

RECENSIONES

Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon. (The Encyclopedia of Hungarian Ethnography)
III. K-Né. 1980. IV. N-Szé. 1981, V. Szé-Zs. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest 1982.

A "Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon" the first two volumes of which we have already reviewed (Acta Ethnographica, 1979 (XXVIII) 417-419; 1981 (XXX) 427) was finished by the publication of Part V in 1982. The compiler's principles have not changed since the first three parts (they were mentioned in our reviews earlier), thus we do not deem it necessary to pick any entries and analyse them. By way of a summary it must be stated that this encyclopedia in five volumes (3570 pages) provides us with comprehensive and rather detailed information of the culture of Hungarian people as well as of the activity of Hungarian ethnographers up to the 1970s. The entries - where necessary - are supplemented with abundant photographic material (colour and black and white) as well as drawings, most of them published for the first time. Collective entries (like workers' folklore, folk song, funeral-song, etc.) lend the work an encyclopedistic character thus increasing its usefulness and practicability.

On the whole the five volumes of "Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon" are a remarkable contribution to the improvement of our knowledge of Hungarian folk culture, besides they also present a basis for European ethnology providing it with plenty of analogies to the comparative analysis of the cultures of any European peoples. We hope for the publication of this encyclopedia in foreign languages - necessarily in a shortened version - thus complying with the request of various reviewers.

TIBOR BODROGI

VARGYAS, Lajos: Hungarian Ballads and the European Ballad Tradition
I. II. Zeneműkiadó, Budapest 1983, 304 + 960 pp.

This work of Lajos Vargyas, the outcome of a research of some decades, was published in Hungarian years ago with the title "A magyar népballada és Európa" I. II. (Budapest 1976) and was reviewed in details in the present periodical. The intention of the author was to throw light on the main problems of ballad as a literary form and the systematic representation of the parts of Hungarian folklore that he regards as ballads by means of a collection of examples and a list of variants.

The activity of Vargyas defines fundamentally the present standard and position of Hungarian research on ballads. His achievements are well known in international comparative research as well, and caused much controversy especially in connection with his book "Researches into the Medieval History of Folk Ballad" (Budapest 1967). The author maintains his former opinion of all the issues. According to him ballad as a literary form can

Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest

be traced back to the 14th century, and was created by the peasantry developing a bourgeois mentality at that time. As its subject-matter is limited to the sphere of private life it is mainly the poetic form of expressing love and marriage conflicts. In the creation of ballads both the personality of the poet and literature in general can have at least an indirect role. In his opinion ballad as a literary form originates from France from where it was spread relatively fast by common people to the other countries of the Continent. To Hungary it was brought by Walloon settlers, then a so-called second ballad centre was formed becoming a new starting-point in Eastern Europe.

The outstanding merit of the activity of Vargyas is the exploration of the international comparative literature on old Hungarian ballads and the careful comparison of their motives by which he indirectly creates a comprehensive image of the complicated relationships within folklore. In addition to a general analysis Vargyas deals with French and Danish ballads in detail. On the other hand he does not pay much attention to the new formations created in the course of the further development of ballad as a literary form, such as broadside ballads (ponyvaballadák, Flugblattlieder) and the various types of local ballads. He does not deal with the abundant section of 19th and 20th century epic-lyric songs, his main concern is the analysis of classical ballads connected to the European ballad tradition. His textural analyses are supplemented by the investigation of similarities of tunes.

The book is completed by an ample bibliography and lists of subjects and conflicts in which the Author considered the achievements, classification and methods of European research on ballads. All things considered, in the form of the present book of Lajos Vargyas international research gained a handbook of vital importance.

ILDIKÓ KRÍZA

Néprajzi tanulmányok a Zempléni-hegyvidékről. A miskolci Herman Ottó Múzeum Néprajzi Kiadványai X. (Ethnographical Studies on the Zemplén Hills. The Ethnographical Publications of the Herman Ottó Museum of Miskolc, vol. 10.) Edited by József SZABADFALVI with the contribution of Gyula VIGA. Miskolc 1981. 367 pp.

The Zemplén hills is one of the regions that has preserved the most archaic folk traditions not only within Hungary but all over the Carpathian Basin. This region situated on the borderline of two counties, Abaúj and Zemplén can be divided into separate smaller parts such as Hegyköz, Hernádmente, the inner woodland, the wine-growing district of Iokaj-Hegyalja and this diversity of the geographical setting is also reflected in that of the traditional ways of life and economic activities. The folklore of this region was accordingly enriched by the coexistence and cultural interaction of different ethnic groups. The Walloon and Saxon(German) settlers contributed to the development of wine-growing in the Middle Ages, while the Ukrainian (Ruthenian) peasants immigrating to Hungary after the 16th and 17th century made an effect on Hungarian agriculture as well as material and intellectual culture. In the 18th century Slovakian woodsmen, charcoal-burners and glass-makers were settled by landowners in the interior of the hills, and Swabian(German) peasants in a number of destroyed villages of the wine-district surrounding the hills.

The editor of the book, József Szabadfalvi surveys the preliminary research and reviews the most essential ethnographical publications and those concerning local history. He also gives account of the systematic