

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

Nena Židov

---

17

This volume of *Etnolog* celebrates *the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum*. Its central thematic section therefore consists of articles related to the museum and individuals, mainly former managers and directors (with the exception of Dr. Ivan Sedej to whom the thematic section of *Etnolog* 8 was dedicated) as well as other prominent figures, who greatly contributed to the establishment and further development of the museum. The present curators describe individual departments and segments of the museum's documentation.

*Bojana Rogelj Škafar's* article positions the museum in between the nation's historical life and its national identity, emphasising its role as a bearer of the symbols of national identity. She analyses the role of the museum from this particular viewpoint, beginning with the initial formation of the Slovene nation and the early stages of collecting ethnographic objects, to the present.

*Jože Hudales* explores the conceptual and institutional position of ethnology within the framework of the Carniolan Provincial Museum of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, comparing it with the position of ethnology in some other Slovene and European museums. He also draws attention to the legacy which accompanied the museum when it started out on its independent "career" in 1923.

*Helena Ložar-Podlogar* presents the work of *Rajko Ložar*, the wartime director of the then Ethnographic Museum, based on his biographic notes. Ložar managed the museum in very strenuous conditions and dedicated most of his activities to collecting objects, publishing *Narodopisje Slovencev*, editing the journal *Etnolog* and co-operating in the project "Renovation of the Slovene village".

*Alenka Simikič* presents the "background" of the life and work of the museum's first field teams which started their activities in 1948. Naturally, she also highlights the project's organiser, the museum's director, Dr. Boris Orel.

*Inja Smerdel* first presents the existing texts on Dr. Milko Matičetov, written by Slovene folklorists and ethnologists, to continue with a presentation of his life and in particular of those fields of activities to which he dedicated most of his time and energy.

---

The following section contains presentations of the history, condition and vision of some of the museum's departments. *Janja Žagar* presents the Textile Collection, *Polona Sketelj* the Department of economy, traffic and transport, and *Nena Židov* the Department of social culture.

*Daša Hribar* writes about the first period of operation of the Department for the Slovene emigrants, the Slovene ethnic minorities in the neighbouring countries, and the members of the national minorities and other ethnicities in Slovenia; *Ralf Čeplak Mencin* discusses the collecting policy of the Department for Asia, Oceania and Australia. *Sonja Kogej Rus* introduces the reader to the activities of the museum's Education and Adult Education Service.

18

*Anja Serec Hodžar* reveals what is hidden in the museum's "house archive" which is kept in the Documentation Department. *Nadja Valentinčič Furlan* presents and analyses thirteen film documents by Dr. Boris Kuhar, made in the Slovene ethnic territory between 1963 and 1971. She points out that Kuhar was the first to make films for the purpose of showing them at exhibitions.

*Vesna Bižić - Omčikus* informs us on documents kept by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade which witness to the work of dr. Niko Županič as curator of the museum's Anthropology and Palaeontology Department in the 1914–1920 period.

This volume's **Janus Department** is dedicated to the museum's anniversary and features an article by *Christian Promitzer* from the Department for the history of Southeast Europe at the university in Graz about Dr. Niko Županič and the Slovene Ethnographic Museum during the period Županič was its director. Promitzer describes Županič's role in the establishment of the museum and also describes his activities as a "Slovene" ethnologist – a role not acknowledged by some authors on Županič.

**Studies** are introduced by *Gorazd Makarovič's* treatise on population trends in Slovenia before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Based on development demographic samples from territories with similar social and historical conditions (the whole of Europe, Northwest Europe, Germany, and Austria) Makarovič provides estimates of the population of Slovenia between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Mirjam Mencej* writes about the magic act of burying objects in the ground or buildings belonging to neighbours with the intent of harming them, their crops, livestock etc., a custom which is still alive in the rural environment of eastern Slovenia.

*Bojan Knific* describes the development of the national costume in Slovenia as a costume for special occasions and determines its different appearances and functions from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the inter-war period.

*Kristina Toplak* presents an outline of the way of life of Slovene plastic artists living in Australia, their artistic production, and the issues of expressing ethnic identity.

*Alenka Avžlahar* describes the principal features of Ottoman urbanism, the typical topography of Ottoman towns, and the dwelling culture of the inhabitants of the towns of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Ottoman rule.

---

Branko Daković informs the readers on the data kept in the Centre for the Ethnological Atlas in Zagreb, which were gathered, using ethnological questionnaires, in the territory of Slovenia up to the 1970s and which cover a range of ethnological themes.

In *Museum News* Daša Hribar reports on the exhibition "Slovene immigrants in Argentina", opened in the National Immigration Museum of Argentina in September 2003 and installed in co-operation with the Slovene Ethnographic Museum. The museum's new acquisitions in 2002 are presented by Bojana Rogelj Škafar, who describes the donations by Alenka Grlovič (drawings, watercolours, photographs) and Dr. Milko Matičetov (a fresco), and by Nina Zdravič Polič, who writes about the donation of paintings by Prijono Maruto.

19

Sonja Kogej Rus reports on the operation of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in 2002, Nina Zdravič Polič on three ICOM conferences held in Slovenia, and Inja Smerdel on Telekom's donation to the "Museum Apiary" Fund.

We are delighted to congratulate our fellow curators Andrej Dular, who received the Murko Award, and Polona Sketelj, who received the Award of the Slovene Emigration Office.

Janez Bogataj pays tribute to the recently deceased Prof. Dr. Vilko Novak.

In addition to the annual bibliographies of the museum's staff members, this volume *Bibliography* also brings a bibliography of the museum's publications and a list of its exhibitions in the 1983–2003 period as well as the Slovene Ethnographic Museum's filmography.

As usual, *Etnolog* ends with a review of new publications with ethnological themes or themes that are of interest to ethnologists.

This celebratory volume of *Etnolog* also marks the (at least temporary) end of my personal long-time engagement as (co-)editor of the journal. Allow me to use this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who helped me in this assignment: the members of the (former and present) editorial board, the language editor, the translators (particularly Franc Smrke), the journal's designer and, of course, all the authors who never failed to collaborate. Last but not least, I wish to sincerely thank my fellow workers at the museum for their generous support.

I am convinced that *Etnolog* is on the right track and allow me to illustrate my confidence with two quotes from a text written by fellow ethnologist Dr. Rajko Muršič: "In Slovenia's professional circles no one can really imagine ethnology, cultural anthropology and the related disciplines without the role of *Etnolog*. The main reason for the generally positive reception of the journal lies not only in its long tradition/.../ but in its key role in the present and future of the ethnological discipline in Slovenia." And, further on: "Abroad, *Etnolog* has often been mentioned to me as the ideal many would like to match in their professional and scientific publications."

I am quite convinced that the new editor-in-chief of *Etnolog* will preserve the journal's present qualities and develop some new ones.