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JUBILEE OF THE ETHNOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE SERBIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

Fifty five years have past since the Ethnographic Institute was founded in the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and five years since the publication of the Commemorative Volume of this institution. The history of the activities of the Ethnographic Institute are in a way older than the Institute itself. Thus in 1894, on the recommendation of the Academician Stojan Novakovic, the Ethnographic Commission of the Serbian Royal Academy (SRA) began publication of the Serbian Ethnographic Journal (*Srpski etnografski zbornik*), aiming to publish the results of investigation into the lives and customs of the Serbian people. Publication of the Serbian Ethnographic Journal was a continuation and basic extension of the activities of the Society for Serbian Science and Literature (*Drustvo srpske slovesnosti*), (founded in 1847) and the Serbian Scientific Society (founded in 1865) in whose editions, descriptions of Serbian landscape entities were presented. A programme of systematic and authoritative ethnographic investigation on the basis of questionnaires was introduced in the SRA in 1886.

The aim of this jubilee Bulletin EI, SASA is to present the entire activity of the Institute and for that reason a part of it is prepared in English.

Since the Institute was founded with the aim “to organise systematic and planned investigation of settlements and the origins of the population, folk life, customs and beliefs as well as folklore in our country, among our people”, up to the new project, initiated in 2002, the results of this scientific institution are numerous and varied.

The Ethnographical Institute of SASA is the leading national institution in Serbia where folk culture, life and customs, ethno-genesis and ethnic identity of the Serbs and other ethnic groups, as well as the contemporary ethnic process are systematically studied. The Institute investigates the ethnic identity of the Serbs at home and abroad and the ethnic communities in Serbia together with traditional forms and values of folk culture (material, social and spiritual). Its projects follow process and changes in the structure of population, in dynamic development and transition, characterised by constant migration, they also deal with the modernisation and development of methodological and theoretical work on regional, thematic and general ethnological themes and problems. An extensive ethnographic material has been collected and published by the Ethnographical Institute, SASA. Numerous scientific meetings were organised. In addition an international collaboration and publishing activities have been

fostered by generations of devoted researchers and scientists who have worked and work today in the Ethnographical Institute.

Although the Ethnographical Institute operated in a difficult financial circumstances in the course of the past two decades, particularly in the nineties of the 20th century, field work results, monographs and other works were published, collaboration with a number of scientific institutions at home and abroad was maintained. Also, activities such as training young cadre and scholarship holders and the adoption of new trends in ethno-anthropological science means that this scientific research institution remained the main institution which deals with all segments of Serbian culture, and the culture of other ethnic groups who live in Serbia.

During the five and a half decades of its existence, the Ethnographical Institute was led by: Vojislav Radovanović, Borivoje Drobnjaković, Mirko Barjaktarović, Branislav Kojić, Atanasije Urošević, Milorad Vasović, Petar Vlahović, Milka Jovanović, Desanka Nikolić, Dušan Bandić, Nikola Pantelić and Dragana Radojičić. Apart from the above mentioned, other scientist have contributed in the course of many years: Aleksandar Belić, Dušan Nedeljković, Aleksandar Deroko, Milenko S. Filipović, Petar Ž. Petrović, Dragoslav Antonijević and many other distinguished specialists and lecturers. Today the Institute has a young and specialised research team with Dr. Dragana Radojičić as their head and Dr. Lasta Djapović — directors of the Institutes projects. Today, researchers are Dr. Sofija Miloradović, Dr. Jelena Čvorović, Dr. Ivica Todorović, Zorica Divac MA, Miroslava Malešević MA, Miroslava Lukić-Krstanović MA, Mirjana Pavlović MA, Mladena Prelić MA, Miroslav Niškanović MA, Aleksandra Pavičević MA, Jadranka Djordjević MA, Sanja Zlatanović MA, Milina Ivanović-Barišić and Gordana Blagojević MA. Apart from the sixteen researchers, there are three other ethnologists employed by the Institute, two of whom work in the library: Biljana Milenković-Vuković and Aleksandar Janković, while Marija Djokić works as a secretary to the projects, and on the editorial board of Institute publications. These three collaborators supervise the quality of research work, together with the secretary Nevenka Spasojević.

From the 1950 the Institute publishes *Zbornik radova Etnografskog instituta* (Journal of the Ethnographical Institute) which consists mainly of thematically related works as well as papers from scientific meetings; *Posebna izdanja* (Special Editions) are devoted to thematic and regional monographs, discussions and material. To date 20 issues of *Zbornik radova* and 48 volumes of *Posebna izdanja* have been published. In the 1952 the Institute initiated its own *Glasnik* (Bulletin) and in the 1980, editions in foreign languages began to appear. During the last decades of the 20th century the series *Životopis* (4 volumes published) appeared as a part of the project *Srbi van Srbije* (The Serbs outside Serbia). Works and studies published here were the result of investigations on different projects, e.g. *A Continual Observation of Changes in Folk Culture, Ethnic and Ethnological Forms among the Population in Serbia, Ethnological Research into Emigration from Serbia, Ethnological Investigation of Urban Milieu, Ethnology of Serbian People in Serbia, Serbs Abroad and National Minorities in Serbia*, etc.

The Ethnographical Institute has constantly encouraged collaboration with other institutions in the country and abroad. It also organised scientific meetings which gathered researchers and scientists from a variety of disciplines from a number of countries, this made a significant contribution towards maintaining tradition and observing cultural changes at home and abroad.

Collaboration with SASA in the course of the last five and a half decades was a continuous success, evident from participation of members of the Academy in the projects of different Institute bodies (Scientific Council and Editorial boards), and in the

last year on the Administrative Committee. This collaboration was very successful throughout 2002, thanks to the unselfish engagement of the Academician Dimitrije Stefanović, correspondent member Vojislav Stanović, corespondent member and likewise member of the editorial board of the Institute Gojko Subotić in the Administrative Council. Their assistance in communication with the Academy was of invaluable significance. A contact between the Executive council and President of SASA was intensified with the Department of Social Sciences, the Committee for International collaboration, as well as individual Academicians.

The work of the Ethnographical Institute can be divided on the basis of the research process into several units:

— Up to the middle eighties of the 20th century the entire territory of Serbia had been investigated in the area of fundamental ethnic research — ethnic picture of the region, residential culture, building, economy, customs, folklore and research of the cultural transformation, following industrialisation, urbanisation and big public works (construction of the Kolubara basin, HE power station at Djerdap and the railway line Belgrade–Bar). Investigation of urban surroundings were systematically organised and the results published by the Institute.

— Changes continue during the nineties of the 20th century with widespread migration of population, which resulted in cultural intermingling, but these processes have not been monitored by organised ethnological investigation, primarily due to the collapse of former the Yugoslavia and war, and because of the lack of good will and funds for such research.

— From the beginning of the new millennium research into contemporary ethnic processes, commenced with investigation of national culture, ethnic identity, inter-ethnic communication, cultural adaptation, principles on which social relationships are based as well as the attitudes towards minority groups in multicultural Serbian society.

The Ethnographical Institute strived to maintain collaboration with related institutions and establishments. A collaboration with the Departments of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy has been intensified. The traditionally close collaboration, with the Ethnographical Museum in Belgrade continued as well as with the National Museum in Belgrade and other museums throughout the country. Contact has been established with institutions in the Academy through regular monthly meetings with the directors of the Institutes, in which there was always an exchange of work experience, particularly organisational — in the sense of a united approach to SASA and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development of the Republic of Serbia. Contacts have been established with cultural centers abroad, particularly in Germany, Italy and Russia.

Valuable international cooperation has been continued in the realisation of international projects, study sejours and participation at conferences. A collaboration with the Ethnographic Institute and Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Science has been intensified by collaboration on the theme Comparative Investigation of Customs in the Life Cycles in Serbia and Bulgaria. The result of this collaboration are two issues of the bilingual journal Customs in the Life Cycles a special edition of EI, SASA 48 (the first was published by the Institute of BAS). Plans for a new theme of combined investigation Daily culture of the Serbs and Bulgarians in the Post -socialist Period have been agreed.

Likewise, the long established collaboration with colleagues in Hungary continues. This activity began in the eighties of the last century as a part of the Hungarian and Serbian Academies' scientific collaboration but in recent years, it is realised through collaboration with Serbian minority groups: Serbian self-administration in Hungary and Serbian Land, self-administration in Hungary from Budapest and the local Serb self-administration in Batanja.

On the initiative of Dr. Dušan Drljača an agreement of scientific collaboration was signed between the EI, SASA and the Institute of Ethnological and Anthropological Culture of the HAS in Poznanj. The agreement is based on the principle of exchange of scientific information and publications and particularly on the organisation of shared terrain investigation in Yugoslavia and Poland.

Furthermore, research into Serbian communities in Timisoara, London, Greece, Republika Srpska and California has been initiated.

Collaboration in the framework of DEMOS — Internationale ethnographische und folkloristische Informationen — continues. Collaboration is through the work of the editorial board of which Miroslava Lukić-Krstanović MA is a member. The Institute received visits from Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, Russia, France, USA and other countries.

In 2002 the Institute renewed its traditional scientific tribunes which were directed and organised by Dr. Lasta Djapović. Three tribunes were held in both the spring and autumn cycles.

The Institute worked in the course of 2002 on numerous activities connected with the realisation of the new three year projects initiated that year.

At the request of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development of the Republic of Serbia the programme aims and work plan of the Ethnographical Institute of SASA were submitted for 2002 in the framework of the competition for the fundamental scientific-investigation projects of the Republic Ministry of Science. The Institute submitted two projects for which complete documentation and explanations of the themes and investigation aims were prepared.

1. Serbian Traditional Culture — Systems of Presentations, Rituals and Social Institutions (director Dr. Lasta Djapović).

2. Contemporary Urban and Village Culture — Courses and Transformation (director Dr. Dragana Radojičić).

The first project covers monographic study of several segments of traditional culture and smaller geographic units in Serbia, as well as the ethnicity of Serbs settled abroad.

The second project deals with investigation of new living conditions and forms of traditional culture in villages and in towns which have changed, or where new forms have been grafted on old traditions.

Work on both projects took a multidisciplinary and comparative approach to investigation and involved 16 researchers of the Ethnographical Institute of SASA and three retired scientific advisers. Apart from the researchers, the library and services were also involved in the projects.

These projects are the framework of the Institute's work for the comming period.

The entire work of the Institute is directed towards actual problems, as seen through the development of contemporary Serbian ethnology. In its fifty five years of work the Ethnographical Institute of SASA has achieved significant results through publications, field work, scientific meetings, tribunes as well as international collaboration. In these results we see the role of this national institution for scientific research which invests efforts to expand the territory of ethnological research and contact with related humanistic disciplines.

The work of the EI of SASA on the present projects means the basis for future sounding and research of the ethnic picture of Serbia today, which presents the cultural reality as it is, and discovers the course of its stabilisation.

Translation: A. Vasić