FOLK TRADITIONS IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF DONJA STUBICA
— A RESEARCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF
CROATIAN AND SLOVENE PEASANTS UPRISING IN 1573

Summary

When, in 1969, the Institute of Folk Art in Zagreb started work on the
study of folk traditions in the surroundings of Stubica in Hrvatsko Zagorje, as
its contribution to the forthcoming anniversary of the 1573 uprising of Croa-
tian and Slovene peasants, it was still quite uncertain whether any reference
to the uprising would be found in the stories, legends or poems preserved in
that part of the country. Until that moment, no such references had been
found. It was therefore decided that teams of researchers from the Institute
would prepare a monograph dealing with the oral traditions, folk customs,
folk music and dances from the surroundings of Stubica (which was the focal
point of Matija Gubec’s peasant uprising) and that particular attention would
be paid to oral traditions thematically based upon the life of feudal serfs and
peasant revolts in Hrvatsko Zagorje.

The results of our research have justified this orientation. Very inter-
esting legends and oral traditions have been found dealing with peasant life
in feudal times and with peasant rebellions. They do not, admittedly, date from
as far back as 1573, but though they are of more recent origin they are still
important and authentic examples of folk creativity. This aspect of our re-
search is dealt with by the first three papers in the present volume.

At the same time, a great deal of folk material has been collected — be-
longing to both traditional folk art and to various other levels stemming from
cultural and social changes that have taken place in that part of the country.

In this region not far from Zagreb, the world of folk art is still very
much alive in the border area between past and present. The study of this
world is important for a better understanding of long-gone times of peasant
revolts, but it is equally important for a better understanding of the cultural
situation of the present time.

The present volume can include only part of the collected material —
folk poems, stories, descriptions of customs, etc. Among the prose texts
included here, the majority are those which correspond to the thematic
orientation of the monograph; the examples of folk poems, songs, dances,
and customs have been selected in accordance with the specific criteria of
each paper.

(Translated by Vlado Ivir)