SUMMARY

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN THE VILLAGE OF PARISH OF HARKANOVCI
(VALPOVO REGION, SLAVONIA)

This paper is a new contribution to the knowledge of textiles and clothing in the North-Croatian region of Valpovo. The research included the villages of Ivanovci, Zelkin and Harkanovci. The village of Harkanovci is at the same time the seat of a Roman Catholic parish. The inhabitants of this village are Croats and Roman Catholics. Among them there is still a consciousness about their mutual similarity and integrity in terms of their accent and clothing. The material studied included interviews with informants, few preserved pieces of clothing, photographs found during field-work as well as some non-recent and rare data present in literature. The collected material includes the period from the beginning of the century to World War II. It has been divided into two separate, but mutually interrelated wholes: cultivation of textile plants and processing of the tissues to weaving and the traditional clothing itself.

In the villages of the parish of Harkanovci the hemp was predominantly grown and used for weaving coarse fabric. Homemade hemp and fabricated cotton yarn were also used. Homemade fabrics were woven by means of two or four reed (heddles) (headls). Women living in the parish of Harkanovci used costumes consisting of several parts. The traditional costume consists of a blouse (oplevek), a skirt (suksija) with several underskirts (krilca, bele suksije) and an apron (ponjac, kecelja). After the pieces of traditional women’s costumes had been enumerated and described, three clothing combinations were depicted: the costume for very formal occasions (belo ruvo), the costumes for less formal occasions (miso ruvo malo tiše) and the costume for morning occasions (dano ruvo).

Men’s wear in the villages of the parish of Harkanovci consists of two main pieces: trousers (gave) and a shirt (košulja). In terms of their cut, their ornaments and - to a certain degree - their names, these pieces of clothing are rather similar to the men’s wear typical of the region of Valpovo, Slavonia and the Pannonian area in general.

The research has shown that in the period discussed in the villages of Ivanovci, Zelkin and Harkanovci homemade linen clothing disappeared, so that specimens of such clothing can be found today only rarely. The terminology related to procedures, machines and tools used by the treatment of hemp, different kinds of linen and weaving techniques as well as traditional pieces of clothing made of homemade linen is of Slavic origin. On the other hand, the more recent pieces of clothing that were made of industrial fabrics and cut in accordance with urban fashion are designated by different Turkish, German and French loan-words.

In this paper new, by now less or unknown data on the women’s woven linen apron, the usage of men’s apron used on formal occasions and women’s headgear in the form of a towel. The collected material was, as far as the circumstances allowed, reinforced by photographs so that the changes in clothing between World War I and the late 1930’s could clearly be observed. The data and photographs are related mainly to the clothing worn on formal occasions and holidays as well as wedding costumes.