

of the Punat meeting were summarized at the first, and Svanibor Pettan and **Tori Snerte** from Norway presented the *Azra* mental health project at the second. The objective of the project is to stimulate active music-making among refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina living in Norway, and in this way to help to strengthen their cultural identity and improve communications between the refugee and local Norwegian communities.

For the second time since the now distant 1979, a meeting of one of the study groups of the ICTM (the central international ethnomusicological organization) was held in Croatia. Because of the opportunity thus provided for promotion of Croatian ethnomusicology, and because of the good organization of both the working part of the conference and the accompanying events, recognition is due to the local organizer - Gorana Doliner. For the first time within the framework of this study group, she managed to gather together a considerable number of male participants (in addition to those mentioned above, **Mwessa Mapoma** from the Republic of South Africa, who participated very actively in the discussions) and this, too, greatly contributed to the idea of a gender-balanced view of music.

Naila Ceribašić

## **B. "WAR, EXILE, EVERYDAY LIFE" ZAGREB, MARCH 30 — APRIL 2. 1995**

An international conference entitled "War, Exile, Everyday Life" was held in Zagreb from March 30 to April 2, 1995. It was organized by the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in coordination with the Matrix Croatica, and financially supported by the Croatian Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Culture, and the Goethe-Institut, Zagreb. As part of the conference Dorothea C. Johansen, a therapist from Norway, organized a music-and-movement workshop in a refugee camp in Varaždin in coordination with the "Suncokret" Center for Grassroots Relief Work.

In the period 1991-95, according to UNHCR around three million people from all over former Yugoslavia have become refugees or displaced persons. The massive extent of war destruction and displacement of their fellow citizens was the impetus for Croatian anthropologists and folklorists to organize a conference in order to situate their responses to growing questions concerning political standpoints in dealing with the aftermath of war and the portrayal of refugees within ethnographic

representation. Assuming that it is crucial to define war as the cause of exile, they considered that political - and not humanitarian - initiatives bring the real potentials of solving refugee problems.

Exile as a theme of the conference reflected not only the intellectuals' and moral impulse of domestic researchers, but also the growing academic interest among scholars throughout Europe in various social and cultural phenomena provoked by the war in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The participants have offered not only anthropological, but also other perspectives which they consider crucial in delineating a wider frame of refugees' political, economical, and cross-cultural positions. Aiming to present the causes and consequences of the global humanitarian problem, they also presented the results of their research and their efforts directed towards a better understanding of some actual refugee situations (mostly with the refugees and displaced persons from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, but also with other refugees settled in several other European countries).

Presenting preliminary accounts of their research Ger DUIJZINGS (Amsterdam) and Nives RITIG-BELJAK (Zagreb) offered scrutinized ethnological views on actual problems of various groups of displaced people and cultural perplexities resulting from the experience of displacement. The same interest was shared by Pamela BALLINGER (Maryland) and John CORSELLIS (Cambridge) who analysed the tormenting refugee issue after the Second World War as well as by Peter LOIZOS (London) and Marina PETRONOTI (Athena) who analysed it in some other areas. They all argued that exile is a type of traumatic social experience which depends on the political context and ideologies on current attitudes towards "others" in society. Glenn BOWMAN (Canterbury) also followed this kind of reasoning discussing theoretical and methodological problems raised in his long-term fieldwork in Palestine.

A few of the participants demonstrated the difficulties refugees and their children experienced in the new environment and the complex role of anthropologists as researchers also providing medical, psychological, legal, or educational help (Sanja MARTIĆ-BIOČINA, Zagreb; Sanja M. ŠPOLJAR-VRŽINA, Zagreb and Natalija VREČER, Ljubljana). In comparison, others criticized the practice of *humanitarianism* and the models of psycho-social help (aiming at the integration and reconstruction of refugees' and hosts' communities) which were adopted in Croatia and supported by non-governmental organizations (Barbara E. HARELL-BOND, Oxford and Paul STUBBS, Leeds-Zagreb).

Sherry RICCHIARDI (Indianapolis) emphasized the main stereotypes regarding the media coverage of the Bosnian refugees' destiny

in American media as well as Mirna VELČIĆ-CANIVEZ (Lille) discussed the prejudices transferred by the exile discourse in European literary magazines created by the writers from former Yugoslavia. Ines PRICA and Maja POVZRANOVIĆ as well as Renata JAMBREŠIĆ KIRIN (Zagreb) explored some ambiguities regarding the status of refugees' personal narratives, testimonies, and autobiographical writings in the context of ethnographic representation.

Eminent scholars from different backgrounds presented the results of their projects based on the therapeutic role of music and performing arts as the device of cultural encounter and negotiation (Kjell SKYLLSTAD, Oslo; Svanibor PETTAN, Zagreb; Albinca PESEK, Maribor; Anne-Marie MIÖRNER WAGNER, Graz; and Lada ČALE FELDMAN, Zagreb). As all of them argued, such activities help refugees to establish self-respect, to acquire public recognition and positive attitudes towards the local habits thereby preventing biases in their host environment.

The discussants - Dunja RIHTMAN-AUGUŠTIN and Jerko BEZIĆ from the Zagreb Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Ina-Maria GREVERUS (Frankfurt a/M) and Hermann BAUSINGER (Tübingen) raised numerous important - at some points controversial - questions, from those revealing the concerns of an ethnographer in a society in political transition, through those on the predicaments of insider scholars writing on the war, to the rethinking of the concepts of identity and research on refugees from the perspective of an earlier war. Parts of these provoking discussions as well as the edited version of most of the presented articles, the reader can find in the book *War, Exile, Everyday Life. Cultural Perspectives* (ed. by Renata Jambrešić Kirin and Maja Povrzanović, Zagreb 1996). Articles dealing with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in Croatia were also published in Croatian in *Narodna umjetnost, Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research* (vol. 32/2, 1995).

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