

## CUSTOMS OF THE ISLAND OF ŠOLTA BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

### SUMMARY

The article contains a description of certain customs and beliefs of the Šolta islanders in the interrim between the two world wars. Šolta is a small island near the city of Split; this proximity has always shaped the destiny of the island. From the Middle Ages Šolta was a possession of the Split commune, the Split nobility and the Church. Even at the turn of the 20th century, Šolta islanders were tenant farmers, meaning that they gave their owners, or the overseers of the land a part of their income. At the turn of the century, the people of Šolta bought their land from their previous owners, but continued to live in poverty and strenuous labor. The Šolta islanders have always worked the land. They raised grape vines, olives, grain, almonds, carob, rosemary; they even fed livestock, though they had little pastureland. They have also produced lime and sold wood since time immemorial. Fishing and maritime occupations served merely as additional sources of income.

The article first presents data on the customs related to yearly holidays. In the interrim between the wars the annual holidays coincided, for the most part, with the calendar of religious, Catholic holidays, though this does not mean that the substance of the holidays was entirely religious in nature. In the celebrations of these days was quite a lot unrelated to faith, but rather established by tradition and custom, some of which had been preserved from beliefs preceding Catholicism. Then follow descriptions of customs that follow a person from birth to death, and information on the folk beliefs, particularly on mythical beings (witches, macinorgo, macic).

All the material was collected in recent times (from 1967 to 1988) according to recollections and statements of people who lived on Šolta in the interrim between wars; some of them are no longer alive, and some have been living off island for quite some time, yet still have vivid recollections of the period.

In conclusion, the information on Šolta customs and beliefs is compared with the written records of ethnological literature that refer to the region of other Middle Dalmatian islands. A great similarity is affirmed, understandable in terms of the shared history and personal ties.

*(Translated by E. Elias-Bursać)*