

INSTITUTE OF SLOVENE ETHNOLOGY

(The Scientific Research Center at the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts)

In 1981 our Bulletin has already published articles about Slovene ethnology at the University of Ljubljana (on the 40th anniversary of the Department of Ethnology at the Faculty of Arts). Today we would like to present the second largest Slovene ethnological institution – the Institute for Ethnology at the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Institute has now four sections:

1. Section for Folk Literature (with dr. Milko Matičetov and Marija Stanonik)
2. Section for Folk Customs and Plays (with Helena Ložar-Podlogar, Jurij Fikfak and dr. Niko Kuret as a honorary employee)
3. Section for Material Culture (with dr. Anton Cevc and dr. Angelos Baš)
4. Section for Ethnomusicology (with dr. Valens Vodusek, dr. Zmaga Kumer, Marko Terseglav, Mirko Ramovš and Julijan Strajnar)

Brief Historical Outline of the Institute

It was founded in 1951, continuing the work of the Commission for the Slovene Ethnology which was formed in 1947 at the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts. The initiation for this was given by prof. dr. Ivan Grafenauer who also became the chairman of the Commission and between 1951 and 1964 the chairman of the Institute. In 1972 the former Institute of Ethnomusicology (headed by France Marolt and established in 1934) joined the Institute as a special section. The historical development of Marolt's Institute will be outlined together with the work of the Section for Ethnomusicology.

Among the most important tasks of the Commission and later of the Institute were:

- collection of ethnographic material such as texts, descriptions, photographs and bibliographic data among people living today and from contemporary and past publications, manuscripts, historical documents etc. The Institute was to work on problems concerning comparative ethnology and to support and coordinate the collecting of ethnographic work done by other ethnological institutions, museums and institutes as well.
- arrangement and preservation of ethnographic material in the archives of Slovene ethnography (meaning the archives of folk verbal, musical and plastic art, the archives of Slovene social culture and the archives of Slovene material folk culture).
- scientific publication of the collected material and its application for the preparation and publication of scientific works and standard works dealing with Slovene ethnography, ethnogenesis etc.
- support with preservation of ethnological monuments in Slovenia, in situ as well as in different museums.

The main task of the Institute has been research work.

Due to scarce personnel and despite its statute regulations the Institute could devote its attention to only two classical ethnographical fields among many, that is to spiritual and partly to social culture. The constant lack of time prevented it from regular research of theoretical questions and ethnological history. It also had to completely neglect material culture (but during approximately the last ten years this ethnological field has been represented in its work as well).

The orientation of the Institute's director Ivan Grafenauer had been decisive for the work of the former Commission and later of the Institute. Research work concentrated on folk literature. The arrival of Milko Matičetov in 1952 meant

an advancement in this direction. When Niko Kuret joined the Institute in 1954, he started the research of customs and plays. Thus the Institute's orientation had been set for twenty-five years. The work was limited to spiritual and social culture. Only the 25th anniversary of the Institute brought about the realization of the former statute in whole and a separate section for material culture (with Anton Cevc) formed.

Concrete objectives of both new sections (for folk literature and folk customs and plays) have completely occupied employees of the Institute. Historical orientation and the condition of both fields demanded not only collecting, but even rescuing „traditional“ material. It is therefore understandable that the lack of time might have caused a notion that the rescuing of the available material should be prior to research work itself. The research work had consequently been centered on the past for a long time and it has been only recently that the Institute could consider the meaning of the research of the present situation as well. Unfortunately the Institute has been lacking new employees. At all events the present organically grows from the past despite all the difficulties and changes we have witnessed. A good knowledge of our native country is necessary especially in ethnography. It helps discovering our national identity. It is the basis for our national culture. This is the starting-point of every rational cultural policy in the present as well as in the future, as dr. Niko Kuret stated in *Traditiones* in 1973.

Institute's employees (Grafenauer, Matičetov, Kuret) have written many monumental works concerning folk literature and customs, although we shall not enumerate them. The employees of the Institute of Ethnomusicology which became a part of the Institute for Ethnology in 1972 (Vodušek, Kumer, Ramovš and others), have researched folk songs, music and dances. Their more important works are therefore included within the work of the Institute as well.

Vilko Novak, a honorary employee of the Institute, was the only one who worked on various theoretical problems in this field. Noone researched the history of our ethnography.

Vilko Novak and Sergej Vilfan, both honorary employees of the Institute, researched material culture only periodically. In 1971 the Institute acquired a permanent researcher for material culture, dr. Anton Cevc. He works on selected problems of Slovene material culture. In 1979 he was joined by dr. Angelos Baš.

Research of folk songs, music and dances within the Institute has been pursued since 1972 by the Section for Ethnomusicology. Before that time this had been an independent institute.

Present Work of the Institute

The work of the Institute will be presented according to different sections and within the research project entitled *National and Cultural Heritage of Slovene Nation (Naravna in kulturna dediščina slovenskega naroda)*. This is program of all Institutes at the Scientific Research Center at the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Institute for Ethnology takes a part in this project with a research entitled *The Research of Slovene Ethnographic Heritage*. It consists of the following sections:

1. Slovene Folk Literature (this project is headed by dr. Milko Matičetov)
2. Customs in Slovenia (headed by dr. Niko Kuret and Helena Ložar-Podlogar)
3. Selected Chapters from Slovene Folk Material Culture (headed by dr. Anton Cevc)
4. Folk Musical and Dance Culture in Slovenia (headed by dr. Valens Vodušek)

These tasks have been entrusted solely upon the Institute for Ethnology. It is understandable that the Institute wishes to expand its scope of work to – for instance – folk beliefs, a subject which is researched today only occasionally. As far the research of material culture is concerned, the Institute limited itself only to various „selected“ chapters in order not to infringe upon other institutions, for instance Ethnographic Museum or ethnological sections of different provincial museums.

With all its tasks and goals the Institute reaches the very roots of Slovene national existence and thus also substantiates its work. With the material collected it has already justified different expectations. Its goal is now to clearly and as universally as possible present all the elements of folk culture in Slovenia and their influence of one another as well as their roots in their environment. In preparation are a number of synthetic works about different kinds of folk creativity, especially since some of them (such as folk prose, riddles, proverbs and sayings) have not had a scientific presentation in our country. The Section for Folk Literature strives for this with its research programme on folk literature:

– I. Slovene folk literature. In preparation are different publications which have been missing up to now, for instance:

1. Slovene Fairy-Tales Index (according to international classificational system of Aarne-Thompson)
2. Slovene Tales
3. Scientific Collection of Slovene Folk Riddles and Proverbs
4. Publication of So Far Unpublished Prose Records of Old Collectors

–II. Customs in Slovenia

1. Life-Cycle Customs: this especially abundant collection of material has been studied in detail for several years. A part of the Pannonia territory has already been monographically treated and published. A manuscript on marriage customs in the Zilja valley is ready for publication. The future goal of this section is to finish the collecting of material on customs at birth and death. Two monographies on these subjects are being planned as well.
2. Calendar Customs: only a supplementation of the collected material (Kuret, Praznično leto Slovencev) is needed here. A special attention will be given to the formation of new customs and to changes and decay of the old ones. A book entitled *Masks of Slovene Provinces* is in preparation. Kuret also started the research of masks in urban environment.

–III. Selected Chapters From Folk Material Culture

Field research of different parts of material culture on the whole Slovene ethnic territory is one of the basic and permanent tasks. The search for changes after World War II especially accentuates this research. The ultimate goal are synthesized monographies of some aspects of material culture, the treatment of which is connected to simultaneous research of other elements of folk culture in Slovenia.

A long-term programme of this section is as follows:

1. Mountains in Slovenia – the Description of Life, Work and Traditions of Herdsmen. This is a team project, the objective of which is a monography about the life of herdsmen in the following Alpine regions: Tolminsko-Kobaridsko-Brdsko, Bohinj and Bled, Karawanken etc. The monography wants to present the situation in the past and today and also give a historical outline of this branch of economy.
2. The Description of Temporarily Settled Dwellings is a research project headed by Anton Cevc. Its emphasis is on the presentation of architectural elements and on the importance of the researched material from the viewpoint of cultural history.

Although the clothing culture in Slovenia has already been satisfactory treated, at least as far as peasants from the end of the 19th century are concerned, the section and especially dr. Angelos Baš will supplement this research. In the past Baš collected the available material for the 16th century and was interested in the way people clothed in all social classes – feudal lords, townspeople, bondsmen and workers. The clothing culture of late feudalism is the researched subject of dr. Baš now. The material he has been collecting will represent the foundation for the research of clothing culture in this period of time.

IV. Section for Ethnomusicology

In 1934, a Folklore Institute was founded in Ljubljana by Glasbena matica, a private musical association which then existed already for seventy years and was very active with its music school, its renowned choir of mixed voices, and, since 1918, with an own concert agency. The newly founded Institute was endowed with a small room, large enough for one man only, a chair, a writing desk, and a chest with some books and booklets with Slovene and other folk-songs. The man engaged for the work there was France Marolt, a self-made musician and the acclaimed conductor of the male-choir of University students, well known for his choral arrangements and interpretations of Slovene folk-songs. From this tiny grain of seed sprang up in the following years two shorter studies by Marolt on some specific folk-rites with songs and dances from two different Slovene regions. One of Marolt's real merits was from the very beginning the inclusion of folk-dances in the study of folk-lore. His later papers, however, were often marred by altering song-texts and tunes of other sources and presenting them as his own authentic records. In 1940, the tiny one-man's institute was taken over, under another name, by the regional administration and remained so during the troubled war years. In 1945, it appeared like new-born as Glasbeno-narodopisni institut (Institute of Ethnomusicology), strenghtened by three more collaborators, one of them for folk-dance, and another for song-texts research. At first, this Institute was attached to the Academy of Music for a few years, then self-governing until 1972 when it became incorporated as the Section for Ethnomusicology in the Inštitut za slovensko narodopisje (Institute of Slovene Ethnology) of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts.

After Marolt's death in 1951 and the appointment of a new director two things seemed as most important for a systematic scholarly research. First, there was started a detailed classification of all the already recorded Slovene folk-songs with tunes, the overwhelming majority of whic still remained unpublished (some 12.000 only from the great collecting action 1906-1914); the results were ordered in six main-catalogues (by genre and subject of the song-text, first line of the text, first melodic line, verse-structure, region and village the record stems from, numbers given to

song-records for identification). In the same time systematic field-work was started, from 1955 on intensified by the help of the first transportable tape-recorders and extended to all the Slovene ethnic territory, including the Slovene minorities in Italy, Hungary, and Austria. This work is still continuing every year and has brought till now a very rich harvest of some 22.000 musical items (songs and instrumental music) besides new insights, discoveries and the exactness made possible by tape-recording of music.

One of the principal aims of the Institute at all this work was to prepare the edition of a new corpus of Slovene folk-songs, this time with hundreds or thousands of tunes, with new variants of song-text types or even with new types, and to present so a more complete picture of Slovene folk-singing than was attainable by **Karl Štrekelj** at the beginning of this century in his excellent corpus (in four volumes) of songs collected in the 19th century, but — to his own regret — with very few tunes. Till now two volumes of the new corpus **Slovenske ljudske pesmi** were published (1971, 1981), for the third volume the manuscript is almost finished and now work has already begun on two next in this series that will complete the first big part of the corpus with narrative songs.

Beside this project and the annual field-work much other research was done by the members of the section in the last decades and the results published in many learned articles, papers or books. So are by **Dr. Zmaga Kumer** treatises on some ballads, a detailed Slovene-German Type-index of Slovene narrative songs, a monograph on folk-music amid the people of a large valley in southern Slovenia, an anthology of Slovene folk-songs with tunes,* a book on Slovene folk-instruments and musicians, and such a study for the **Handbuch der europäischen Volksmusikinstrumente** (in print). By **Julijan Strajnar**, a practical violinist too, are some papers on instrumental music, especially on the rather ancient dance-music in the valley of Resia (in Italy). By **Mirko Ramovš**, a specialist in ethnochoreology, are learned articles on some dance-types, and recently a book on the main traditional dance-types on the Slovene ethnic territory*. **Marko Terseglav**, magister in slavistic studies, is very active too; he wrote many articles on different topics, mostly on problems of oral literature. **Dr. Valens Vodusek**, Head of this section (former Director of the above mentioned Institute), began with treatises on songs with specific metrical verse-structures and the correlation between them and the corresponding tunes. His later research was on different tonal strata in the Slovene folk-music.

Marko TERSEGLAV
and Valens VODUSEK

* = book with a longer summary in English

NEW BOOKS

MOJCA RAVNIK, Galjevica (The Way of Life of Slovenes in the 20th Century. Monographies.). Partizanska knjiga, Ljubljana 1981 (published in 1982). A publication of Znanstveni inštitut Filozofske fakultete, Ljubljana. Published by Partizanska knjiga, Ljubljana 1981. 260 pages, appendix with illustrations, in paper cover.

Slovene ethnology is enriched by a very interesting book on urban ethnology, the topic which has been so far dealt with in a more moderate way than it should deserve. The book was written by Mojca Ravnik who holds an M. A. in ethnology and is an instructor at the Department of Ethnology at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. The present publication is the first of the future series of monographies of selected localities, settlements and social communities which are characteristic for the way of life on Slovene ethnic territory in this century.

The book has comprised a research of a Ljubljana suburban working-class settlement Galjevica which developed during the time of the housing shortage between World War I and II. The research follows cultural changes in the life of the Galjevica inhabitants from the beginning up to the present time.

The opening chapter presents economical, social and political extensions of a housing shortage crisis and thus the conditions from which this settlement originated as an emergency refuge for numerous working-class families. The outline within which the author follows cultural changes is the observation of individual households, families, relatives and community. Her interpretation is supplemented by immediate statements of people living in the community. It should be mentioned that the combination of statistical data about households and families and the narrations of the people interviewed lead to the discovery of characteristic features of social life in a working-class suburb in the past and today. It is significant that the basis for cohabitation used to be mainly the solidarity among people who shared the same