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Mirror, mirror on the wall...” Hungarian–Romanian Identity Hierarchy in Teiuș (Alba county)

Keywords: Self-image, identity, nations, national characteristics, auto-stereotype, hetero-stereotype, interethnic relations, Teiuș, Alba county

This part of my future doctoral thesis proposes to present the strongest influences on the identity-construction of the Hungarian diaspora living in Teiuș (in Hungarian Tövis), Alba county. The paper looks at the most important constituents, general and particular, of the self-image of the Hungarian community in Teiuș, but also of other Hungarian communities in Transylvania by specifying auto- and hetero-stereotypes, but also by investigating the imaginary and factual opinions of Romanians about Hungarians, as perceived by Hungarians. The Hungarians' self-image is conceived in two different ways: compared to other Hungarian communities and to the Romanian locals. I asked my Romanian informants about their perception about the Hungarian locals.

Mária Orsolya Tóth

“... if my prayer will be heard.” The First 15 Years of the Szeklers from Bucovina Settled Near Luduș in Archival Documents

Keywords: colonization, Szeklers from Bucovina, archival documents, colonization and naturalization requests

This paper examines the recently discovered archival documents about the Szeklers from Bucovina settled near Luduș, found in the National Archives of Budapest, representing four types of documents. The first one is a record of farmers who needed support for purchasing domestic animals. The next report is the documentation of the naturalization request and its process. The third type of documents consist in three settlement requests presented in the second part of the colonization along with the response. The last document shows an expropriation case and its remedy. These documents are processed for the first time. All the presented files reveal some so far unknown features about the Szeklers from Bucovina established near Luduș, giving a new perspective on the anthropological and politico-economic research.

Katalin Pajor

Local and Ethnic Identity Constructions in Life Stories. Partial Results of a Research within the Population of Mixed-Ethnic Towns in Slovakia

Keywords: life story, local identity, ethnicity, interethnicity, hermeneutic phenomenology

Regarding the last ethnological, cultural anthropological, literary, sociological and psychological theories (for instance, Foucault's discourse analysis, narratology, Lejeune's autobiographical

pact-theory), one property of modern life stories is that they reflect the identities of a given personality. In this study, I would like to aim at showing what they can tell us about the ethnic or local identities of an individual – with the help of an interdisciplinary analysis method. This method is based on the combination of three theories: hermeneutic phenomenology, the theoretical background of ethnography adopting narratology for text analysis; and discourse analysis. I would like to illustrate some examples offered by the results of a research about the inhabitants of Galanta, Gabčíkovo and Komárno (Slovakia), which have mixed-ethnic population. The research concentrates on the frame of Slovak-Hungarian relations.

Erika Tekei

The First Folk Ballad Collections of the Kriterion Publishing House in the Light of Editorial Correspondence

Keywords: Kriterion Publishing House, editorial correspondence, Hungarian folk ballad collections, scientific representation, maintaining local and regional identity

Kriterion Publishing House was founded at the end of 1969 in Bucharest, and its first publications were released in the early 1970s. It was established with the aim of publishing books in the languages of the minorities in Romania, translating Romanian literary works into the language of national minorities, translating books of minority authors into Romanian, promoting intercultural dialogue. The Hungarian department was based in Bucharest and a separate office was operating in Transylvania, at Cluj-Napoca. The present paper offers a selection of letters, editorial correspondence on the subject of publishing Hungarian ballad collections in the early '70s.

Péter Bálint

Narratives of Seduction and its Rejection in Folktales (The story of Joseph and Potiphar's Wife)

Keywords: folktales, narratives, the Hebrew Bible and the Quran, Joseph and Potiphar's Wife, lust

Knowing the Carpathian Basin fairy tale corpus, we can say that the story of the “Two Brothers” or the “Two Identical Friends” is an exemplary narrative woven from several consecutive episodes from the Bible and the Qur'an into a “unity”, which has come into the folk tale tradition over several centuries. Narrators from different local areas and religious denominations can be clearly noted: the story itself can be broken up into further episodes so that the exemplary nature of the individual episodes make it easier for the audience to absorb it from the perspectives of the practice of virtue and the discourses full of life experience.

Dóra Pál-Kovács

Transgressive Movements in Couple Dance – According to Revival Dancers’ Experiences

Keywords: transgression, couple dance, touching

The relations between men and women have never been clearly defined, analysed or interpreted either in Hungarian dance folkloristics, or in folk dance education, which are based on a historical-geographical and structuralist research approaches. This paper deals with a part of a research started in 2012 focusing on the society’s legitimate and illegitimate aspects of touching in couple dance according to the experiences of revival dancers.

Péter Halász

Willow Spinning as a Traditional Craft in the Moldavian Pusztna

Keywords: object ethnography, willow spinning, basket weaving, Moldavian Csángós

In the traditional peasant family, woven utensils and baskets from willow sticks for various purposes were made primarily by men gathered by an activity called collecting by ethnography. The Hungarian population of Pusztna, founded by the Székelys fleeing Transylvania at the end of the 18th century - due to its small and poor quality land - was particularly reliant on this craft, which was practiced by many as a home industry, and the barter trade was based on it. The less land someone had, the more they needed the crops they got for their baskets, especially corn for food and fodder. The canes of the willows grown next to the waters were collected, peeled, sorted, split if necessary, soaked before use, and then, with their special knowledge, turned into baskets for different purposes. The sale took place partly locally, partly with own or rented horse-drawn carriages, and further away by rail. To weave the basket, they used the simplest tools, a knife (more recently pruning shears), a blacksmith made peeling iron, and a self-carved stick-splitter. On exchange trips, for a basket, they were usually given twice as much tubular corn, or one and a half times as many grains as could fit in.

Zsolt Nagy

The Öllerer Family Left in the Shadows. An Austrian Family of Flower Gardeners in Transylvania in the “Short 20th Century”

Keywords: flower gardeners, the Öllerer family, ornamental horticulture, reproduction and trade of plants

By the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries almost every city in Transylvania had at least one or two permanent flower gardeners, who through their diversified expertise and work had gained great esteem and respect among the locals and enjoyed a local-regional reputation. The members of the Öllerer family have been engaged for several generations in ornamental horticulture in

Târgu Mureş, but also in the reproduction and trade of plants. The date and circumstances of their establishment in Transylvania at this time are still unknown. The study presents the floricultural activity of the family members from the First World War until the regime change in 1989, during the “short 20th century”. Using ethnographic methods, materials available in national archives, interviews, family documents, as well as articles and reports from the periodical press, the study aims to reveal how the members of the Öllerer family switched from noble mansion gardeners to urban flower gardeners, and during the dictatorship auxiliary workers or technicians.

György Ruzsa

Prayer Concealed in a Mould: the Mould for the Copper Icon of St. Seraphim

Keywords: mould, Russian copper-alloy icons, St. Seraphim of Sarov

The author describes a unique and rather rare casting form. Casting forms assisted the casting of copper icons, or rather copper-alloy icons like the icon of St. Seraphim of Sarov. The object in question is considered a rarity for more than one reason. On the whole, very few casting forms survive, and St. Seraphim of Sarov was seldom represented in copper icons. The study deals with 19th -century foundries amongst others and with icons made in the village of Krasnoje (in the Kostroma region) and the activity of the Old Ritualist, (Old Believer) master-crafts-man Piotr Iakovlevitch Serov. The mould under scrutiny was made in the second half of the 19th century for the copper-alloy icon of St. Seraphim. This premise is reinforced by a text fashioned in mirror writing with Cyrillic letters: “Miracle-working St. Seraphim of Sarov”. These recessed letters appeared in relief on the mould. The reader will get a brief acquaintance with the hagiography of St. Seraphim of Sarov (1754-1833), who was one of the most recognised Russian Ascetic. He was canonized in 1903. As is well known, the date of canonization often presents a basis for dating the relevant icons. In the case of the icons of St. Seraphim, however, one needs to make an exception, since very soon after his death he became extremely popular and he was almost revered as a saint.