

The Ritual Year Newsletter

No.1/December 2015



CONTENTS

- [1. Letter from the Chairs](#)
- [2. Events of The Ritual Year working group](#)
- [3. Publications of The Ritual Year working group](#)
- [4. News from our members](#)
- [5. Call for papers](#)
- [6. Membership directory](#)

1. LETTER FROM CHAIRS



Dear Members,

Welcome to the first annual newsletter of the SIEF Ritual Year Working Group. Our group is dedicated to the research of the Ritual Year past and present, in all its manifestations, ranging from ancient cosmological patterns to life rituals and rural annual festivals, to the invented seasonal traditions established to meet the demands of modern urban society.



The working group, now in its eleventh year, was established at the SIEF congress in Marseilles, in 2004, and officially inaugurated by our first Chair and now, after 10 years of service, our Honorary Chair, Dr. Emily Lyle. The first meeting of the working group was held in the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh on 11 July 2004. Subsequent conferences focusing on different themes have since taken place in Msida, in Malta (March 2005); Göteborg, in Sweden (July 2006); Stražnice, in the Czech Republic (May 2007); Cork, in Ireland (June 2008); Kaunas, in Lithuania (July 2009); Tallinn, in Estonia (June 2010); Ljubljana, in Slovenia (November 2011); Plovdiv, in Bulgaria (June 2012); Szeged, in Hungary (March 2013); Innsbruck in Austria (September 2014); and most recently, Kazan, in Russia (June 2015). In addition, Ritual Year panels were organized as part of the SIEF congresses. Each Ritual Year conference has brought together scholars from a wide range of countries, and has concluded in an annual peer-reviewed yearbook, "The Ritual Year" (ISSN 2228-1347), based on conference papers. There are 11 published volumes, including the most recent publication of papers from the Innsbruck conference, in 2014. The 12th volume, based on Kazan papers, is in process.

In addition to this impressive record, many scholars have found new contacts and established collaborative activities involving participation in thematically or regionally based conferences, academic projects, university lectures, and publications.

We would like to thank all group members for their enthusiastic academic work, organising of the conferences and panels, editing and proofreading the volumes as well as for the warm emotional atmosphere which supports our ritual academic family.

It is our hope that this pattern will continue with the next meeting, which will be held in Findhorn, in January 2016 (see further below), after we have all experienced the local rituals accompanying yet another solstice in our respective home spaces (weighing up the role, background and nature of their rituals, songs, speeches, games, foods, drinks, scents, masks, costumes, images, gatherings, decorated spaces, hereditary objects, and more).

The aim of this newsletter is to keep members of the working group informed about the group's activities, forthcoming conferences relevant to our activities, our publications, as well as opening up suggestions for future activities. We hope that you will find it useful.

As we look forward to our next meeting in person, we wish you all a very merry ritual Yuletide, with all that that entails.

Irina Sedakova and Terry Gunnell

2. PAST EVENTS OF THE RITUAL YEAR WORKING GROUP

2.1. The 11th annual conference of The Ritual Year Working Group (Kazan, Russian Federation, 4-7 June 2015)

The 11th annual conference of The Ritual Year Working Group, *Traditions and transformation*, took place in Kazan, Russian Federation, on 4-7 June 2015. The conference was hosted by the Department of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Institute of Foreign Relations, History and Eastern Studies of The Federal University of Kazan. The head of the organizing committee, Prof. Guzel Rafailovna Stoliarova was assisted by Nadezhda and Sergey Rychkovs (Kazan), and Nina Vlaskina (Rostov-on-Don).



The conference was attended by 38 participants from 11 countries.

At the opening ceremony, “Жомга көн” (“Friday”) musical group greeted the participants with authentic Tatar folk and religious music. The participants were also given guided tours in the Museum of the History of Kazan University (founded in 1804, after Moscow University, the second oldest university in Russia), along with its Museum of Ethnography.

In addition to discussing a wide range of topics relating to innovation, change, adaption and adoption with regard to the traditional and modern ritual year, valuable insights into the unique customs of the Tatars, and other ethnic groups who live near Volga were gained. We also learned about the ways in which different religious groups manage to live together peacefully with joint respect for each other’s world views and cultural backgrounds.

For the first time the working group also held a SKYPE-session with four scholars from Bulgaria and Holland, who could not attend the conference. This form of virtual papers and discussions proved to be very fruitful and we agreed on using it in the future.

Besides the conference itself, participants took part in a memorable excursion to several Russian Orthodox churches and monasteries (one a former Gulag) and an authentic Sabantuy summer festival from a Tatar village.

The papers delivered at this conference will appear in *The Ritual Year 11* yearbook, which is now in production. Detailed reviews of the conference were published in Russian and Lithuanian academic journals.

Announcement

We are looking for native-English speakers to help proof-read articles of The Ritual Year 11 yearbook. Any person interested in taking on job voluntarily will be mentioned as part of the Editorial Board of the volume. Please contact Irina Sedakova at irina.a.sedakova@gmail.com

2.2. The Ritual Year Working Group at the 12th SIEF Congress (Zagreb, Croatia, 21-25 June 2015)

2.2.1. The Minutes of The Ritual Year Working Group General Assembly (22 June 2015), by Irina Stahl

The meeting of the working group started with 19 members present, including three board members (Irina Sedakova-chair, Laurent Sebastien Fournier-member and Irina Stahl-secretary).

Agenda

The meeting agenda was read by the Secretary, Irina Stahl.

Report of the Chair on the last Ritual Year conference in Kazan

Chair Irina Sedakova presented information on the annual conference of the working group, recently held at the University of Kazan, in Kazan (Russian Federation), on 4-7 June 2015. There were 38 presenters from eleven countries, at this conference, all of whom presented papers which referred directly to the ritual year, with a special focus being placed on the transformation of traditions, the main theme of the conference. Alongside the conference, the participants attended an excursion which allowed them to take part in an authentic Sabantuy festival held in a Tatar village and to visit several Russian Orthodox churches and monasteries. The papers presented during the Kazan conference will be reunited in an English language publication, which will be made available in the near future. A book of abstracts was published, together with the program (also available in pdf format).



Discussion regarding the Board, the Advisory Board and the Editorial Board

Prior to this meeting, the working group has had a Board, an Advisory Board and an Editorial Board for the publication series. Irina Sedakova argued that there is no need for an Advisory Board. The audience was asked for its opinion and agreed. It was decided that in the future the working group should only have an *Executive Board* composed of four members (Irina Sedakova & Terry Gunnell - chairs, Laurent Sebastien Fournier - member and Irina Stahl - secretary) and then an *Editorial Board* for the publication, composed of seven to eight members. The Editorial Board may vary from one publication to another and will be decided at each Ritual Year conference. Each publication will also have an *Editor*.

There were suggestions from the audience that the publication should be peer reviewed and indexed in the international databases.

Voting procedures and scheduling of future Ritual Year conferences

Laurent Sebastien Fournier briefed the group about SIEF regulations and pointed out that only the working group's members that are also SIEF members are allowed to vote. For this reason it is proposed that voting should take place every two years, during the SIEF congresses, while discussions will be held during the Ritual Year conferences. This should allow members who are not SIEF affiliated to express their opinion. The working group approved this measure.

It was also proposed that the working group's conferences should be held every two years, not annually as before. The 2015 experience showed that if held in the same year, attendance at the Ritual Year conference and the SIEF congress (with its Ritual Year panels) is considerably reduced because many members cannot attend both. In order to avoid this in the future it is proposed that the Ritual Year conferences should be held only in the years between the SIEF congresses. The measure was approved by the working group.



Defining the membership and the list of members

Regarding the membership, and in accordance with SIEF regulations, it was proposed that the working group should have *members* and *associated members*. Only persons who are also SIEF members can be regular members of The Ritual Year Working Group and will have the right to vote. Persons who are not SIEF members, but want to be part of The Ritual Year Working Group, can only be associated members and will not have any voting rights. They will however have the right to express their ideas and suggestions within the group.

Future Ritual Year conferences

Irina Sedakova informed the working group that the next year's conference will not take place in Edinburgh, as was initially planned. The Board has instead received and approved a proposal to hold the 2016 Ritual Year conference in Aberdeen (Scotland). Tom McKean was then invited to present his proposal to the audience. The 12th conference of The Ritual Year Working Group will therefore be hosted by the Elphinstone Institute (University of Aberdeen) and will be held in January 2016, at Findhorn, in northern Scotland. Conference sessions and accommodation will be at the Findhorn Foundation's ecovillage. Participants will be housed in barrel houses with a capacity of 4-6 people. There will probably be two conference days and an additional one-day excursion. The centrepiece of the conference will be a visit to the Burning of the Clavie, an ancient New Year fire festival in the neighbouring village of Burghead, held each year on 11 January. The conference theme relates to the parallel, intertwined systems that commonly regulate customary practices and their relationship with the authorities.



Irina Stahl proposed that the 13th Ritual Year conference to be held in 2018 should be hosted by the Institute of Sociology (the Romanian Academy), in Bucharest. Two themes were proposed: *Seeking help from beyond* and *City rituals*. The proposal was well received, most members of the working group, who were present, favoured the second theme.

Approval of the information to be posted on the SIEF web site

Irina Stahl proposed that the following information should be posted on the web site: a general presentation of the working group; a history of the working group; the names of those on the Board (chairs, member secretary); a list of members (only the full members, who are also SIEF-affiliated); information on all previous Ritual Year conferences, with their programmes and the books of abstracts attached in pdf format; and all previous Ritual Year publications, attached in pdf format; The proposed measure was approved by the working group.

Other proposals

Irina Stahl presented two proposals:

1) The creation of a Ritual Year Newsletter, following the model of the SIEF Newsletter.

The main purpose of this newsletter would be to keep the working group's members (full and associated) informed about the following: events related to the group such as: decisions taken during the working group meetings, past and future conferences of the working group, publications etc.; announcements that might be of interest to the members, such as: calls for papers, job & scholarship opportunities etc.; news relating to members (new job positions, scholarships, prizes awarded to our members, new publications, obituaries etc.); a membership directory (containing names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of our full and associated members).

2) The creation of an official SIEF e-mail address.

This will facilitate communication between the members and the Board, making correspondence official, at the same time offering the possibility to use specific e-mailing software such as MailChimp in the future.

Both proposals were accepted by the working group. Laurent Sebastien Fournier will discuss the possibility of getting an official email address with the SIEF Board.

Books

Irina Sedakova presented the latest publications of the working group:

1) *The Ritual Year 10. Magic in Rituals and Rituals in Magic* edited by Tatiana Minniyakhmetova and Kamila Velkoborská (Innsbruck-Tartu, 2015, 598 p.) and containing the papers presented in September 2014, during the Ritual Year conference in Innsbruck.

Several volumes were brought to the meeting by Mare Kõiva and Andres Kuperjanov and distributed to the authors present and also among members willing to leave them in at diverse libraries in their homelands.

2) *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore*. Several members of the working group have contributed to the most recent issue, dedicated to the theme *Differentiation of Ritual Year(s) through Time and Space*. The volume can be accessed and downloaded at: <http://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol60/>

The closing of the meeting

The members of the working group were thanked for attending the meeting and invited to attend the two panels organized by The Ritual Year Working Group the next day: Heri013 *Folk costume in the ritual year and beyond* and Reli005 *Transformation of traditional rituals*.

2.2.2. Panel Heri 013: *Folk costume in the ritual year and beyond: Heritage, identity marker & symbolic object*, by Irina Sedakova

At the 12th SIEF Congress in Zagreb a Ritual Year panel, *Folk costume in the ritual year and beyond: Heritage, identity marker & symbolic object*, was convened by Irina Sedakova and Nina Vlaskina, with Alexander Novik as the discussant.



National costume, being sort of a passport (Piotr Bogatyrev) and serving as a semiotic system, exhibits visible social, gender and age differences, both in festive and everyday life. Its potential to preserve cultural heritage, and to make the identity explicit in various ethnographic and religious contexts was discussed in thirteen papers delivered by sixteen scholars (seven of them members of The Ritual Year Working Group). The list of the presenters and the papers below shows the variety of traditions and topics analyzed:

Irina Sedakova (Moscow), *Clothes as symbolic objects and signs in the ritual time of the Slavic childbirth customs*.

Alexander Novik (St. Petersburg), Andrey Sobolev (St. Petersburg), *The traditional wedding costume of Mrkovići in Montenegro: between real heritage and folk construction (materials of the Russian expeditions in 2012–2014)*.

Milana Černelić (Zagreb), *Ritual traditional clothing among Bunjevci Croats in Serbia*.

Urszula Wilk (Warsaw) *El traje fallero: a carrier of tradition?*

Mihaela Gežin (Zagreb), Martina Mišetić (Vukovar), *Influences of the Homeland War on traditional clothing in the Vukovar area - an example of the village Bogdanovci*.

Anamaria Iuga (Bucharest), *Contemporary traditional clothing in Maramures (Northern Romania)*.

Rosa Isela Aguilar Montes de Oca (Münich), *The Day of the Dead: one ritual, new folk costumes, and old identities*.

Cristina Clopot (Edinburgh), *Weaving the past in a fabric: Old Believers' traditional costume*.

Katarina Ek-Nilsson (Uppsala), Britt Eklund (Uppsala), *Folk costumes during the ritual year and changes in life, in a parish in Dalecarlia, Sweden. Continuity, values, revitalization*.

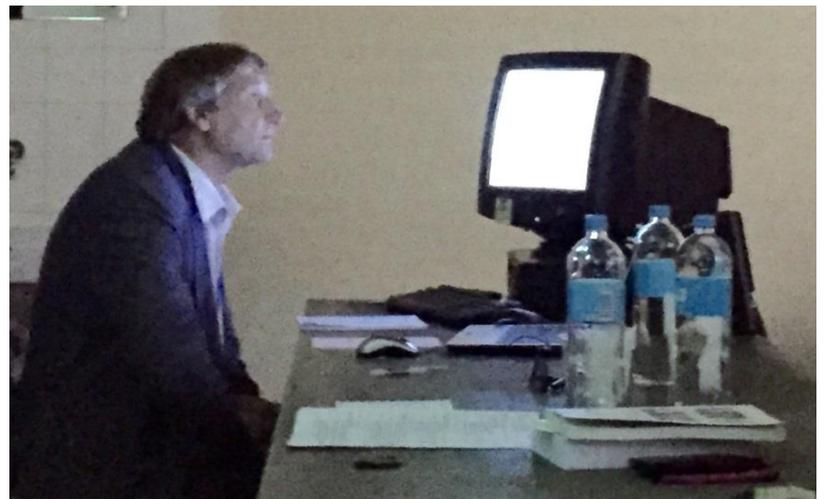
Arūnas Vaicekaskas (Kaunas), *Folk costume in the context of the ritual inventing*.

Reinhard Bodner (Innsbruck), *Discarded heritage? "Costume Renewal" before, during and after the NS era and the contemporary practice of "folk costumes" in Tyrol*.

Marija Gačić (Zagreb), *About folk costumes, rules, left or right side*.

Nina Vlaskina (Rostov-on-Don) *The Nekrasov Cossacks' festive clothes: Representation of identity and the heritage object*.

The papers delivered in this panel will be published in 2016, as a special issue of the *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore* (Tartu).



2.2.3. Panel 005: *Transformation of traditional rituals: Imposed change or natural evolution?*, by Irina Stahl

At the same congress, a second Ritual Year panel, *Transformation of traditional rituals: Imposed change or natural evolution?* was convened by Irina Stahl, with István Povedák as the discussant.

Although rituals are commonly associated with unchangeable human behaviour, numerous examples within the past century prove the contrary. Rituals change in response to particular circumstances such as restrictive political regimes or as a direct consequence of social change. The panel combined papers dealing with transformations of secular and religious rituals resulting from constraints imposed by authorities (political and religious), or from a natural evolutionary process. It investigated reasons for these transformations, the nature of the changes that have taken place and their impact on individuals and communities. Nine presenters delivered their papers (four of them members of The Ritual Year Working Group).

Tiziana Soverino, (Dublin) *Midsummer/Saint John's Feast in Ireland: The Old and the New*

Urša Sivić, (Ljubljana) *Music as an integral part of carol customs in Slovenia*

Kinga Povedák (Szeged) *The sound of religious change: Changing rituals in vernacular Catholicism*

Dániel Báráth (Budapest) *Catholic enlightenment and religious rituals in Hungary (1760-1800)*

Tünde Komáromi (Pécs) *Transformed rituals and changes of participation among the Russian Orthodox (Moscow region)*

Alexandru Rusu, (Cluj-Napoca), *Transformations of the exorcism ritual in the Roman-Catholic and Orthodox doctrines*

Agnes Hesz (Pécs) *Change in funerary rituals - change in social relations? Modernization of death rituals and their social impact in a village community in Romania.*

Aigars Leilbārdis, (Riga) *The tradition of May open air religious services in Latgale: From past to present*

Anders Gustavsson, (Oslo) *Transformation of traditional rituals within a new religious movement in Sweden: The Oas movement*

The papers presented have already been gathered together and will soon be published in *Revista Română de Sociologie* (Romanian Journal of Sociology, <http://en.revistadesociologie.ro/>), no.1-2/2016.



2.3. The Ritual Year Working Group at the 6th International Congress of the ICCEES (Makuhari, Japan, 3-8 August 2015), by Irina Sedakova

Members of The Ritual Year Working Group also participated in the 6th International Congress of the International Council of Central and East European Studies (ICCEES), which took place in Makuhari, Japan, 3-8 August 2015.

A panel entitled, *Traditional folk culture and ethnological studies through history, ideology and religion* was organized and convened by Irina Sedakova with three papers. The panel compared the dynamics of evaluation of traditional culture and the specificities of ethnological studies in different national contexts, in which the situation has been historically different.

Panelists discussed similarities and differences in the development of the traditional cultures studied (Russia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Finland, France, Scotland). Discussion also included the various natures in academic approaches to this subject. L. S. Fournier (France, Marseille) delivered the paper *The influence of East-European politics in the conceptualization and in the development of anthropological studies in France*. I. Slavec Gradišnik (Ljubljana, Slovenia) could not come, but her presentation was read in her absence: *The politics of tradition in Slovenia: between folk culture and cultural heritage*. Mare Kõiva (Tartu, Estonia) spoke on *Ethnic religion – ideologies and adaptation: The Estonian case*. Motoki Nomachi chaired this session, and Irina Sedakova was the discussant.



2.4. International conference *Town and its inhabitants in the perspective of ethnological research: Festivals and leisure time* (Vilnius, Lithuania, 5–6 November 2015), by Nina Vlaskina

The international conference *Town and its inhabitants in the perspective of ethnological research: Festivals and leisure time* was held on 5–6 November 2015, at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius (Lithuania). The conference was organized by Žilvytis Šaknys, Rasa Paukštytė-Šaknienė, and Irma Šidiškienė (within the research programme *Social interaction and cultural expression in the city: Leisure, festivals, and rituals* (2012–2016)) with the help of the members of the Conference Scientific Committee – Lina Laurinavičiūtė- Petrošienė, Jonas Mardosa, Rasa Račiūnaitė-Paužuolienė, and others.

Scholars from nine countries (Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine) represented a wide range of the humanities disciplines. Among the participants were 12 members of the SIEF Ritual Year Working Group: Nevena Škrbić Alempijević, Nina Vlaskina, Bożena Gierak, Cozette Griffin-Kremer, Ekaterina Iagafova, Natalia A. Arkhipenko, Lina Gergova, Nikolai Vukov, Urszula Wilk, Jonas Mardosa, Rasa Paukštytė-Šaknienė, Žilvytis Šaknys.

Six sessions of this scientific meeting covered a variety of topics with a special focus on town festivals and leisure.

Waldemar Kuligowski, Nevena Škrbić Alempijević, and Nina Vlaskina discussed the problem of a festival as the main means of constructing and representing one's identity. Other ways to do it were also analysed, namely historical reconstructions (Veneta Yankova), displaying of the identity associated objects in a house located in a foreign country (Akvilė Motuzaitė), concentration of the various kinds of diaspora cultural activity in the church (Mariyanka Borisova & Nikolai Vukov), activities related to monuments (Lina Gergova & Yana Gergova).

Several presentations by Lithuanian scholars used a comparative and diachronic approach for the analysis of cultural dynamics in Soviet and Post-Soviet Lithuania. The issues under discussion were calendrical festivals (Shrovetide / the Ushering-out of winter, Lina Laurinavičiūtė Petrošienė), professional days (Irma Šidiškienė), typical city leisure-time activities (Jonas Mardosa, Rasa Paukštytė-Šaknienė), the contents and evaluation of maternity leave (Audronė Daraškevičienė), and the transformation of the idea of friendship in town and countryside (Žilvytis Šaknys).

Comparative studies also analysed different ethnic traditions. In addition to the above-mentioned presentations by this thematic group, it is also worth noting the papers by Richard Witt (about shadow-puppet theatre in the Ottoman Empire and Greece), and Rasa Račiūnaitė-Paužuolienė (about the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bulgarian and Lithuanian towns). An important question was raised by Cozette Griffin-Kremer and Stsiapan Stureika regarding the visibility of ethnic and confessional "others" in festive contexts.

Conference presentations considered various religious practices in town and countryside

(Svetoslava Toncheva, Irena Regina Merkienė, Urszula Wilk, Olga Shimanskaya); the use of traditional symbols and practices in political actions (Julia Buyskykh), newly established festivals (Natalia Arkhipenko), and advertising (Bożena Gierek). Among other research topics were an historical description of town life (Anatoly and Elena Shcherban), the methods of treatment used in the 19th-century resorts (Juozapas Paškauskas), and the perspectives of using the principles of the historical psychology for the festival studies (Oxana Yaremchuk).

Abstracts of all presentations are available at:

<http://www.istorija.lt/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Konferencija.docx>



3. FUTURE EVENTS OF THE RITUAL YEAR WORKING GROUP

3.1. The 12th annual conference of The Ritual Year Working Group (Findhorn, Scotland, United Kingdom, 8-12 January 2016)

The 12th annual conference of The Ritual Year Working Group is being hosted in 2016 by the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen. The conference will be held at Findhorn, on the shores of the Moray Firth in northern Scotland. The centrepiece of the conference will be a visit to the Burning of the Clavie, an ancient New Year fire festival in the neighbouring village of Burghead, held each year on 11 January, *Aul Eel* (Old Yule) according to the Julian calendar. Conference sessions and accommodation will be at the Findhorn Foundation's ecovillage at the mouth of the river Findhorn, a beautiful facility run along environmentally responsible and sustainable lines.

The conference theme will explore the parallel, intertwined systems that regulate customary practices. These largely unwritten mechanisms have a traditionality of their own, based on social relationships, hierarchies, and law-making institutions. Together, these symbiotic systems foster a range of stability and change within customs: creativity and innovation, control and regulation, preservation and even ossification. They shape, preserve, and develop customary practices.

These regulatory systems are found in socially constituted bodies (e.g., organization) which control behaviour through example, policy, and practice, and in the multi-valent personal relationships that define and control community behaviour. On the more formal side, we find control systems embedded in legally constituted bodies such as local councils, police services, and formal regulatory/legislative systems.

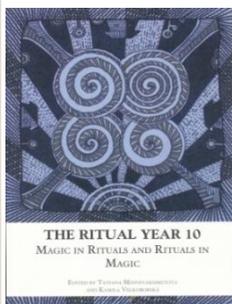
So far, approximately 25 participants have announced their attendance.

http://www.siefhome.org/downloads/wg/ry/SIEF_RitualYearWG_CFP_2016.pdf

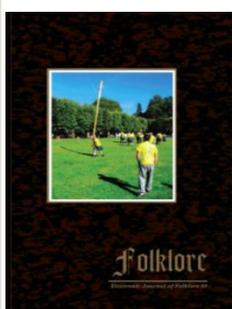
3.2. The 13th SIEF Congress (Göttingen, Germany, March 2017)

Without providing any further information on the topic of the congress as yet, we invite nonetheless you to watch the trailer of the congress at <http://www.siefhome.org/videos/sief2017.shtml>

4. THE RITUAL YEAR WORKING GROUP PUBLICATIONS, by Irina Sedakova



The Ritual Year 10. Magic in the Rituals and Rituals in the Magic. Eds. Tatiana Minniyakhmetova and Kamila Velkoborská. Innsbruck – Tartu: ELM Scholarly Press, 2015. – 598 pp. This volume of The Ritual Year Working Group's yearbook presents 60 articles focusing on the conception of magic and magical rituals performed in the course of the year and their correlations with religious ceremonies. Contemporary practices in magic are also described and analyzed in the book. The studies are based on several different methodologies and include ethnologic, literary, and folklore sources. Works included in this volume cover a vast territory and an extensive period of history from ancient to modern times.

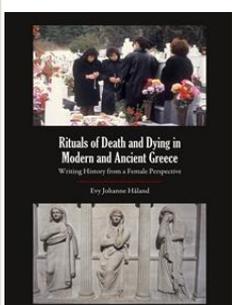
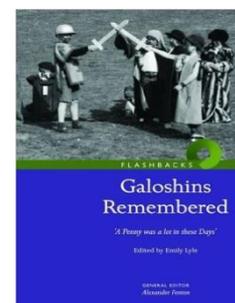


A special issue of *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore* (Tartu) #60, 2015 is dedicated to the theme "Differentiation of the Ritual Year(s) through Time and Space" and consists of the papers delivered at the 11th SIEF Congress (Tartu, 2013) corresponding panel. The journal includes six articles by members of the SIEF Ritual Year Working Group: Laurent S.Fournier (France); Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik (Slovenia); Jurij Fikfak (Slovenia); Juraj Belaj, Marijana Belaj, Petra Kelemen, Filomena Sirovica (Croatia); Nina Vlaskina (Russia); and Žylvytis Šaknys (Lithuania). L. S. Fournier and I. Sedakova served as guest-editors. In the Introduction to the volume they stress that "Through case studies and more theoretical reflections, the contributions to this issue of *Folklore* enable one to compare the ritual systems in various countries, in order to elicit reasons for selectivity and differentiation (migrations, ideology, religiosity, national values, local cultural touristic attractions, etc.)". The issue can be downloaded at: <http://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol60/>

5. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Our Board member **Laurent Sebastien Fournier** has a new job position, as an assistant-professor at the University of Aix-Marseille, chair of European Anthropology.

Our working group's Honorary President, Dr. **Emily Lyle** was this year awarded the delayed Ratcliff Prize which was given for specially commended books for 2013. The prize was given for her book *Galoshins Remembered: A Penny Was a Lot in These Days* (Edinburgh: NMSE – Publisher Ltd., 2011, 176p.).



Evy Johanne Håland has recently published her book on death rituals in Modern and Ancient Greece: *Rituals of Death and Dying in Modern and Ancient Greece. Writing History from a Female Perspective* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, 690p.)

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/rituals-of-death-and-dying-in-modern-and-ancient-greece>

6. CALL FOR PAPERS

The second biennial summer convention of The Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), organized with the International Association for the Humanities (MAG), *Images of the Other*, will be held in Lviv, Ukraine, on 26-28 June 2016. The deadline for submission of papers and panels is **6 January 2016**. For more information, access <http://www.aseees.org/summer-convention/cfp>

The second Balkan studies meeting organized by the French Association of Balkan studies (AFEBALK), *In search of the Balkans: Between Europe and the Mediterranean?* will be held in Marseilles, France, on 2-4 June 2016. The deadline for submission of papers is **30 January 2016**. For more information, access [http://etudesbalkans.sciencesconf.org/conference/etudesbalkans/pages/2nd Balkan Studies meeting Call for proposals 1.pdf](http://etudesbalkans.sciencesconf.org/conference/etudesbalkans/pages/2nd%20Balkan%20Studies%20meeting%20Call%20for%20proposals%201.pdf)

The 8th International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA) Congress, *Balkan life courses: Family, childhood, youth and old age in Southeast Europe* will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 15-18 September 2016. The deadline for the submission of papers is **31 January 2016**. Financial support will be offered for participants from certain countries. For more information, access <http://inasea.net/>

International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences' (IUAES) Iner-Congress, on *World anthropologies and privatization of knowledge: Engaging anthropology in public* will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 4-9 May 2016. The deadline for the submission of papers is **31 January 2016**. Conference fee/accommodation/travel grants are offered if applications for such are made before 15 January. For more information, access <http://iuaes2016.com/>

The 12th International Conference of the SIEF Ethnology of Religion Working Group, *Alternative and religious healing in the modern world* will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 22-24 September 2016. The deadline for the submission of papers is **1 February 2016**. For more information, access <http://www.siefhome.org/wg/er/events/amsterdam2016.shtml>

7. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The Ritual Year Working Group currently includes 66 members. Consistent with SIEF regulations, we can only mention those among our members who are also SIEF-affiliated. However, we consider all the rest of you, non SIEF-affiliated, as associated members and we are glad to address all of you through this Newsletter. The list of our members, together with their email addresses, can be found on our SIEF web page: <http://www.siefhome.org/wg/ry/index.shtml>. Please check whether your name and email have been given correctly. If not, write to ritualyear@siefhome.org and let us know.

Published by The Ritual Year Working Group (SIEF)

Editor: Irina Stahl, secretary

Email: ritualyear@siefhome.org

Web page: <http://www.siefhome.org/wg/ry/index.shtml>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148137881914062/permalink/1003794259681749/>