature with broad coverage of the contemporary situation. It can serve as an excellent source of information and as the basis for comparative studies by students of this type of writing in other Slavic national cultures.


The first part of volume 1 of an extensive publication intended to reconstruct the traditional linguistic image of the world and of man using ethnolinguistic methods applied to Polish linguistic material. The present volume contains the authors' conception of the whole work. It is divided into sections covering the main entries and subentries. Each section contains a short introduction, an extensive explication of the key word that characterizes it by means of a (cognitive) definition that takes into consideration both its multiple contexts and the semantic functions connected with those contexts. Each explication is richly documented with texts containing the key word (arranged by genre).


A typology of genealogical narratives, based on diverse Slavic source material from Poland, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as from Slavic immigrants in the United States and Canada. The author discusses internal genealogical narratives, narratives that are transitional in genre: from family societies, household chronicles, memoirs, etc. The book is also an attempt to describe the genealogical narrative as a secondary semiological system.
FOLKLORISTICS IN SLOVAKIA (1994-1998)
(Prepared by Hana Hlôšková; edited by K. Wroclawski)


More than 140 authors contributed articles to this encyclopedia, primarily ethnologists (ethnographers and folklorists), but also historians, specialists in art and law, etc. The conceptual and organizational side of the publication was provided by the Institute for Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. The 2800 articles in the two volumes of the encyclopedia provide information about the character of the basic signs of folk culture in Slovakia and about the forms of development of that culture. The criterion for the choice and treatment of realia is their connection with the territory of the Slovak Republic and with the Slovak ethnic community, thus with Slovaks abroad as well. One of the basic methodological principles was the effort to provide a systematic approach, so the attentive reader will find in this publication a complex of information about all domains of folk culture. The articles in the encyclopedia are divided among five lexical-thematic domains and thirty-one lexical groups: 0. The theory and history of ethnology – A. Theory and methodology; B. The history of ethnography and folkloristics; C. The ethnic history and structure of Slovakia; D. Applied branches of ethnology and related scholarly disciplines; 1. Material culture – A. Cultivation of crops; B. Meadow and pasture agriculture, animal husbandry; C. Hunting and gathering; D. Acquisition of raw materials and their processing at home, by craftspeople and in cottage-industries; E. Transportation; F. Trade; G. Food; H. Clothing; I. Settlement, construction, housing; 2. Social culture – A. Family; B. Kinship; C. Common law; D. Morality, ethics; E. The community; F. Working-class culture; 3. Ritual culture – A. Conceptions of the world, folk religion; B. Religion; C. Calendric and work customs; D. Family rituals; E. Ethnomedicine; F. Meteorology; 4. Artistic culture – A. General theory; B. Ritual folklore; C. Verbal folklore; D. Musical folklore; E. Dance folklore; F. Folk art.

The encyclopedia also includes articles on noteworthy institutions and individuals who have made significant contributions, as collectors, to the construction of a base of data; as theoreticians, to the development of ethnographic and folkloristic methodology; and as museum employees or persons involved in folklorism, to the artistic adaptation of the values of folk culture and to making them accessible to a broad public. Readers interested in acquiring a deeper understanding of the development and present state of ethnographic and folkloristic methodology and methods will find articles that explain basic concepts and categories, schools and methods, as well as the theoretical concepts that ethnologists have at their disposal. The articles are arranged in alphabetical order, with volume I containing the letters A-O and volume II, P-.
The value of the work is increased by its high-quality illustrative component (photographs, drawings, musical examples, maps, tables), which supplements the information provided in the articles. The visual accompaniments are however an integral part of the text of the articles. Both volumes of the encyclopedia contain colored drawings of folk culture objects and artifacts, and these color images are an important component of the informative value of the articles. There is a list of authors of the articles at the end of each volume, and the encyclopedia includes an extensive index with references to individual articles.

In its 872 pages of text and 56-page colored supplement The Encyclopedia of Folk Culture in Slovakia provides a broad body of information on a high professional level and in a manner that will be attractive to the reader.


This volume provides a representative sample of folktales of the nations, nationalities and ethnic groups in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. The goal of the collection was to show how the soul of a particular nation or ethnic group is revealed in the folktales of a professional but non-specialist public. I risk this assertion on the basis of information about how the book is being used, for example, by teachers, journalists, colleagues from other disciplines as well as by ordinary citizens with an interest, e.g., in traditional ways of celebrating holidays, in folk costume or in folklore genres. This is the first work of this type in Slovakia to be published as well in electronic form as a CD-ROM.
(This publication is the work of Slovak and Czech folklorists. – K.W.)


The Institute for Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences has published the fifth volume of a bibliographic compilation of works in the field of Slovak ethnography and folkloristics. The author of the preceding compilations, which have been appearing since 1970, has continued the classification of topics that she introduced in the first volume. In the fifth volume, however, she has added subheadings covering encyclopedias and communal buildings [schools, taverns, etc.] and omitted some as unnecessary. The fifth volume of the bibliography has the following basic division: 0. General part; I. Occupations, production, tools, transport, trade; II. Food; III. Clothing, footwear, hairstyles; IV. Settlement, housing, home furnishings; V. Social organization, social and family relations, mores; VI. Customs; VII. Folk knowledge, concepts, religion and practices; VIII. Folk art; IX. Folk literature; X. Song, music, dance. The volume also contains a list of excerpted journals and their abbreviations and author and place indexes.

A working seminar “On the History of Verbal Folkloristics” took place in Bratislava on November 29-30, 1995. Thirty specialists from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia presented papers dealing with a subject that has until now not been treated in a sufficiently systematic manner.


This volume is a compilation of studies and articles in the area of verbal folkloristics published by the author in the years 1966-1984. Michálek addresses such problems as the theoretical delimitation of the specificity of oral literature, the relations between folklore and literature, the social context of oral literature (migration, emigration, social resistance), humor in folk narration, the reworking of historical themes in folklore. The author consistently takes research material from the territory of Slovakia as his point of departure.


In her monograph Zuzana Profantová, a researcher in the Institute for Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, presents a collection of studies on problems of paremiology. Her work is based on the extensive archive of proverbs and prognostications that the Institute has been
compiling for more than twenty years and which contains more than 200,000 items. The author collected in this volume papers that had previously been published, mostly in Slovak. Her long-term and multifaceted interest in paremiology is reflected in the range of topics of the various papers: the history of paremiology in Slovakia, the problems of classifying the stock of proverbs, the logico-semiotic approach to prognostications, the cultural-historical context of proverb semantics — Christian values, family relations, the attitude toward death, levels of ethnoidentification. A selective bibliography is included. The volume is in English.


The information that Slovak ethnomethods and folklorists collected and published in the framework of previous large-scale projects — the Ethnographic Atlas of Slovakia (Bratislava, 1990) and the Encyclopedia of Folk Culture of Slovakia (Bratislava, 1995) — has underlined the need for comparing these data in a broad European context. The historical, economic and cultural development of Slovakia has created many layers and led to many different influences on various spheres of traditional culture. A group of authors, most of whom were involved in preparing the above-mentioned publications, took on the task of identifying these influences and of characterizing the specific features of traditional culture in Slovakia.


The book also includes an index, drawings, maps and black-and-white and colored photographs. A publication of high professional and technical quality, it is the latest in a series of synthetic works that Slovak ethnology has contributed toward achieving a more profound understanding of European culture.


The fourth volume of the works of Pavel Jozef Šafárik (1795-1861), entitled Slavic Ethnography, has been published in Pavol Žigo’s Slovak translation as part of a large-scale project to republish the basic works of the outstanding Slavist, historian, linguist and ethnographer of the 19th century. The volume
consists of the following works: Slavic Ethnography (1842); a collection of Šafárik’s articles on folklore, mythology and folksongs that originally appeared in the periodical Časopis českého muzeum: “Folksongs and Songs,” “Slavic Folksongs,” “On Rusalki,” “The Portrait of Černoboh in Bamberg” and “On Svaroh, a God of the Pagan Slavs,” as well as a bibliographical survey of collections of Slovak national songs. Accompanying the volume is a set of maps reproduced from Šafárik’s 1842 Slovanský zeměpis [Slavic Geography].

The publication concludes with an afterword by the editor, the Slovak folklorist Ján Michálek, who characterizes in detail Šafárik’s areas of research and his contribution to their development against the background of the social and political context of the Slavic world in the 19th century.

Translated by Robert Rothstein