

SUMMARY

THE EASTER EGGS COLLECTION FROM THE ETHNOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MUSEUM OF SLAVONIA ACCORDING TO ALJMAŠ AND BAPSKA

Collection of Easter eggs in ethnographic department of the Museum of Slavonia with an accent on Aljmaš and Bapska

Ethnographic department of the Museum of Slavonia was founded in 1951. by the ethnologist Zdenka Lechner, and when she left in 1965., no-one takes care of the department, it loses the room and is moved. Documentation was partly lost. Thus half of the collection is without information on provenance. With the revision of the collection, we have tried to determine provenance of the material revised, but it depended on disposable elements. In that way the number of "anonymous" Easter eggs was halved. Only according to the revision could we establish information for one part of the materials, while for the rest it will be necessary to add field research and comparison with the materials in other institutions, and the recent materials. The concrete examples for that were Aljmaš and Bapska.

Thorough analysis of the motives on recent materials gathered in 1993., 1994. and 1996. enabled possible identification of same examples from the old holdings. This process is especially interesting for the materials from Aljmaš, where recent Easter eggs are scribbled by five women and by another one who uses her own motives. The entirety from Aljmaš can clearly demonstrate life rarity and richness on the example of a locality by use of single and personal creative inspirations. The oldest scribe is distinguished by spontaneity of rich stylised plant ornament. She complements the whole space with ornaments around the egg, as well as the scribbler from Bapska. Other scribblers have different approach: they separate motives that dominate over the space.

Great variety of ornaments shows not only a talent, but traditional origins as well. Tradition of symbolic is preserved, but understanding of its meaning is lost. Thus same motives with three or four shanks suggest rotation by their twistedness into certain direction, and very much associate with swastika.