

FOREWORD

The history of the Lithuanian nation has more than once noticed sore phenomena and cases from "far-off", when a cry of a newborn book or a hubbub of an interesting discussion somewhere abroad could hardly be overheard by the greatest majority of the nation residing in the mother country. The recent, though short-lived, period which started in the 20th century with the deprivation of independence and the ideological halter over all cultural activity rather than that of the press ban when only abroad could a Lithuanian book's publication take shelter made itself evident. The soviet occupation made a great many Lithuanian intelligentsia abandon its native home. Maintenance of their selves and families under alien circumstances required a great effort. Only crumbs of leisure were left for the yearned literary work but the fact remains that the work was not forgotten. Neither was the folkloristic activity.

These works have been almost obscure and hardly available to the broader society of Lithuania for several decades. Therefore, on October 29 the same year when Lithuania regained its independence the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore held the 2nd folklore conference devoted to folklore studies of Lithuanians abroad. 16 reports were delivered at it. The greater part of them, partly supplemented, compiles the 2nd volume of "Tautosakos darbai" (Folklore studies).

This issue will supply the reader with the knowledge about the folkloristic activity of the Lithuanians abroad. The greatest contribution is that of a professional folklorist Dr. J. Balys. The articles by R. Repšienė and N. Laurinkienė and the list of essential works (with reference to J. Balys' bibliographical publications and replenishment) are devoted to him. Mythological research of the linguist and semiotician A. J. Greimas comes to an unflinching attention of N. Vėlius and B. Kerbelytė. L. Sauka reminds us of A. Maccina's essay on Lithuanian folk song and the incarnation of a nation's soul in it. A. Seselskytė gives a review of V. Bagdanavičius' fundamental work "Cultural depths in fairy tales", V. Miševičienė analyses D. Brazytė-Bindokienė's book "Lithuanian customs and traditions", while G. Dringelis discusses S. Yla's "Traditions of a Lithuanian family". K. Grigas' article deals with the proverbs of Lithuania Minor. G. Radvilas analyses the use of folklore in the Lithuanian Saturday schools.

On the other hand, the present volume of "Tautosakos darbai" has been supplemented with articles and publications made ready later.

Proverbs in I. Končius' "A Samogitian's tales" are dealt with in L. Valotkienė's article, while D. Astramskaitė handles A. Martinkus' study on the fairy tale "Eglė — Queen of Grass-snakes" and presents an excerpt of its translation. So are the fragments from A. Maceina's study and those referring to A. J. Greimas' publications.

Lithuanian folklore itself recorded abroad and published there causes interest, too. B. Stundžienė features the folklore abundantly available in K. Šaulys' description of the Juodžiūnai dialect and presents some of it for our admiration. Some anecdotes from A. Rukšėnas' book "Is That You Laughing Comrade?" are published.

In the section "Folklore of national minorities" the reader will find the texts of Jewish proverbs and anecdotes arranged by G. Smoliakovas and the Karaim legends presented by B. Kerbelytė.

The volume contains some new sections. One of them under the title "Pro memoria" comprises Ž. Ramoškaitė's article devoted to the deceased J. Čiurlionytė, in the other "Dates, jubilees" the reader is reminded of two significant jubilees! those of S. Daukantas and V. Mykolaitis-Putinas. In the section "Finds" A. Drevinskaitė informs us about a collection of the 20th century Samogitian songs come upon by her, G. Kadžytė presents a great amount of Lithuanian songs proffered by G. Krivickienė from France. At the request of the readers the bibliography of pre-war "Folklore studies" arranged by A. Kaziukonienė is also supplemented. The section "Chronicles" encloses some data of the folklore activities at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore.

The amount of material that relates to folkloristic activity of Lithuanians abroad exceeds the extent of a single volume. The forthcoming issue of "Tautosakos darbai" — III (X) — will be devoted in the main to it. The volume will also encompass the continuation of A. Martinkus' and A. Maceina's studies, the article referring to A. J. Greimas. The reader will also find quite a few folklore works recorded abroad. R. Dringelienė brought a part of the folklore collection of Professor A. Dundes from California (arranged for publication by A. Danieliūtė). Pieces of folklore proffered by Cz. Milosz are also included. Songs of the Lithuanians of Pennsylvania recorded by E. Bradūnaitė and made ready for publication by K. Aleksynas and Ž. Ramoškaitė are extremely dear to us. Some of the songs of the Lithuanians from Mogiliov recorded and prepared by G. Kadžytė, the melodies arranged by Ž. Ramoškaitė, they will be published, too, so will a fragment of a folklore-memoir life story of an unknown Lithuanian emigrant to South America prepared by A. Valotka.

The language of the volume was revised by A. Kaziukonienė. A translation in to English of summaries and the foreword was made by A. Sarpalienė.