

SIEF is an international scholarly organization founded in 1964. The major purpose of the SIEF-organization is to facilitate cooperation among scholars working within European Ethnology, Folklore Studies and adjoining fields.

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EDITORIAL

During fall 2007 the SIEF secretariat has been working on the improvement of the society's digital communication. The website in particular had become outdated. The Secretariat is pleased that, thanks to the skills of Rob Zeeman from the Meertens Institute, the SIEF's website is now completely reworked, technically as well as for its design. This newsletter, too, will be available on the new website. The renewal of SIEF is a continuing process through different means and media, and, of course with the support and input of all members. Therefore the start of a new H-Folk listsery, announced in this issue, will also be of interest to all.

This newsletter itself offers again a mix of news relevant to the membership. Looking towards the near future, in 2008 the 9th SIEF congress in Derry will be held. More about this congress can be found in this newsletter. I sincerely hope you will all be able to participate in this congress with its challenging themes, and not in the last place because of its scheduled 'ethnological karaoke'. Finally, last month SIEF received the digitally published texts of SIEF's congres of 2004 in Marseille. The texts keynotes and the summaries of the panels held in Marseille are published on CD and in a accompanying booklet. The members will find this publication in the same postal mailing as the newsletter; the full information is also available online on the 'E-library' page of the SIEF website.

IMAGINING DERRY! - LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR SIEF MEMBERS, DEAR COLLEAGUES,

June 2008 is approaching rapdily and with it the 9th SIEF Congress, held for the first time on the British Isles, in Derry, Northern Ireland. This scholarly event is being planned by the program committee and the local organizing committee, keeping the subtheme of the congress – liberating the ethnological imagination – well in mind. More than 360 individuals have announced their active participation in panels, workshops and what promise to be truly special events. In order for as many participants as possible to make the journey to Derry, it is



President Regina Bendix with gavel Photo: C. Sánchez-Carretero

vital for each and everyone to also put on a thinking cap with regard to raising the necessary travel funds. During its most recent meeting, the SIEF board was confronted with the high costs entailed in the organization of an international event on the one hand and with the increasing difficulty to successfully raise funds for it. However, there are pockets of scholarly travel support available in many institutions as well as national scholarly funding agencies. The board is thus warmly and urgently suggesting to all participants to seek travel support from their own institutions, regions and/or nations, utilizing also exchange agreements that exist for instance between the various national academies of sciences and compara-

ble British institutions. The programm committee has sent out confirmations of acceptance of papers and other conference contributions and those e-mail documents are today generally sufficient documentation for making application for travel subventions. Should further proof be required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Derry congress will bring up for discussion a number of important issues in the membership meeting and elections will be in order to replace the number of board members as well as the President and one Vice-President who are stepping down. The requisite preparatory materials will be mailed to all paid up members at least three months before the Derry congress.

At the Derry meeting I will pass on the baton of SIEF leadership to the next President elected by you, the members coming to attend our membership meeting. It will be ten years then that I have assisted in the leadership of our intellectually and internationally diverse organization, first three years as Vice-President and then seven years as President. The great pleasure of working for and with representatives of our discipline(s) was once again evident to me at the last board meeting. We share as a joint passion the topical breadth of our research field and recognize the special methodological and theoretical contributions we can make to questions preoccupying individuals of all walks of life. Simultaneously, working with colleagues under the umbrella of SIEF affords a rare yet vital opportunity for grasping the institutional differences under which we labor. Being a folklorist in the employ of a national academy in Slovenia presents very different working parameters from being a European ethnologist within the British or the Swedish university system. Perspectives on funding opportunities and vision for international programs differ vastly whether one resides in Portugal or Germany. The present and future of our professional practice rests on our capacity to negotiate the local and national administrations and policy makers, yet the international exchange and cooperation which SIEF has been seeking to foster and intensify for so many decades, offers opportunities very well in keeping with our conference theme. Jointly we can reflect on our disciplinary heritages and seek to liberate our disciplinary imagination for our growing and strengthening field of research.

Regina Bendix, President

SIEF BOARD MEETING

2. SIEF BOARD MEETING IN AMSTERDAM, 17 NOVEMBER 2007 (SHORT MINUTES)

On 17 November 2007, the executive board meeting of SIEF took place in Amsterdam.

Present: Regina Bendix (chair), Reginald Byron, Marjetka Golež Kaučič, Ullrich Kockel, João Leal, Peter Jan Margry, Bjarne Rogan, Cristina Sánchez-Carretero, Birgitta Svensson, Hetty Garcia (secr. assistant)

Excused: Luisa Del Giudice

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

- a. Added a new 3a (in addition to renumerated 3b, c and d)
- b. The minutes of the Board meeting on 10 December 2005 in Amsterdam are approved.

2. Conference activities

a. The booklet with CD-Rom, with the texts of the plenaries and the summaries of the panels of Marseille 2004 has arrived at the secretariat. Although some participants of the conference at Marseille received already individually a copy, copies will be send to all members in order to assure everyone has one, including SIEF members who did not go to Marseille.

The board is interested to know what other publications came out as a result of the Marseille panels. Panel convenors will be addressed by e-mail to inform the board.

b. For Derry 2008, a short-abstract book is foreseen and all panel convenors will be encouraged to bring up ideas for publications on the basis of their panels.

With the final reviewing of the results of the second call for papers, The Derry program is more or less set. During three conference days, there will be 52 panels and 360 presenters. Budget, cooperations and program are discussed.

There will be a general fee of 165 pounds with a student rate of 100 pounds. This will be the rate for SIEF-members; non-members will be charged a far higher rate.

A letter from the presidency will be sent out to invite the boards of sister organisations (EASA, AFS, DGV, AAA, ADAM, IUAEO etc.) to participate in the Derry conference. Likewise, letters will be sent to inform the editors of major ethnological and anthropological journals about the conference, in the hope that they will be present in order to scout for publications.

c. A proposal to organise the 2011 SIEF-congress in

Lisbon has been brought up by colleagues from Lisbon, Portugal. The creation of an inter-institutional Portuguese research center called CRIA (Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia / Center for Anthropological Research) brings together more than 60 PhD anthropologists and folklorists from different institutions (ISCTE, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Coimbra, Braga, etc). As a major initiative this new center would like to organise the SIEF 2011 conference. Their proposal will be presented in Derry, after which the final decision on where the conference will take place shall be made.

3. Preparation for the General Assembly 2008

- a. Concern with respect to the continuity of the SIEF secretariat and its base in Amsterdam brought up the notion of a Bylaw change by which it will be made possible that the Vice-President charged with secretarial affairs can serve for more then two three-year-terms. In relation to that it is necessary, like in other comparable organisations, to rename the position from Vice-President into Executive Vice-President. A new Bylaw will be formulated and submitted to the general assembly. b. In May 2007 proposals for Bylaw changes (to be approved in Derry 2008) have been sent to the membership. Meanwhile it became clear that some further changes are necessary. These changes were discussed extensively and will be sent as a proposal to the membership at least three months before the membership meeting in 2008. The changes regard uniform naming of working groups, commissions etc.; the structure of working groups and the necessity of working group members to be full SIEF members, paying yearly dues to the umbrella organisation; the keeping of the records of SIEF and its working groups.
- c. In June 2008, five new board members are needed for the board, because the formal terms of five sitting members (including two from the presidency) will come to an end; the consulting board member Sánchez-Carretero needs to be formally approved. Possibilities of new board members and on the composition of the presidency have been investigated and discussed. A formal list of candidates will be presented at the general assembly in Derry. While thus far no board nominations have been received from the membership, this opportunity will naturally remain open.

It is discussed to have the tasks of the board better divided among the board members. It is decided that board members will be specially charged with EU matters, UNESCO matters, Publicity and Publications, Liaison to the Working Groups, Program Committee Congresses etc.

d. Honarary members. The board agrees that the institution of honorary members is more or less outdated and proposes to take article 8 out of the Bylaws. The existing list of honorary members will then be frozen.

4. FINANCE

Due to an increase of members and a strict policy on the yearly dues, the financial position has improved in comparison to the past.

5. Working Groups

- a. Working groups: lists of members must be supplied to the SIEF secretariat and annual fees must be paid by all working group members.
- b. A proposal for a new SIEF working group on 'Cultural Heritage and Property' will be submitted at the general assembly in Derry 2008.
- c. A proposal for a new SIEF working group on 'Historical Approaches in Ethnology' will be submitted at the general assembly in Derry 2008.

6. SIEF AND PUBLISHING

a. The publication of a printed newsletter is still very much appreciated. Untill now it was, due to a lack of input from the membership, practically and financially not realistic to publish more then one newsletter a year.

- b. The SIEF website has been renewed completely. The design and presentation have been geratly improved. It is build upon a completely new structure, which enables better search functions, easier mutations etc.
- c. It was discussed if SIEF should have its own publication series, published by an international publisher; some possible publishers will be sounded out.

7 SIEF AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- a. Boardmember Marjetka Golež Kaučič will be the liaison board member regarding the European Union and its scientific and funding programmes.
- b. A letter from Tim Lloyd, executive director of the American Folklore Society, has arrived, in which proposals were made for more cooperation between the two societies. An answer by the presidency will be sent, in which the ideas are supported; as a starting activity, a jointly planned special-topic symposium might be organised.
- c. A SIEF (board) member will be asked to fullfill the role of liaison officer between SIEF and UNESCO.



BOARD MEETING 2007 PHOTO: P.J. MARGRY

9th SIEF Congress Derry/Londonderry 2008: Conference Up-Date

Preparations are continuing apace for next year's congress at the University of Ulster. The second call for papers and other contributions has now closed and the peer review process is almost completed. In the next couple of weeks, we will publish a provisional programme on the conference website (www.ulster.ac.uk/sief2008), with details of cost, booking arrangements, and much more. On-line booking will open after the Christmas vacation, and a reduced 'Early Bird' fee will be available for SIEF members until 15 February 2008. Moreover, SIEF members will benefit from special discounted rates for accommodation, and for those of who would like to see more of Ireland's wild and wonderful northwest region we can offer a multi-day excursion to Tory Island that will take in the summer solstice. More about all this below.

The two calls for papers attracted over 400 abstracts. After peer review some 360 of these have been accepted. With full details yet to be confirmed, at the moment the programme includes 278 papers, 60 workshop interventions, and 22 posters. If your contribution has been accepted, you will have already, or will shortly receive notification by e-mail.

Should you need a formal letter, for example to apply for a conference grant, please inform the conference office as soon as possible (sief2008@ulster.ac.uk), indicating any special requirements.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

We will start on Monday afternoon with the opening ceremony at the Guildhall, the city's main civic building, where the plenary sessions will be held. This is only a few minutes walk from the Magee campus where most of the sessions will take place. The opening keynote will be given by Peter Jan Margry from Amsterdam. Following the opening session will be the first thematic plenary, at which Wolfgang Kaschuba (Berlin) and Sharon Macdonald (Manchester) will introduce Tuesday's theme of 'European Heritages'. Proceedings for the day will close with a reception, after which you may wish to explore some of the local pubs where you can hear live Irish music.

Ten parallel paper sessions on the Magee campus and a number of workshops at different locations in the city will keep you busy over the next three days. There are some 52 different panels or workshops, many running over several sessions. We are trying to keep thematically connected panels in the same or adjacent rooms. Panel convenors will be instructed to maintain a strict timetable to allow for movement between papers. The posters will be on display throughout the three days with presenters in attendance at set times to discuss their work. There will also be film screenings, a book fair, and many other activities connected with the conference.

On Tuesday evening, the plenary speakers introducing the theme for Wednesday, 'Transcending Theories and Practices', will be Pertti Anttonen (Helsinki) and Gulnara Aitpaeva (Bishkek). After this plenary, there will be time for the various Commissions and Working Groups to conduct their business meetings. If you are convenor or a Commission or Working Group that wishes to hold a business meeting you should contact the conference office at the earliest opportunity to discuss your requirements (rooms, catering etc.), so that we can make suitable arrangements. The third theme, 'Performing the Ethnological Imagination', will be introduced on Wednesday evening by Dorothy Noyes (Ohio) and Helena Wulff (Stockholm). This will be followed by the Members' Meeting. At the closing ceremony on Thursday, the keynote will be given by Henry Glassie (Indiana).

And after all this academic business it will be time to, as they say in Ireland, let your hair down. We will celebrate with a big party – there will be food and drink, music, dance, and one or two surprises. If you play an instrument, know a song or dance, a poem or a story, please bring them along. There will be a price for the best 'party-piece'.

Provided the party does not go too wild, we will meet again the following morning when buses will be available to take you on a choice of excursions around Ulster. Destinations will include the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum near Belfast, the Ulster-American Folk Park near Omagh, and the Irish-speaking area in northwest Donegal; the latter destination you can visit on a day trip or, if you would like a more in-depth experience, you may join a small group visiting Tory Island for a long weekend.

Throughout the week there will be unusual ethnographic exhibitions and actions in which you may be asked to become a participant observer, opportunities to practice various crafts, and other creative moments.

ACCOMMODATION

SIEF members benefit from a special discount on campus accommodation, which is located only a short walk from the main conference venue. The accommodation is mainly in single en-suite bedrooms (some doubles, twins and rooms adapted for special needs are also available – please advise the conference office if you require any of these) and includes a basic breakfast. The rate per person per night is £30. Economy rooms with shared facilities are also available; the rate has not been confirmed yet but is likely to be less than £20 per person per night. All campus accommodation is in flats of usually six bedrooms with a fully equipped shared kitchen/common room. Reservations can be made on-line when you make your conference booking.

If you do not wish to stay on campus, there is a wide range of accommodation available in the city, from youth hostels to top class hotels. Details will shortly be available via the conference website. This accommodation cannot be arranged through the conference office, so you will need to contact your chosen lodgings directly. We are negotiating special rates with some of the most conveniently located ones, and will post these on the conference website.

Transport

The City of Derry Airport connects us with the world, and does so amazingly well – but you may have to do some creative surfing to find the best and cheapest connections. There are feeder flights twice a day to/from major international hubs at London Stansted and Dublin, and at least once per day to/from smaller hubs at Glasgow (both airports), Liverpool and Bristol. That means you can reach Derry using various combinations of Ryanair, Easyjet and a number of other airlines. Advice on connections will be posted on the conference website.

Belfast has two airports. Belfast International is probably better from southern and central Europe, Canada and the USA, while George Best Airport is connects with Britain, France and the more northern parts of Europe. You can also fly to Dublin, which is connected with our city by a regular direct bus service. This may be the best option if you are coming from eastern Europe or the USA.

If money is no object and you don't mind huge and rather stressful airports, you may also wish to fly via Heathrow, from where you can connect to George Best Airport or, if all goes according to plan for Aer Lingus, to Belfast International.

FEES

There will be two levels of conference fees – standard and concession – as well as daily rates. Concessionary fees are available for unwaged participants (students, unemployed); proof of status will be required when you collect your conference pack at registration.

Fees include tea/coffee at breaks, lunches, conference pack, and access to conference sessions. The conference party and the excursions are not included in the fees.

Please note that, in line with the practice of other scholarly associations, you can only present at this congress if you are a bona fide member of SIEF. For SIEF-members, there is a substantially discounted fee, which includes the membership dues for the 2008 calendar year. If you have already paid your dues for 2008, this will be carried forward to 2009. The 'Early Bird' fee for bookings received by 15 February 2007 is £165 (£100 concessions). After that date, the standard fee for SIEF-members will be £245 (£140 concessions).

The congress is open to non-members who wish to attend without presenting. For non-members, the full fee is £330 (concessions £200); bookings received after 31 March 2008 will attract an additional late fee of £90 (concessions £60).

Further details and on-line booking forms will be available on the conference website. Booking facilities will be live after the Christmas vacation.



THE CITY OF
DERRY/LONDONDERRY

4. Soon: NEW H-FOLK LISTSERV

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new list-sery, H-FOLK, intended to allow folklorists and ethnologists to discuss scholarly issues and share research news and queries with one another. Six international organizations are co-sponsoring this initiative, to be launched at the beginning of 2008.

This list arose out of a concern with fragmentation in the field. We are stupendously diverse in the cultures and genres we study, the paradigms we draw on, and our professional situations. But we face common issues in our work, such as global economic and environmental change, international conflict, identity politics, and transformations in cultural policy. Because the institutional frameworks of folklore research are usually national (and often nationalist) in character, it is both difficult and urgent for folklorists and ethnologists to connect across borders. So the new list is intended to provide an international forum. We see the list as serving several specific needs:

 Many folklorists work in state or regional institutions and have little opportunity to connect with colleagues abroad. The listserv will be an excellent avenue of internationalization, allowing us to learn of innovati-

- ve work happening around the world and helping us to work against the isolationism into which we are sometimes forced by local cultural politics (it is certainly often the case in the U.S.).
- Folklorists often publish their research in local, ephemeral, or extradisciplinary settings, making it difficult for all of us to keep up with our own field. The list-serv should be used to publicize conferences, books, exhibitions, articles, films, and so on, so that our work does not go unnoticed by our own colleagues and so that we may assess more realistically the state and scope of the field as a whole.
- The listserv can be used to pool our expertise, so that students who lack a local expert in their area of interest can find one, or colleagues beginning a new research project can find out what others have done.
- Because local cultures and traditions are increasingly invoked in international politics, both in conflict situations and in the activities of intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO and WIPO, it is important to have a forum allowing for broad and timely discussion.

With these concerns in mind, we approached H-Net (Humanities and Social Sciences Online, http://www.h-net.org/). This nonprofit consortium, based in the U.S. at Michigan State University, administers over 100

monitored scholarly e-mail discussion lists with international scope. H-Net provides space on its server for the list and an adjunct website, along with standard templates and oversight. In addition, it maintains an archive of list discussion and provides for cross-listing of relevant content to other lists. These possibilities can help to create greater visibility and academic legitimacy for our field.

The Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore at the University of Tartu and the Estonian Literary Museum have generously agreed to take primary responsibility for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the listserv. The American Folklore Society is doing the initial setup work.

 M.D. Muthukumaraswamy of the National Folklore Support Center in Chennai, India.

An invitation to subscribe will be sent to all members of these organizations as soon as the list is ready to launch, and we hope that you will assist us both in publicizing the list and in opening up the kind of communications the field so much needs. Watch for the invitation early in 2008.

Dorothy Noyes, The Ohio State University noyes.10@osu.edu



In addition, H-FOLK will have an advisory board of six people representing the current institutional partners.

- Cristina Sánchez-Carretero of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid, representing SIEF
- Donald Haase of Wayne State University, Detroit, representing the International Society for Folk Narrative Research
- Dorothy Noyes of the Ohio State University,
 Columbus, representing the American Folklore Society
- Ian Brodie of Cape Breton University, representing the Folklore Studies Association of Canada / Association Canadienne d'Ethnologie et de Folklore
- Ian Russell of the Elphinstone Institute, Aberdeen, representing the Folklore Society of Great Britain

5. Public Folklore in the Netherlands

The Netherlands can boast on a vibrant tradition in public folklore and in folklore research. As the Meertens Institute in Amsterdam takes care of the research, the Nederlands Centrum voor Volkscultuur (Dutch Center for Popular Culture) in Utrecht, is the public folklore institution. The institute in Utrecht organizes a number of activities, including a website (www.volkscultuur.nl) and a popular magazine called *Traditie*. In addition to that the center organizes yearly themes like in 2006 the year of the circus (www.jaarvanhetcircus.nl), to attract popular attention to specific folkloristic themes.

Brokering culture

Public folklore is a form of brokering culture, which is strongly in demand nowadays. The term 'public folklore' was coined in the United States of America. An important institution in this field is the Smithsonian Center for Folklife, well known for its American Folklife Festival which is held every year on the National Mall in Washington. In Europe 'public folklore' was first viewed with suspicion, because of its connotation with 'fake' folkloristics. Both traditions met in a symposium in Bad Homburg in the late nineties, the lectures were published in German and in English (the English version in a special issue of the Journal of Folklore Research in 1999). What in the American tradition was felt as a useful way of brokering culture to the public at large, in the German tradition it had a connation of 'fake' folkloristics reminiscent of 'Folklorismus' or second hand culture.

The UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, which was adopted in 2003 and came into force in 2006, gave rise to new and fresh discussions on the subject. 'Heritage' has become a part of cultural policies all over Europe. It is said that 'heritage' is a way of fostering cohesion, that is to say of managing ethnicity in a society which has become ethnically divided. Folklore Studies is also trying to address these new questions, whereby folklore, to put it bluntly, is once again used for political ends. Public folklore is only a small part of this new attention for 'public heritage', but not an unimportant on. As the American folklore scholar Simon Bronner has stated in a recent interview: 'tradition is part of a rhetoric along with heritage, community, custom and culture used to signify a need for

social connection and sense of past and place that offers an identity shared with others from one generation to another. (...) [By the media] the folklorist is seen as an expert on tradition, that is differentiated from the historian's past, the sociologist's society, and the psychologist's mind.' How should folklorists react on this growing public demand?

Public folklore in the Netherlands

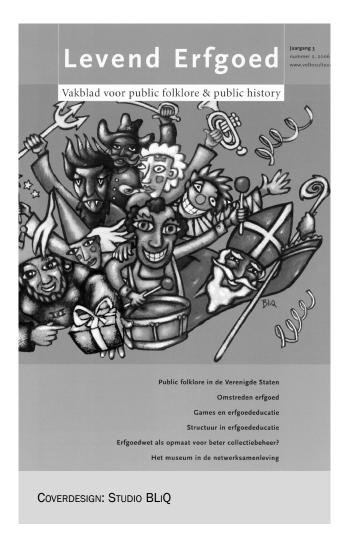
As in Germany, in the Netherlands the political uses of folklore were for a very long time viewed with suspicion. At the same time the Netherlands have a long tradition in what is now called 'public folklore'. Already in the 1950s there was a Beraad voor het Nederlands Volksleven, a consultative council for the Ministry of Culture in the field of folklore. Issues discussed were, among others, cultural tourism and education. In 1984, with support of government funds, the Informatiecentrum Volkscultuur was created, a professional bureau for popularising knowledge about tradition and trends. In 1992 this bureau renamed itself in the Nederlands Centrum voor Volkscultuur (Dutch Center for Popular Culture), as a further momentum in the professionalisation of this sector.

Nowadays the Nederlands Centrum voor Volkscultuur is a vibrant centre, located in the central part of the Netherlands, in the medieval town of Utrecht. The Centers undertakes a number of activities: we issue practical guides, organize long lasting projects on diverse subjects, cooperate with other institutions in the field like the Open Air Museums in Arnhem and Enkhuizen and the Meertens Institute. We also publish several magazines: our popular magazine is called *Traditie*. For people active in the field of folklore we have another quarterly: *Volkscultuur Magazine*.

LIVING HERITAGE

As to the popular uses of folklore in society at large, we find it important to reflect on our activities within the broader field of 'public heritage'. For professionals in the field of public heritage we issue our magazine *Levend Erfgoed. Vakblad voor public folklore & public history.* This magazine addresses itself to cultural brokers employed for instance in museums and archives. In our magazine we want to reflect on issues concerning the cultural brokering of folklore and history. *Levend Erfgoed* is

published in a frequency of two times a year and reflects on cultural policy, public projects in museums and the tourist sector, projects of heritage institutions like for instance the Nederlands Centrum voor Volkscultuur. We devote much attention to practical examples, for instance specific educational projects of heritage institutions. But we also publish reflective essays on new trends and developments. The articles in *Levend Erfgoed* [literally: Living Heritage] are mostly in Dutch. But our latest



issue also contains two English pieces, which deserve a broader dissemination. In this new issue of *Levend Erfgoed* we have published an interview with the American folklorist Simon Bronner. In addition to that there is also an English article of the Dutch/English geographer Gregory Ashworth, about 'contested heritage'. Bronner had a one semester assignment at the University of Leiden, as Walt Whitman Distinguished Chair in American Cultural Studies (Fullbright Program). In this semester he gained knowledge about the way in which in the Netherlands public folklore is practiced. He is then well situated to compare the practi-

ce of public folklore in the Netherlands with the practice of public folklore in the United States. In addition to that he gives some useful comments on the role of tradition in contemporary society, whereby he emphasises that 'tradition is not a relic attracting an archaeologist's digging, but a constantly changing and renewable resource that requires eyes and ears to contemporary behavior and thinking as well historical and sociological knowledge.' In the interview he furthermore reflects on the issues of folklore and cultural tourism and on folklore as a way of 'managing ethnicity'.

Public heritage is often presented as a warm cuddly blanket, under which all are welcome to shelter. In his article about 'Contested heritage' the Dutch/English geographer Gregory Ashworth shows that heritage also can be a reason for discord or even violence. His starting point is that 'All heritage is by definition someone's heritage and thus not someone else's.' Heritage can give rise to all kind of conflicts, whereby the heritage of a deviant group can simply be eradicated, either by removing or destroying it. 'If the winners write the history, they also create the heritage.' Ashworth focuses our attention on the potentially dissonant aspects of heritage.

With this issue of Levend Erfgoed the center also wants to come into contact with other public folklore institutions in Europe and the US, to exchange experiences. In this respect the SIEF Newsletter can be a useful tool. In the US, the American Folklore Society can boast on a Public Programs Section, which deals with public folklore. Perhaps we can start with collecting names of organizations and websites of public folklore institutions in Europe, for a specific public folklore section on the website of SIEF. In the future this can lead perhaps to the institution of a SIEF Working Group on public folklore?

For more information or a free copy of *Levend Erfgoed*, contact us at: ncv@volkscultuur.nl.

Albert van der Zeijden

6. REPORT ON THE RITUAL YEAR AND HISTORY. THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SIEF WORKING GROUP ON 'THE RITUAL YEAR', STRAŽNICE, CZECH REPUBLIC. MAY 25-29, 2007

The conference was arranged by the organizing committee of the SIEF Working Group on The Ritual Year (Jan Rychlík, Czech Republic; Irina Sedakova, Russia; Katia Mihailova, Bulgaria) with great support of Vlasta Ondrušová, the Vice-Director of the National Institute for Folk Culture (NULK) in Stražnice – where the conference took place.

The venue and the time of the conference were chosen partly with the aim to see the famous well preserved Moravian ritual 'The Ride of the King', due on May, 27 in Vlcnov, Czech Republic (a presentation on this ritual was read by the professor of Charles University in Prague Jan Rychlík and will be published in the *Proceedings of the Second international conference of the SIEF Working Group on The Ritual Year*, Gothenburg). This ritual procession has many historical allusions, so the general title of the conference was logical and appropriate. To attract attention of more scholars from Central and Eastern Europe and to learn more about the Ritual year and its historical changes in the countries located there, was also one of the intentions of the organizers while arranging the conference in Czech Republic. As a

result over 35 scholars from 18 countries gave contributions on the various aspects of the ritual Year.

The conference was opened in the Castle of Stražnice by the Vice-Director of NULK Vlasta Ondrušová. The welcoming addresses were given by the secretary of the working group Irina Sedakova and one of the hosts of the conference Jan Rychlík. The President of the SIEF working group on The Ritual Year Emily Lyle (Edinburgh, Scotland) gave an Opening address 'The Incorporation of Crisis Rituals and Historical Events in the Ritual Year', in which she specified the major ways to research 'The Ritual Year and History'. George Mifsud-Chircop (Malta) in his paper 'The Ritual-Year Cycle in Pre-1960 Malta' spotlighted the major Maltese customs and folklore referred to the year cycle. This day we heard seven more papers, revealing the impact of socio-political developments on the Ritual life of the Udmurts (Tatiana Minniakhmnetova, Innsbruck); the annual Equesterian games of the Gardians of Provence (John Stanley, USA); history of Neo-paganism and Neo-pagan reinterpretations of the history (Jenny Butler, Cork). Kamila Velkoborska (Czech Republic) analyzed Jane Ellen Harrison's biography and her academic views on the ritual. Lina Midholm (Sweden) read a paper on the traditional Swedish weatherlore on the base of the data kept in the Archive of the Institute of Onomastics, Folklore and Dialectology research (SOFI), and Johanna Stålberg gave a vivid presentation of the Swedish Christmas Rituals with the figure of a goat in the historical prospec-



THE KING IN THE RITUAL PROCESSION 'THE RIDE OF THE KING', 27 May, 2007

PHOTO: AADO LINTROP

tive. The academic program of the first day ended up with a power-point presentation on the Estonian multimedial program of the ritual year (Andres Kuperjanov and Mare Kõiva). There followed a lively and substantial discussion on how to preserve, use and present the folklore and ethnological data with the help of the computers.

On that evening the ritual year group celebrated the beginning of the conference in the vine-cellars of Stražnice, enjoying the wine, the unique atmospheres of the place and listening to the explanations of the local wine-makers on the history of wine-making in Moravia. The second working day of the conference Evy Johanne Håland (Norway) started with the orientation lecture 'The Ritual Year of Athena: the Agricultural Cycle of the Olive, Girl's Passage Rites, and Official Ideology'. Then two papers followed on Austrian rituals, read by Molly Carter (Sheffield, England) and Helena Ruotsala (Finland). Emily Lyle (Edinburgh, Scotland) explored the seasonal contest of the young men, the winning of which is related to good luck (corps), and saw it as originating in shamanic practice.

In the afternoon the contributors analyzed correlation between life cycle and the ritual year. Evy Johanne Hålland spoke on 'The Ideas of Water' in Greek Life-Cycle passages; Elizabeth Warner (England) investigated the status of the untimely dead and put this topic in the context of the ritual games of Whitsuntide in Russia; Aado Lintrop (Estonia) presented a paper 'Commemoration of the Dead as a Part of the Udmurt Ritual Year' and Mojca Ramšak (Slovenia) spoke on death and dying among the Slovene minority in Austria. In the next panel Jan Rychlík started with a detailed overview of the celebrations of the historic events among the Czechs and Slovaks. Laurent Sébastian Fournier (France) regarded the claimed historicity of contemporary calendar festivals in Provence; Mirjana Mirchevska (Macedonia) spoke on the masks and guising in Macedonia. Arunas Vaicekauskas (Lithuania) concentrated on the analysis of the social background of the masker's plays in Lithuania.

In the evening the group had a guided tour in the Stražnice open air museum. On Sunday, 27th of May, early in the morning, the conference group was taken to Vlčnov, a little Moravian town, where the Ride of the King took place. First the participants of the festival (all

the boys and girls who reached the age of 18) in beautiful national local garments got their blessings in the church, then the boys with the help of their relatives decorated their horses with flowers and then they went to take 'the King' – the boy of 12 years old, from a reputable family. The procession passed through the whole town, while the King disguised in girls garments was keeping silence, holding a rose in his mouth. The older boys were calling out short rhymes, asking for money. Meanwhile many smaller and bigger orchestras, ensembles and choirs were performing in all the streets of the town. The conference group was invited by the mayor of Vlcnov, who told us the history of this festival.

During the next day there were 13 lectures and papers presented. Marina Valentsova in her orientation lecture 'Traditional Ritual Year of the Czechs and Slovaks' pointed out the major points in the calendric festivities; Katarína Molnárová, Elena Zahradníková spoke on 'TheWays of Presentation of the Calendar Customs in the Museum of the Slovak Village'. The next panel was dedicated to the historical changes in the former Soviet and modern Russian calendars. Irina Sedakova, Olga Pashina and Ekaterina Dorokhova (Russia) analyzed the new constructions in the official ritual year; the interrelation between the traditional calendar rituals and the system of Soviet holidays; the influence of social and ecological crises on maintaining calendar rituals.

In the afternoon, Anna Plotnikova (Russia) explored in detail the cult of St Savva in Serbian Ritual Year; Kincso Verebélyi (Hungary) spoke on the specifics of St George's Day in Hungary (in European context); Kinga Gáspár (Hungary) spoke about 'Celebrating Fiftieth Birthdays during a Village Feast: New Scripts for the Hungarian Ritual Year' and Nancy C. McEntire (USA) on 'Blackening and Foot-washing: a Look at Scottish Wedding Pranks'.

Then followed four more papers: Nils-Arvid Bringéus (Norway) 'How the Christmas crib came to Sweden, an example of a tradition brought from Germany'; Tora Wall (Sweden) 'Comforter-trees or Gifts for Santa Claus: Toddlers' Rites of Passage'; Marlene Hugoson (Sweden) 'The Naked Christmas – Art, Kitsch and Advertising in Sweden' and Eva Carlsson Werle (Sweden) 'The Swedish Lucia Festival: a Paradox'.

During the SIEF Ritual Year Working Group Annual

RITUAL YEAR WG

Meeting the conference participants shared their ideas about the conference in Stražnice and the ritual year conferences in general. It was decided that the proceedings of the conferences will be published as a series under the title 'The Ritual Year' with the general title of the conference. The next conference will be held in Cork, Ireland, 22–26 June 2008, organised by Folklore and Ethnology Department, University College, Cork. The 2009 conference will be held in Kaunas, Lithuania.

The participants of the conference 'The Ritual Year and History' expressed profound gratitude to the Director Jan Krist and the staff of the Stražnice Institute (NULK). Our special thanks go to Dr Vlasta Ondrušová, who put all her effort to make the conference run smoothly and our stay in Moravia unforgettable. The good-bye dinner with national food and music added to the success of the conference.

The following day the members of the conference visited another museum in the open year, one of the oldest European skansens - The Wallakhian village of Rožnov (www.vmp.cz) and had a short guided tour in the famous as 'The Fortress of Culture' town of Uherské Hradište.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information and topical subjects see the SIEF website (http://www.siefhome.org/) or the website of the working group: http://www.ritualyear.com/

Irina Sedakova



THE PARTICIPANTS GATHERED IN THE SKANSEN, STRAŽNICE. PHOTO: E. BEREZOVICH

7. News from the International Ballad Commission / Kommission für Volksdichtung

The 37th International Conference of the Kommission für Volksdichtung was held at the Balmacara Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh, Scotland, 29 August – 3 September 2007, organized by the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen. Members attended from Scotland, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, USA, Wales.

The west of Scotland is not renowned for the clemency of its weather, but in fact we were favoured and experienced very little heavy rain, while the constantly changing view of the Isle of Skye from the hotel was endlessly fascinating and gave us a flavour of the landscape in all its moods. Having put in just one day's work in the conference room, the Friday was taken up with a full day's excursion to Skye. Shortly after breakfast we visited the Talisker whisky distillery, before driving on to the Dùn Beag broch, a prehistoric circular stone fortification of a kind once common in Scotland, where a brief shower caught out those of us who had left our coats on the bus. We proceeded along narrow roads (with frequent stops at passing places) to the Skye Museum of Highland Life, with its reconstructions of the island's blackhouses and displays of aspects of island life, and views across to the isle of Harris. Windy in summer, we gained just an inkling of how tough life must have been the year round. After lunch at the Duntulm Castle Hotel, we proceeded back down the coast, passing the Old Man of Storr and stopping at the Kilt Rock, which features the same geological formation as the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and at Portree (to visit the cash dispenser). Throughout the trip Tom McKean directed our attention to points of interest (including the ruder meaning of the Gaelic name of the Old Man of Storr), got us singing, and infected us with his evident love of the island.

Each evening of the conference was taken up with singing and music making. Highlights included an introduction to the bagpipes of Scotland with maestro bagpiper Dougie Pincock and Gaelic singer Margaret Bennett, and a concert of Gaelic song and music with Rona Lightfoot from South Uist and students from the Sgoil

Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd (the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music). In addition, our own members sang late into the evenings (very late in some cases).

But back to work: the conference was notable for the extent of its adherence to the themes that had been previously announced. Many speakers stuck to the broad theme of 'songs on the move' - songs of people on the move, immigration and emigration; songs as carriers of minority culture; songs about aspects of travel; and the travels of songs themselves. Other session topics included orality, the functions of songs, aspects of performance, aspects of meaning in songs, and the history of ballad scholarship. Tributes were paid to our late colleagues Reimund Kvideland and Lutz Röhrich with a session devoted to their interests and legacy, and ballads that reflected some of Reimund's interests came up again in other sessions. These themes proved particularly informative, with many papers telling us about aspects of balladry that may not have been familiar. As ever, the academic standard of the conference was high and left us feeling invigorated for our own subsequent efforts.

The Balmacara Hotel looked after us well, being both friendly and efficient. A special treat was to find that several of the waiting staff were also students of the ballad and Gaelic song, and were singers in their own right. Needless to say, they were persuaded to sing for us on more than one occasion, which was a delightful experience.

David Atkinson

8. MIXED NEWS & REPORTS

Anthropological Journal of European Cultures

The Anthropological Journal of European Cultures (www.journals.berghahnbooks.com/ajec) welcomes articles, reviews and research reports. Published since 1990, AJEC engages with current debates and innovative research agendas addressing the social and cultural transformations of contemporary European societies. The journal serves as an important forum for ethnographic research in and on Europe, which in this context is not defined narrowly as a geopolitical entity but rather as a meaningful cultural construction in people's lives, which both legitimates political power and calls forth practices of resistance and subversion. By presenting both new field studies and theoretical reflections on the history and politics of studying culture in Europe anthropologically, AJEC encompasses different academic traditions of engaging with its subject, from social and cultural anthropology to European ethnology and empirische Kulturwissenschaften. In addition to the thematic focus of each issue, which has characterised the journal from its inception, AJEC will in future also carry individual articles on other topics addressing aspects of social and cultural transformations in contemporary Europe from an ethnographically grounded anthropological perspective. All such contributions are peer reviewed. Each issue also includes book reviews and reports on major current research programmes.

Please send e-mail submissions to the Editor Ullrich Kockel (u.kockel@ulster.ac.uk)

Mailed submissions will be reviewed, however e-mail submissions are preferred. Please note that all correspondence will take place via e-mail. Mailed submissions must include the electronic file and two printed copies of the article and send to:

Ullrich Kockel
Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages
University of Ulster
Aberfoyle House, Northland Road
Londonderry, Northern Ireland BT48 7JL UK

Books for review should be sent to:

Máiréad Nic Craith

Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages

University of Ulster

Aberfoyle House, Northland Road Londonderry, Northern Ireland BT48 7JL UK Email: m.niccraith(at)ulster.ac.uk

The Wayland D. Hand Prize

The Folklore Historian, in association with the Folklore and History Section of the American Folklore Society, every other year will award the Wayland D. Hand Prize for an outstanding publication that combines historical and folkloristic perspectives. A work offered for consideration can be an authored book, edited volume or reference work, exhibition catalog, or a monograph published in 2006 or 2007.

The prize honors the eminent folklorist Wayland D. Hand (1907-1986), who in his teaching and scholarship encouraged historical methodology in folklore research. He was recognized for his effort by being awarded the international Giuseppe Pitre Folklore Prize and the Chicago Folklore Prize. The winner of the Wayland D. Hand Prize will receive 100 dollars and will be recognized in the newsletter of the American Folklore Society. The next prize will be awarded in 2008.

Submit three copies of the submission to

Nancy C. McEntire, Editor, The Folklore Historian. Department of English, Root Hall, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809 USA.

Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2008.

Master of Research in Cultural Heritages, New Interdiscipline at the University of Ulster

Based at the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages on the University of Ulster's Magee campus, the course is designed as research preparation for students interested in pursuing a PhD. It offers research training through a supervised project complemented by modules developing both generic and subject-specific skills. Modules include: Information, Writing and Communication; Sources and Methodologies; Research Environment; Key Debates in Theory and Practice; Concepts and Models in Cultural Heritages; Current Debates in Cultural Heritages.

Students work on a supervised project of their choice throughout the year. Projects are linked to the on-going research programme of the Academy. The main strands of the Academy's interdisciplinary research programme are: oral and written heritages; cultural encounters; and, environmental heritages. The scope of the programme is strongly international, and applicants with interests in other parts of Europe are welcome. Students are fully integrated into the Academy's vibrant postgraduate research environment, and into the Faculty's Research Graduate School.

Applicants must hold a first or upper-second class honours degree in an arts, humanities or social science subject; and, to qualify for a full studentship including fees and maintenance, must be UK residents (EU applicants may receive fees only awards).

Further details of the research programme are available on the Academy's web pages at:

www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/research/aich/index.htm or by contacting the Director of the Academy, Prof. Máiréad Nic Craith (m.niccraith@ulster.ac.uk).

Information about the Faculty of Arts Research Graduate School can be found at:

ww.arts.ulster.ac.uk/research/graduate_school/index.htm **Apply online** www.ulster.ac.uk/applyonline or e-mail, mail, or fax a cover letter (including a discussion of your strengths as a candidate) and an application for admission form, available from:

http://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/rps/forms/rsl.pdf

Award for best unpublished essay in Jewish folklore and ethnology by a student completed in 2006 or 2007

Format and Guidelines: 8-12.000 words, in English, prepared electronically in Word or Word Perfect (preferably in humanistic style with endnotes).

Deadline: August 1, 2007

Contact: Professor Simon J. Bronner,

School of Humanitie

The Pennsylvania State University
777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown

PA 17057-4898, USA sbronner@psu.edu

The Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section of the American Folklore Society and the Committee on the Anthropology of Jews and Judaism of the American Anthropological Association invites submissions for its Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology awarded for the best unpublished student paper completed in 2006 or 2007. Submissions are reviewed by an international committee and notifications are made by October 2007. Papers sent for the Prize are considered submissions to the book series Jewish Cultural Studies (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, Oxford, UK, www.littman.co.uk) and should not be under review with any other publication. The winner of the prize receives \$200 and a citation from the American Folklore Society.

The criteria for submissions are:

- 1. Approaches to the subject cover folkloristic and ethnological perspectives and Jewish content.
- 2. The length of papers are of publishable essay length, usually 8-12.000 words. The preferable citation style is in humanistic style with endnotes.
- 3. Submitted unpublished paper was written by a student in 2006 or 2007, and not submitted for publication.
- 4. Papers can be submitted electronically or in hard copy in English on or before August 1, 2007: Professor Simon Bronner, School of Humanities, The Pennsylvania State University, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898. Electronic submissions can use Word or Word Perfect software and sent directly to sbronner@psu.edu.
- Submitters should identify the university and department where the paper was prepared, and give their contact information, including postal and e-mail address.

For more information, see: www.afsnet.org/sections/jewish

Cross-cultural and multidisciplinary seminar on 'Women and Death', Bergen Norway, 2006

This conference was organized and chaired by Evy Johanne Håland at the Centre for Women and Gender Research (SKOK), University of Bergen, Norway 1–2 December 2006. The aim of the seminar was to shed new light on the theme 'Women and Death'. The result was that a variety of relevant topics were presented, such as ritual laments and other rituals mostly carried out in

female space – including offerings/sacrifices –, living or dead female mediators, etc. The program represented different perspectives and topics related to the theme 'Women and Death' from different periods and parts – particularly in the margins – of Europe, as well as the Middle East and Asia. The publication follows this up by also including studies of breast cancer metaphors from Slovenia and pre-modern Irish wakes, keening ('crying'/lamenting) women and beliefs surrounding

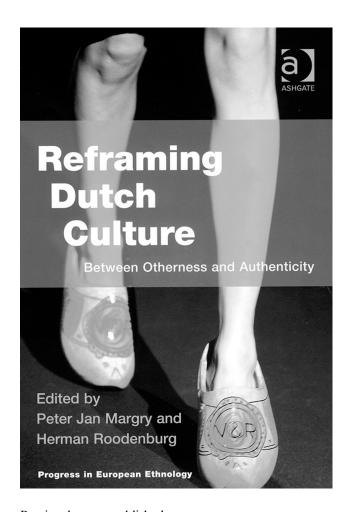
death. The participants come from a variety of related academic disciplines: anthropology, archaeology, classics and comparative literature, ethnology/ethnography, folklore, history and religious studies.

9. New Publications of Members

Some recent publications of SIEF members, made known to the SIEF secretariat:

- 1. Ullrich Kockel (Derry) is the series editor of an interesting series of books, called *Progress in European Ethnology*, published by Ashgate in Aldershot (see: https://www.ashgate.com/shopping/search_results.asp?k ey1=&key2=&seriesid=1199&seriesdesc=Progress%2 0in%20European%20Ethnology&location=series) Four volumes have been published yet. The most recent one is:
- a. Peter Jan Margry and Herman Roodenburg (eds), Reframing Dutch Culture. Between Otherness and Authenticity (2007) 306 p.; 0 7546 4705 6.

ABSTRACT: Dutch society has undergone radical changes in recent years, due to complex political, social and ethnic developments. Reframing Dutch Culture examines issues of nationality, ethnicity, culture and identity in The Netherlands from an ethnological perspective, linking past traditions and notions of identity with more recent transformations. Weaving in a range of fascinating case studies, contributors provide an interdisciplinary analysis of these changes. The developments are related to wider European and global transformation processes, highlighting the contribution of Dutch ethnology to the international debate. This timely collection provides a fascinating and insightful window on modern Dutch society.



Previously were published:

b. James R. Dow and Olaf Bockhorn, *The Study of European Ethnology in Austria* (2004)

ABSTRACT: The study of ethnology or 'Volkskunde' in Austria has had a troubled past. Through most of the 20th century it was under the influence of the so-called Viennese 'Mythological School' and the controversy between the two opposing branches, the 'Ritualist' and the 'Mythologists', set much of the agenda from the 1920s

until long after the World War ended in 1945. The volume examines two Austrian characters, Richard Wolfram and Karl Haiding, and the impact of their research and sets them in the context of Austrian ethnology before, during and after the war years. The book concludes by examining the present day ethnological outlook in the country.

c. Dunja Rihtman-Augustin and Jasna Capo Zmegac, Ethnology, Myth and Politics. Anthropologizing Croatian Ethnology (2004)

ABSTRACT: The book offers a critical overview of Croatian ethnology written by the most prominent Croatian ethnologist/ anthropologist in the second half of the 20th century - Dunja Rihtman-Augustin (recently deceased). She was the first Croatian ethnologist to break with the long established tradition of diffusionist (culture area) studies of her contemporaries and start to anthropologize Croatian ethnology. This book, compiled and completed by Jasna Capo Zmegac, highlights some crucial remarks with regard to the relationship between ethnology and politics. They are formulated as a series of research questions and problems, including: the role of folk culture as mythomoteur, cannonization of the folk culture, nationalization of the peasants in the 19th century and the role of ethnology. This vividly written text offers an exceptional insight into Croatian ethnological developments in the past century, as well as into crucial ruptures in Croatian society which have had important repercussions on ethnological discipline. (2004)

d. Ullrich Kockel, Regional Culture and Economic Development. Explorations in European Ethnology (2002)

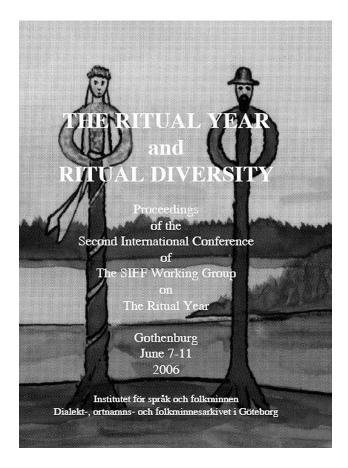
ABSTRACT: From an interdisciplinary perspective based primarily on European ethnology and political economy, this book explores issues and concepts concerning the link between culture and economy. A historical introduction to key theoretical problems is followed by five empirical chapters discussing aspects of development in rural as well as urban locations. The author considers local leadership, looking in particular at part-time farming, counter-urban migration, and pluriactivity. The classification of informal economy is illustrated with examples drawn from fieldwork, and urban poverty and migration are each explored in detail. A discussion of heritage and identity as a resource for development questions whether the concern with the authenticity of culture(s) may be an

inappropriate approach to take. The book concludes with a theoretical reflection on the problematic of culture and economy and a call for a return to the roots of European ethnology as an essentially political science.

2. Lina Midholm and Annika Nordström (eds), *The Ritual Year and Ritual Diversity. Proceedings of the Second International Conference of the SIEF Working Group on The Ritual Year, Gothenburg June 7–11, 2006* (Gothenburg: Institutet för språk och folkminnen, 2007)

ISBN 978-91-7229-039-6; price: 200 SEK/22 EUR.

E-mail: dag@sofi.se



The year 2006 was proclaimed a Cultural Diversity Year by the Swedish Government. As we live in times of great cultural diversity in the wide sense, the theme for the conference was decided to be Ritual Diversity, and divided into seven sessions: Midsummer, Ritual Theories, The Ritual Life, Whose Rituals?, Rituals in Religious Contexts, Rituals in a Changing World and Host and Places for the Ritual Year Conferences. People from twenty countries participated at the conference, and this book contains fortyone of the papers presented.

3. Evy Johanne Håland, *Greek Festivals*, *Modern and Ancient: A Comparison of Female and Male Values* (Kristiansand: Norwegian Academic Press, 2007) (in Norwegian, see: http://www.hoyskoleforlaget.no/)

The book, Greek Festivals, Modern and Ancient: A Comparison of Female and Male Values, is a product of studies in ancient history combined with fieldwork and anthropological analysis of today's Mediterranean societies. The central theme of the project is the values of the Greek people. Important topics discussed are whether peoples' beliefs and customs reflect one or several valuesystems, and how do these relate to men and women. The comparison is based on contemporary Greek religious festivals, on which an analysis of the fertility-cult in ancient and modern society is conducted. This is followed up by an examination of modern and ancient valuesystems, as expressed through the relationship between official religion and popular belief.

4. Klaus Roth & Ulf Brunnbauer (eds), *Urban Life and Culture in Southeastern Europe Anthropological and Historical Perspectives, Ethnologia Balkanica*, vol. 10, 2007, 368 S., 29.90 EUR, ISBN 978-3-8258-9903-5, ISSN 1111-0411

Urbanization in Southeastern Europe displays significant idiosyncrasies. While the region was predominantly rural long into the 20th century, cities grew rapidly after WWII, causing deep socio-cultural changes which gained in momentum after the end of socialism. The articles in this volume, originally presented at the conference 'Urban Life and Culture in Southeastern Europe' in Belgrade, May 2005, explore these changes past and present, focusing on urban culture, social topography, urban planning, and urban-rural relations.

Klaus Roth is Professor of European Ethnology at Munich University; Ulf Brunnbauer is Assistant Professor of History at the Institute for East European Studies, FU Berlin.

Back issues of Ethnologia Balkanica vols. 6–9 can be ordered for only 9 Euros per volume including postage. Interested members should write an e-mail to: k.roth@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

5. Lee Haring, Stars and Keys. Folktales and Creolization in the Indian Ocean (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2007) \$65.00; ISBN: 0-253-34868-4

An innovative collection of folktales from the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean. In Stars and Keys: Folktales and Creolization in the Southwest Indian Ocean, Lee Haring introduces readers to the rich folklore traditions of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean. The culture of Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Réunion, and the Comoros is a unique blend of traditions that have been brought from Africa, South Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The folktales from these islands reflect the diversity of this culture and provide a rare opportunity to observe the fluidity of traditions and the process of creolization. Haring presents the tales in a uniquely innovative style: he interrupts the text as if he were reading aloud and directly addresses the reader. His words and those of the storytellers are clearly distinguished, making this folktale collection useful to a wide range of readers and scholars.

Lee Haring is Professor Emeritus of English at Brooklyn College of The City University of New York.

6. Katya Mihailova, *Stranstvashtijat sljap pevec prosjak* vav folklornata kultura na slavjanite (Sofia: Ab Publishing House, 2006) 528 pp.

The book, entitled in English, *The Wandering Blind Singer-Beggar in Slavic Folk Culture* has a contents and summary in English. The monograph is devoted to wandering blind singer-beggars: their typology, semantics, functions and repertoire. This kind of wandering singers is studied at a comparative level in the context of the two main branches of European culture: Byzantine-Slavic and West European culture. On the basis of her semantic-functional analysis of the singer-beggar, the author defends her main thesis, namely that contrary to the prevalent opinion in Slavic scientific literature to date, it is not heroic epic but religious-legendary epic songs that are essential in the repertoire and determine the professional character of this type of epic singer.

Katya Mihailova is senior research fellow at the Department of Slavic and Balkan Folklore of the Institute of Folklore at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, Bulgaria.

7. The Meaning of Folklore: The Analytical Essays of Alan Dundes, ed. Simon J. Bronner (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2007)

The essays of Alan Dundes virtually created the meaning of folklore as an American academic discipline. Yet many of them went quickly out of print after their initial publication in far-flung journals. Brought together for the first time in this volume compiled and edited by Simon Bronner, the selection surveys Dundes's major ideas and emphases, and is introduced by Bronner with a thorough analysis of Dundes's long career, his interpretations, and his inestimable contribution to folklore studies.

580 pages; \$49.95; ISBN 13: 978-0-87421-683-7 (clothbound).

10. Upcoming Events, Conferences & Publications

3–4 December, 2007, Innsbruck Storytelling – media-theoretical reflections in the age of digitalization

Call for papers

The Media Forum Innsbruck international conference at the University of Innsbruck (December 3-4, 2007) There is no shortage of stories about the past, present, and future of storytelling. It is also undisputed that storytelling is one of the oldest practices of humankind and has been everpresent in social life. Therefore, it is almost impossible to gain an overall view of the individual results of the many disciplines which contribute to the research of narrative culture in the context of daily routines, the sciences, arts, politics, and business. This traditional role of narrating has gained new and unexpected topicality in the last decades in fields such as psychology, pedagogics, cognitive science, media theory, literature, and philosophy. The reflection on the narrative structures of cognitive processes has even been described as the second cognitive revolution (Rom Harre). In comparison, the significance of historical constellations of interactive media (Reinhard Margreiter) of this topic has received little attention. The topics and problems that have become vital in connection with the spreading of digital information and communication technologies creates new questions about the medialization of narrative forms and narrative cultures. Hence, in media studies, the encounter of narration and their digitalization on the Internet - for example in Blogs - is understood as a synergetic effect and fusion of two 'cultures,' an oral culture, as known from previously oral cultures, and a culture of literacy.

Main topics:

- digital storytelling in virtual surroundings, storytelling in organizations
- medialization and forming of identity of individuals, groups, and communities (life sketches)
- narrative and second cognitive revolution
- interplay of oral, literary, and digital dimensions in media supplies
- new technologies, formats, and genres flow of formats, globalization and range of stories
- new approaches to narrative theory in literature
- narrative processes in the context of intermediality and media change
- social software and old/new forms of narration
- the relationship between the logic of politics and the logic of media: productions in media culture
- augmented realities / mixed realities: on the relation between fact and fictionality
- narration and storytelling in media generated study and educational processes
- the role of written languages and visual languages in academic narrations
- DigiTales in film and advertisement

Dates and deadlines

- July 31, 2007: submission of abstracts (maximum one page)
- Sept. 15, 2007: notification of speakers
- Nov. 24, 2007: submission of manuscripts (lecture/talk)
- Dec. 31, 2007: submission of the print version for publication
- March 31, 2008: publication of the conference proceedings

Contact

Medienforum Innsbruck: e-mail: medien@uibk.ac.at

12-15 DECEMBER 2007, PARIS

Conference Assises de l'ethnologie et de l'anthropologie

At the website http://assisesethno.org/ people can contribute and find articles on different topics connected with the institutional stakes of anthropology

Debate 1 Contemporary changes in research and teaching

Debate 2 Relations with the other disciplins

Debate 3 Roles and commitments of anthropologists

Debate 4 The building up of otherness

Debate 5 The defense of anthropology through associations

Although the event is more dedicated to social anthropologists, ethnologists and folklorists will be interested as well since they often face the same problems concerning

unemployment, concerning the political uses of their researches, or concerning the fact that they are often seen as useless by 'hard' sciences.

Contact: L. S. Fournier, University of Nantes (France)

4–9 March, 2008, Budapest

Dialektus Festival, European Documentary and Anthropological Film Festival

Dialektus aims to screen films, which are sensitive to other cultures, films that present the world as filmmakers see it. Dialektus is a European documentary festival, which aims to make documentary and anthropological film accessible to a wider audience, not just on T.V.

For five days in March 2008 we will screen competitive and non-competitive films representing the diversity of



'Outsider architecture' of 'anarchitect' Richard Greaves in Quebec Photo: P.J. Margry

European documentary filmmaking. The Festival will include special retrospectives, discussions with filmmakers and Q&A sessions on documentary film distribution along side photography exhibitions and free concerts.

Palantir Film Visual Anthropological Foundation H-1163 Budapest, Katoka u. 46 Tel: +36-1-403-03-52, +36-20-993-40-30 info@dialektusfesztival.hu www.dialektusfesztival.hu

7–11 May 2008, Pensacola, Florida North American Society for Oceanic History and the Council of American Maritime Museums Annual Conference, Hosted by the University of West Florida

Call for Papers

'Defining the Maritime Edge: The History and Archaeology of Inland Environments, Coastal Encounters and Blue Water Connections', the 27th Annual Conference of the North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH) co-sponsored by the Council of American Maritime Museums, will be hosted by the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida, May 7-11, 2008. The Conference Program Committee invites proposals for papers and sessions exploring all aspects of history and archaeology related to saltwater or navigable freshwater environments. Suggested areas of research include, but are not restricted to, archeology and anthropology, arts and sciences, history, or museum exhibitions. Proposals that identify the unique characteristics and influence of coastal and inland waters and explore their interfaces with the larger Continental or Oceanic Worlds are especially encouraged.

The Program Committee welcomes the submission of individual papers and full sessions, preferring panels with three papers and a chair. Proposals should include a brief abstract for each paper or a one-page abstract for panels and brief C.V.s for each participant, including chairs. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit proposals for presentations. Accommodations for PowerPoint presentations will be provided; however, any other requirements, including audio-visual equipment, special outlets, or accommodations for disabilities should be included in the proposal. Scholars interested in chairing sessions are welcome to send a brief C.V. to the Program Committee Co-chairs. Please note that all par-

ticipants must register for the conference.

Specific questions may be directed to Program Committee Co-Chair:

Bill Thiesen at thiesen@earthlink.net.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2008.

Send or e-mail submissions to the two Program Committee Co-Chairs listed below:

Victor T. Mastone

251 Causeway Street, Suite 800

Boston, MA 02114-2199

victor.mastone@state.ma.us

John O. Jensen

P.O. Box 6

Woods Hole, MA 02543

jensenheritage@cox.net



9 May 2008, Tartu, Estonia One-day seminar on Encounter charms / Begegnungssegen

Call for Papers

Organised by the Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, Hosted by the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu, Estonia.

Many narrative charms feature an encounter between the chief protagonist of the historiola and another key figure. These may be encounters with a supernatural helper or encounters with an evil power. The great charms scholar Ferdinand Ohrt termed such charms 'Begegnungssegen' in a series of influential articles and in his entry on 'Segen' in the *Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglau-*

bens. But little concentrated work has been done on encounter charms since then – a situation this seminar intends to remedy.

This seminar will be dedicated to addressing encounter charms across cultures and over time, and papers are requested dealing with topics such as:

- history of particular types of encounter charms
- the genre characteristics of historiolas
- the role of protagonists, antagonists and helpers in historiolas
- the nature of encounters and dialogues in charms
- the links (or lack of links) between the historiola and the remainder of the charm
- the connections of encounter charms with other charm types
- the relationship between encounter charms and other genres, and other related themes

Please send your proposals of 75-150 words, before the deadline of February 29th, either by e-mail to:

ulo.valk@ut.ee

or by post to:

Ülo Valk

Folklore Department, University of Tartu

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fax +372 737 5310

22–26 June 2008, Cork, Ireland The Ritual Year and Gender Conference 2008

Call for Papers

This will be the fourth international conference in the series on the theme of the ritual year and organized by the Folklore and Ethnology Department, University College Cork.

We are pleased to announce that featured keynote speakers will include: Gearóid Ó Crualaoich (Professor Emeritus of Folklore and Ethnology, University College Cork, Ireland) and Henry Glassie (Professor of Folklore, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA).

The intention of this conference is to examine aspects of the ritual year that relate to gender in either a social or symbolic sense and thus empirical and theoretical contributions to the scholarly understanding of the interplay between calendar year events and gender are welcomed. Members of the Ritual Year Working Group and nonmembers alike are cordially invited to submit papers. Folklorists, ethnologists and scholars from diverse disciplines are encouraged to submit papers on subjects pertinent to the intersection of 'the ritual year' and 'gender'. Consideration will also be given to papers that would address the interconnections and complexities in issues of gender roles in rituals related to the annual cycle and on related topics that address current discourses on ritual studies and gender.

There will be a special session on 'The Celtic Year' and on 'May Day (Bealtaine)'

Those who would like to offer a paper are invited to submit abstracts of up to 200 words to:

ritualyear08@gmail.com or:

butler.Jennifer@gmail.com

before the deadline of Friday 16th November 2007.

When sending your abstract, please include your full name, highest academic degree, and Institutional/professional affiliation.

Unfortunately, no scholarship will be available for participants. Each participant, including speakers, will be expected both to pay his or her travel and accommodation expenses (though it should be noted that a special reduced rate of accommodation for conference delegates has been arranged at the conference venue: The Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork). Speakers must register before being included in the final programme.

Notification of acceptance of paper proposals will be given by December 10th 2007.

Speakers will be allocated 20 minutes for their talks, with 10 minutes for questions. Plans are in place for the publication of selected papers as part of a collection of conference proceedings.

For further information, please e-mail: ritualyear08@gmail.com

26–28 June 2008, Saint John, NB, Canada Call for papers 47th ISCSC World Conference: Civilizations in the Americas and around the World: Past, Present, and Future Exploring Multiculturalism in Globalizing Civilizations.

The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC) at University of New Brunswick, Saint John, NB, Canada

Tentative Topics Include:

Civilizations of the Americas:

- Civilizations and Societies in the pre-Columbian and post-Columbian Americas
- Collapse of Indo-American civilizations
- Native American civilizations and Societies
- Impact of the Spanish Conquest
- Interplay of civilizations and cultures in Canada and the United States
- Quebec as a 'distinct' civilization/culture
- Huntington's clash of civilizations
- Canadian multiculturalism and the culture of nowhere
- Muslim integration into the Americas and Europe Asian, Islamic, African, and European Civilization Topics:
- The efflorescence of Islam in the West
- Religious Wars and Social Collapse
- European Demographics: Cultural Suicide or Ecological Sustainability
- Asian Hegemony Global Economy in the Asian Age
- Islam and Modernity
- Decline of Western Civilization
- Hinduism and Islam inside India
- Multicultural Feminism vs. Western Feminism.

General Civilizational Topics:

- Civilizational Boundaries and Crises
- Future of Civilizations
- Multiculturalism
- General Theories of Civilization
- Culture and Civilizations
- Workshop on 'reversing' the Decline of Civilizations
- Workshop on 'designing' the Development of a Civilization
- Global-Universal Civilization
- Book Reviews
- Contributions of Civilizationalists: Toynbee, Wittfogel, Braudel, Needham, Landes, Diamond, McNeill, Frank, Victor Hanson, Barzun, Ortega y Gasset, Vico, Melko, Wilkinson, Snyder, McGaughey, Hord, and others.

Abstracts and deadline

Please send Abstracts via e-mail (500 words maximum, Deadline: April 20, 2008) to Stephen Blaha, Program Chair, at ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com.

Conference Chair

Ricardo Duchesne, University of New Brunswick, Saint

John Campus, rduchesn@unbsj.ca.

See www.wmich.edu/ISCSC for further information on the Society and the Conference & accommodations.

18–19 September 2008, Dubrovnik, Croatia
The Third International Colloquium of Societas
Celto-Slavica: 'Celts and Slavs in Central and
Southeastern Europe'

The aim of the conference is to bring together experts in Slavic and Celtic linguistics, literature and philology, and to explore parallels between Slavic and Celtic languages, literatures and folklore traditions. Topics of the papers to be presented at the conference will cover all aspects of Celtic studies, as well as Slavic linguistics and philology inasmuch as they are relevant to Celtic matters. It is envisaged that the conference will primarily focus on historic and prehistoric contacts between Slavic and Celtic languages and cultures and those exploring typological parallels between Celtic and Slavic. Given that the conference is taking place in Croatia, the contributions that will focus on Central and Southeastern Europe are especially welcome...

More information: http://www.celto-slavica.celtologica.com/Celto-Slavica3.htm

It is anticipated that the younger scholars who will attend the Celto-Slavica colloquium will also be attending the course, therefore the contributions from post-graduate students are especially welcome.

Both events will take place at

Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik

Don Frana Bulica 4

HR-20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia

Tel: + 385 20 413 626 / 627

Fax: + 385 20 413 628

E-mail: iuc@iuc.hr Web-site: www.iuc.hr

Yours sincerely:

Ranko Matasovic, University of Zagreb (rmatasov@ffzg.hr).

Dunja Roncevic-Brozovic, Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics, Zagreb.

Maxim Fomin, University of Ulster, Coleraine (m.fomin@ulster.ac.uk).

21–27 June 2009, Athens, Greece The 15th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR)

The 15th Conference in Athens coincides with the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the ISFNR in August 1959, in Copenhagen and it is the second time in the history of the ISFNR that Athens will host the Conference. The 4th 'International Congress for Folk-Narrative Research', held in Athens in September 1964, consolidated the foundation of the ISFNR by means of the approval of its Statutes by the General Meeting of the Members of the Congress. The Statutes were drawn up by a Committee, appointed to this end, in Copenhagen. The Proceedings of the 4th Congress were published in Laographia (annual review of the Hellenic Folklore Society. Editor: Georgios A. Megas volume XXII, 1965, Athens).

The Hellenic Folklore Research Center, initially named the 'Folklore Archive', was founded in 1918 by Nicolaos G. Politis, the founder of Folklore Studies in Greece. The 'Folklore Archive' and the 'National Music Collection' – which was founded in 1914 – were incorporated in the infrastructures of the Academy of Athens in 1927. In 1966 the Folklore Archive was renamed the Hellenic Folklore Research Center. Since 1996, thanks to the assistance afforded by European Community programmes, the Center has been modernizing its operation and



digitalizing its rich archival material. The aims of the Hellenic Folklore Research Center mainly consist in field research, the archiving of folklore material and the publication of scholarly works and essays.

Links

http://www.ut.ee/isfnr/page.php?p=12

http://www.academyofathens.gr

http://www.academyofathens.gr/ecportal.asp?id=635&nt=18<=2

http://www.cityofathens.gr/portal/site/AthensPortalEN/

For more information, please contact:

Marilena Papachristophorou

Academy of Athens - Hellenic Folklore Research Center Ipitou 3

Athens - GR 105 57 - Greece

E-mail: mpapach@academyofathens.gr

Preparations for the 15th congress in Athens in the summer of 2009 have already started. The main theme of the congress will be something like 'Narratives across Space and Time: transmissions and adaptations'.

One of the sub-themes of the ISFNR congress will be dealing with narratives in cyberspace, and will probably have a title like 'Electronic mediation: preserving, diffusing, innovating'. As coordinator of the committee for 'Folktales and the Internet' I would like to organize one (or even more) session(s) on the subject of digital storytelling and online folktale databases. Link for the committee: http://www.ut.ee/isfnr/page.php?p=10&cm=3 On the one hand there is interest in the modern digital ways of interacting, storytelling, roleplaying and creating identities, by means of for instance the mobile phone, game consoles and the PC, including e-mailing (sending jokes, Powerpoints, Photoshop-lore, movies, chainmails, virus-warnings), blogging, chatting (MSN, MySpace, IMVU) and game playing (Second Life, World of Warcraft). On the other hand online folktale databases and especially in the question how folklorists should collect, preserve, present and research the new digital means of storytelling is also interesting. This announcement is published in an early stage, so that SIEF members will have ample time to consider if, and on what subject, they could contribute to the sub-theme of 'Electronic mediation'. In due time, please let me know if you might be interested, or if you know of any other colleagues who are.

26 SIEF MEMBERS

11. New SIEF Members, since October 2006

See for a complete list of members the SIEF website, sub 'Membership' (www.siefhome.org/) SIEF counts 170 full members (members of working groups not included).

Since October 2006 we have welcomed many new members and colleagues:

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