

MATICA HRVATSKA'S COLLECTION OF WOMEN'S SONGS:  
A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE EDITION *HRVATSKE*  
*NARODNE PJESME* [CROATIAN FOLK SONGS] (1896-1942)

SUMMARY

The paper attempts to give a critical view on the Matica hrvatska's collection of "women's songs" a hundred years after the Matica's edition "Hrvatske narodne pjesme" [Croatian Folk Songs] (1896-1942) was published. The author pays special attention to the collections of the ballad narrative poems. Four collections of "women's songs" are discussed as the philologist and the folklore researcher Nikola Andrić's anthology. The collections' historical significance is being emphasized, for they have influenced twentieth-century research of the Croatian oral poetry not only with their concept and the selection of materials, but also with its author's forewords. The collections are especially important for revival of the interest for neglected genres (so-called ballads and romances). The paper also pays attention to the issues of the oral literature terminology, as well as to Andrić's contribution to the establishing universal generic taxonomy in the Croatian folklore research. The author also points the contemporary importance of "women's collections" within the studies of Croatian oral narrative poetry with regard to its typological motif, and metrical diversity. Matica's "women's" collections are considered to be the distinguishing repertoire of Croatian ballad poems.

*(Translated by Sanja Kalapoš)*

Keywords: Croatian oral literature, women's songs