

## **A WORD FROM THE EDITORS**

In front of you is the first volume of a new series of *Narodna umjetnost*, now with the extended title: *Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research*. After a few sporadic attempts to publishing in English, the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research from Zagreb is now aiming at permanent publication every year of one volume of *Narodna umjetnost* in English and one in Croatian and other languages. This decision results from our wish for closer and more active communication with the international scholarly community.

The Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (established as the Institute of Folk Art in 1948) is a research oriented institution in which scholars trained in various disciplines, such as ethnology/cultural anthropology, literary science, linguistics, musicology, choreology, and art history aim at interdisciplinary cooperation. Their field of research includes cultural phenomena and processes, oral literature, folk music and dance, folk theatre, folk visual arts etc. As early as in the 1960s the Institute produced a number of multidisciplinary conceptualised monographs dealing with particular localities in Croatia. From the 1970s on, one can follow the broadening of the scope of research towards urban culture and towards the phenomena existing "here and now". War in Croatia in the early 1990s created a new avenue for research, as shown in our most recent publication in English - the book *Fear, Death and Resistance* (1993). The next special issue in English will be the proceedings from the international interdisciplinary conference "War, Exile, Everyday Life" which the Institute organized in Zagreb earlier this year.

This volume of *Narodna umjetnost* shows our attempt to make widely known at least a part of the diversity of topics and approaches we encompass in our work. Therefore, in some of the articles you will find overviews of particular scholarly disciplines with important personalities and their concepts, all the way to the present state characterised by postmodern dilemmas. Political changes and the war in Croatia are dealt with in some of the articles, now from a further distance in comparison to previous publications. Finally, there is a group of articles dealing with specific topics related to various parts of Croatia.

Most, but not all of the contributors to this volume are affiliates of the Institute. For forthcoming volumes we would like to encourage scholars from outside of the Institute - and from other countries - to send their proposals. After all, our objective is that *Narodna umjetnost: Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research* becomes a venue for a free flow of ideas in the global scholarly arena.