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## LADARICE

### Summary

The custom of »ladarice« was widespread in the area of northwestern Croatia, between Drava and Sava rivers. It consisted of a procession of girls (sometimes including also a boy) who on the day of St. John, i. e. summer solstice (June 24th) walked through the village, sang special songs and collected presents.

This article presents the results of a study of this custom, carried out between 1951 and 1979 in the region of the Česma river which is bordered by four towns: Križevci, Virovitica, Koprivnica and Grubišno polje. The data is gathered from interviews with the older population, and from the author's own observations since the custom was still partially alive in the earlier period of the research.

The account starts with a detailed description of the ladarice procession in the Patkovac village near Bjelovar, and proceeds with information on sex, age and number of ladarice, on their costume, preparations for the procession and the time when the latter is held. The author also gives beginning verses of ladarice songs from certain villages as well as some full texts with comments on them. Ladarsko kolo, i. e., the dance of ladarice around the basket full of presents is described, as well as the relationship between the songs and dance steps. Furthermore, the article provides texts by which the ladarice ask for presents and express their gratitude for them, and describes the way in which they divide the presents among themselves.

The author concludes that the custom of the ladarice procession is disappearing in its traditional form and in the process is changing its meaning. For example, ladarice today represent congratulators who congratulate a host on his name-day. Or, unlike previously, participants are today often gipsy women. In most cases the participants in the procession no longer wear their typical white dresses (especially after the World War II), but instead wear everyday clothes.

(Translated by O. Supek-Zupan)