

## ORAL LYRIC POEMS OF THE DUBROVNIK REGION

### SUMMARY

This article attempts to include oral lyric poetry in the broader framework of consideration of Croatian identity now threatened by war in the Dubrovnik region. The well known conclusion of many Croatian scholars that the contacts and influences of the Mediterranean and western poetic traditions with those traditions which arrived on the Adriatic coast from the Dinaric hinterland merged to form an oral poetry in the Dubrovnik region as well as in all of Dalmatia of particular beauty which has been recorded for centuries in documents, both published and in manuscript.

This is confirmed in the second part of the article: with a review of recording of oral poems in the 1950s and 1960s as written down by researchers from the Zagreb Institute for Folk Art, three of Olinko Delorko's unpublished manuscript collections are described in greater detail which were formed by recording oral lyric poems in Konavli (1961), Župa and Rijeka dubrovačka (1962) and Dubrovačko primorje (1963).

In closing this survey wishes to bring the discussion back to life, life to which art owes everything and which fills every form, even the most tragic. It urges emphasis on humanity and human dignity which finds its form in oral poetic narration.

*(Translated by E. Elias-Bursać)*