

The German Concepts of 'Sitte und Brauch' and Conception of Customs in Croatian Ethnology

Summary

When Croatian ethnology embraced the conceptual framework of German cultural historical 'Volkskunde', in its understanding of custom, it introduced the connotations of the phrase 'Sitte und Brauch' in the sense of two levels on which custom can be defined: the normative and the formal. The distinction, of course, is not consistent in either German or Croatian ethnology. In essence, research and interpretation of customs have served different cultural, political, national and social functions. Contemporary critiques of the concept of 'Sitte und Brauch' in German ethnology (Bausinger, Scharfe and especially Weber-Kellermann) are proposed as a possible methodological innovation.

(Translated by Ellen Elias-Bursać)