

This research aims to document the rich and varied folklore and ethnographical traditions of southwestern Russia by utilizing a variety of recording methods (field notes, audio records, video records, photographs). The research will be centered near the towns Rognedino (Brianskaia province), Roslavl (Smolenskaia province) and Betlitsa (Kaluzhskaia province). Detailed studies will be conducted on the following subjects:

- a) ritual folklore;
- b) mythological stories about spirits of nature and the home;
- c) folk songs;
- d) traditional women's everyday and festive clothes, towels and floor coverings;
- e) peasant houses and household buildings.

We hope to identify a number of regularities of shared local traditions within the study area based on the volume of data collected, thus clarifying the complex folklore and ethnographical picture of the southwestern Russia. Our goal is to broaden and popularize our Russian folklore heritage.

TEAM DATES IN FIELD:

Team 1: May 27 - June 9, 1999 (recording and investigating of the Trinity ritual (*Troitsa*), ritual folk songs, mythological stories).

Team 2: July 15 - 26, 1999 (recording and investigating of the ritual of the Holy Icon of Kazanskaia Virgin Mary, folk songs, mythological stories).

Team 3: August 2-13, 1999 (recording and investigating of folk songs, mythological stories).

Team 4: January 23-February 3, 2000 (recording and investigating of folk songs, mythological stories).

Those who are interested in taking part in these expeditions should contact the program manager of the project - Deb Pollak

E-mail: [dpollak@earthwatch.org](mailto:dpollak@earthwatch.org)

Fax: (617) 926-8632

Phone: (617) 926-8200 or (800) 776-0188