

THE WORK OF VINKO ŽGANEC IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY FOLKLORISTICS

SUMMARY

1. The content and problems of folklore and folkloristics have accrued over long centuries, and the same process is taking place in our time. In so-called primitive societies, and particularly in more developed societies later, there was a continuous presentation of material which was becoming part of, and eventually became part of the system of folklore and folkloristics. Very varied material of differing categories, uneven as regards problematics and aspect, represented a considerable dilemma: how should the material be put together, how should it be reconciled and brought into a relatively consistent system?

When all this is borne in mind, then it becomes completely clear that today, and even more so in the more distant and recent past, the definition of folklore and folkloristics oscillated from the definite to the unclear, from unacceptance to submergence in other sciences, through to its complete denial.

2. Vinko Žganec entered the field of folklore and folkloristics with his huge opus at a time when dilemmas ruled in the sphere of terminology. In all branches of his work, he brought into the sphere of folkloristics: a) original notations from field research; b) editing and checking of earlier notations; c) provision of full material about the singers, giving a great deal of attention to their psycho-physical habitus; d) provision of description of the various locations and, in part, their geo-political aspects; e) introduction of his own system of notation of music and musicological research; f) venture into sociological and culturological theory on the coming into being and belonging of peoples and cultures to certain groups; g) dealing with the anthological editing of a collection of Kajkavian songs; h) finally, with certain emphasised pretensions, attempts at providing a broad theoretical and contextual aspect to traditional culture and its creativity; and, i) in conclusion, Vinko Žganec also had certain philological and linguistic ambitions, when he gave numerous linguistic comments to individual texts.

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that Vinko Žganec's work markedly enriched the context of contemporary folkloristics, by expanding it, with complete justification, through interdisciplinary excursions which were scientific in character.