

THE ROLE OF VINKO ŽGANEC IN THE POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF FOLK DANCES IN MEĐIMURJE

SUMMARY

The tradition of dancing the folk *kolo* (circle dance or reel) in the open started to fade away in Međimurje as early as the mid-nineteenth century, and had disappeared almost completely by the mid-twentieth century. The *kolo* lived on up to the Sixties only in Kotoriba.

With the end of the Second World War when Međimurje again became part of Croatia, Dr. Vinko Žganec lost no time in coming to Međimurje and initiating the revival and creation of traditional dancing in the form of the *kolo*. He knew the region well, and approached people whom he knew had a feeling for folklore. In Prelog, Donja Dubrava, Nedelišće and Dekanovac they took up his initiative and before long, numerous traditional *kolo* groups brightened the scene. Their revivers and creators maintained regular contact with Dr. Žganec, in person or by letter. He provided cordial advice and valuable moral support. For these reasons, the autor considers the academician, Vinko Žganec, to have been a leading reviver of Međimurian dance folklore - a rich opus of folk dances in the form of the *kolo* which came into being up to the Sixties of this century and today have an intensive life throughout Međimurje, and are presented by members of folk groups both in Yugoslavia and abroad. However, these dances still await aesthetic and scientific evaluation.