

FOREWORD

Anyone who has taken an active interest in folklore would notice an obvious diversity of folklore of different parts of Lithuania. Due to this peculiarity, a group of researchers gets involved in the study of specific folklore traditions of his/her native village or region, others attempt to find the connections between folklore works relevant to different parts of Lithuania, while the third group would investigate into the integrity of folk creation realised by means of regional diversity, etc. On January 3 1992, the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore held a conference 'Regional Peculiarities of Folklore'. Similar to previous conferences, quite a few teachers of the Lithuanian language and literature, worried about possible effective ways for the perception and propagation of the folk poetry of their region, took an active participation in its work. The kernel of 'Folklore Studies' Vol. V (XII) is therefore made up of the reports delivered at the conference, though specified and broadened. Some reporters failed to hand in their papers, thus the volume includes three new articles written by Norbertas Vėlius, Aušra Žičkienė and Austė Nakienė.

The volume contains an extract of Vytautas Kavolis' work written in English in 1954 while at Howard university. Having corrected and approved of the translation of his work, the author promised to find some more earlier studies on Lithuanian folk songs. The section 'From research' comprises Nijolė Laurinkienė's study on Perkūnas and Aušra Žičkienė's article 'Marriage lamentations in the elegiac melody context'. Sabina Wienker-Piepho from Freiburg university read a course of lectures on contemporary research situation of narrative folklore at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in the autumn of 1995. Some extracts from her lectures are also presented to the reader.

The volume possesses other traditional sections. 'Text publications' is devoted to legends and presents the texts recorded by Daiva Vaitkevičienė and Vykintas Vaitkevičius during the 1995 year folklore expedition while Irena Žilienė selected a sheaf from Juozas Būga's archive, the copies of which had been acquired in Chicago.

The section 'Folklore of national minorities' will pleasantly surprise the reader with Latvian songs, proverbs, traditional sayings recorded by the researchers of the Institute Lilija Kudirkienė and Ilma Anelauskienė.

In the section 'Information' Aelita Kensminienė acquaints the reader with the works of EURETHNO IV studio 'Mythical time of Europe'.

On different occasions have people who have greatly contributed to folklore science been recollected: Ambraziejus Jonynas discusses the significance of the first three Lithuanian folk songs published in Pilypas Ruigys' book, just about to celebrate its 250 year anniversary, Živilė Ramoškaitė reminds to the reader Jan Baudouin de Courtenay's influence on Lithuanian folklore science, Audronė Augaitytė presents information on Pranas Bieliauskas, a collector of folk songs in Vilnius area.

In the section 'From the past' Stasys Skrodenis presents some data on the Day of the Past Festivals organized in pre-war Lithuania.