

Introduction

The current issue of *Ethnological Researches* comes out precisely a year after the previous one. This clearly reflects our decision to give the journal a professional relevance through regular annual publication. In terms of content, the journal includes papers dealing with the main theme of this issue, but also a number of articles on other subjects, as our intention was to make *Ethnological Researches* interesting both to the readership and the authors.

The theme of the issue, *Children's Culture*, is approached from different aspects by four articles. The first is the work of Katariina Heikkilä on female entrepreneurship in Finland and the role children have played in professional activities in rural areas. Marijana Hameršak's paper discusses the issues of children's folklore, the folkloristic interest in children's culture and evolutionary theories of culture. The paper of Dubravka Matoković is the result of her research into children's folklore, primarily in the Požega basin. Nada Matijaško and Nives Rittig Beljak have presented the results of their research of teenager dietary habits as a segment of culture. This research has been presented at the 14th International Ethnological Food Research Conference in Switzerland (Basel and Vevey, September 30 to October 6, 2002). This autumn, the conference will take place in Dubrovnik and include Tanja Kocković's paper on truffling, which we bring in the section *Other Papers*. It deals with truffling as a complex cultural phenomenon, from the *truffle hunt*, over the role of truffles in the tourist industry, to the issue of their "indigenoussness" and relevance for the Istrian cultural identity, thus announcing food as the focus of next year's issue of *Ethnological Researches*.

In the same section, Ivan Šestan attempts to get to the bottom of the manifestations of multiculturalism in the Canadian society, comparing them to idealized perceptions presented as the ideal concept by countries where it has already been fully established.

The third section of the journal contains two presentations made at scientific conferences abroad. The first is the presentation held by Zvezdana Antoš at the Vienna conference themed *Beiträge der II Internationalen Konferenz der Ethnographischen Museen in Zentral- und Südosteuropa in Wien vom 18.-21. September 2002*, which we have taken over from *Kittseer Schriften zur Volkskunde - Veröffentlichungen des Ethnographischen Museums Schloss Kittsee*, 15; pp. 85-95.

The second is the so far unpublished presentation of Ivan Šestan at the *3rd International Conference of Ethnographic Museums in Central and South East Europe, Ethnographic Museum, Martin, Slovakia*, from October 15 to 17, 2003.

Zvezdana Antoš reflects critically upon the past collection practices of the Ethnographic Museum of Zagreb, highlighting shortcomings that were evident in this segment of museum activity in the past and suggesting principles that should underlie, in her opinion, the future collection practice. The presentation of Ivan Šestan includes his reflections on the presentation concept of the Croatian heritage.

The issue is concluded by brief reviews of exhibitions staged by the Ethnographic Museum in 2003 and a field tour report of the museum and gallery professionals of Istria.

Two texts are dedicated to the exhibition *Wedge-shaped Clothes*: the critical review by Snježana Pavičić and the reaction to it by Nikolina Jelavić Mitrović, who explained the designer's aspect in the creation of the visual concept of this exhibition.

Aida Brenko and Mirjana Randić prepared a review of their exhibition *Folk Medicine* at the Ethnographic Museum of Zagreb, which caused great interest of the museum visitors and professional circles.

Irena Kolbas introduces us to the exhibition *Istria: Different Perspectives*, a visiting exhibition of the Ethnographic Museum of Istria, presented first in Vienna, then in Pazin, and after that in Zagreb, dealing with the ways in which the Istrian ethnography was shaped and experienced through history.

Olga Orlić describes the trip of museum and gallery professionals of Istria to Graz, Europe's culture capital in 2003.

We are well aware that these thirteen papers are just a partial representation of the interests of contemporary ethnologists. However, the future issues will hopefully provide the readership with a richer insight into the work and thinking of ethnologists, museologists, anthropologists and other experts addressing ethnological concerns.

The readers are also invited to visit our web site (www.etnografski-muzej.hr) for an electronic version of the journal and other information about the Ethnographic Museum of Zagreb.

Editorial Board