

the guidance of professional ethnographers and folklorists. Topics investigated included the ruthless exploitation of the local forests, regional folk costumes, folk medicine, customs related to calendar feasts, and customs of the communities and their life in general. As a result, besides its success in pedagogy, the course also produced various scientific achievements which is attested to by specific data.

The above-mentioned leads us to the second important aspect of this long-range program, namely the sphere of public education. The Czechoslovak Hungarian Folklore Association has important goals in this field as well. In order to build and maintain folklore instruction in the primary schools and prepare instructors for this undertaking, a pedagogical committee was created under the direction of Mária Szanyi. As a result of the work of this committee, at a recent Hungarian session of the Teachers Training College in Nyitra, an optional course on folklore for faculty was offered during the summer semester. It is hoped that this course will continue to be offered. The "Peoples Education Movement" has been revived all over Slovakia, and the Association would like to take advantage of this development to place special emphasis on the subject of Slovak-Hungarian Civilization, and within it, the study of folklore. Besides such formal instruction, the Czechoslovak Folklore Association shall pay special attention to all aspects of general education, where the values of folk culture can be properly disseminated. The popularization of folk culture has already made some inroads (e. g., various local and nationwide folk art festivals, the occasional popular folk publications of the Slovak-Hungarian press, etc.). The task of the Association, then, is to observe whether different forms of mass education convey authentic folk materials of high standard. For example, there is a new undertaking on Radio Pozsony's (Bratislava) Hungarian Program. Last summer a new popular folk series was initiated which will be a regular program on the station as of this autumn. The program entitled, "Folklore for Everyone", is similar to an earlier program on Hungarian Radio entitled, "Little Hungarian Folklore for Everyone". This program acquaints the listeners with various topics in folklore. The texts of the radio broadcasts are published in *Hét* ("Week"), the weekly magazine of CSEMADOK.

József Liszka

THE FOUNDATION OF THE JÁNOS KRIZA FOLKLORE ASSOCIATION

The turn of events in December 1989 initiated changes in Romanian social and political life, which, at the outset, opened up promising, then sobering perspectives in the lives of the Hungarians in Romania.

It is almost natural that the change of power brought in its wake the foundation and reorganization of nationalist groups. As a consequence of this process, in January 1990, an issue was raised that the young folklorists should establish a protective organization; and moreover, that a broader organization would be required to bring together all the folklorists living and working in Romania.

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In order to understand the current situation, one must realize that following World War II no folklore courses were being taught at Romanian universities. Some Hungarian folklorists did work in research teams at the Academy of Sciences in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár) and Tirgu Mures (Marosvásárhely) (e.g. József Faragó, Olga Nagy, István Almási, Katalin Olosz); others worked in folklore sections of museums (e.g. Károly Kós, Klára Gazda). Many of them worked as teachers and pursued their profession only in their free time (e.g. Ilona Szenik, János Ráduly, János Jagamas, Judit Szentimrei, János Péntek, for a while Zoltán Kallós, etc.). After the events of 1968, when the possibility of publishing increased, these researchers printed numerous essays and books. Károly Kós, Jenő Nagy and Gabriella Vőő carried out similar research on folk poetry. The seventies were favorable to research in folk music as well; in this way the works of János Jagamas, István Almási and Ilona Szenik could be published. In addition, many researchers could publish their manuscripts, e.g. Ernő Albert, János Ráduly, Imre Fábián, László Bura, András Seres, Klára Gazda, etc. The five volumes of *Népismereti Dolgozatok* (Papers in Folk Knowledge), published irregularly, supported the non-professional researchers and encouraged them to continue their research. Only extraneous education could be realized at this time. The majority of researchers held degrees from Kolozsvár in Hungarian language and literature rather than folklore; however, these individuals were able to study folk poetry and ethnology during their university years. Finishing their studies, they often wrote their theses on folklore, and later for the various teachers' exams they were able to write papers on this subject. The majority of the papers were guided by János Péntek. The researchers began to work on their subjects through their own initiative and because of their love for this field. These individuals were self-taught. It is worth mentioning that in editing the different publications, József Faragó, Károly Kós, Zsolt Szabó and János András played a great part as well by contributing their advice and opinions to the philological education of the researchers.

In 1978–1983 under the auspices of *Korunk*, a periodical published in Kolozsvár, regular folklore and sociological lectures were presented to university students interested in folklore. The lectures were given by István Imreh, Ákos Egyed, József Faragó, Zoltán Kallós, István Almási, Ilona Szenik, Ernő Gáll, Ion Aluas, János Péntek, and especially Olga Nagy.

Those who took part in these undertakings became even more active in January 1990, after which the statutory meeting took place wherein the participants established the János Kriza Folklore Association, intended as the protective organization of the folklore researchers in Romania. The program of the Association was approved by the cultural minister and received legal status on June 15 from the public prosecutor's office in Kolozsvár. The statutes of the János Kriza Association are similar to the documents of the Hungarian Folklore Association. Its concrete aim is to create a legal framework for the cooperation of folklorists in Romania. It seeks new organizational forms to promote folklore research under new possibilities brought about by recent changes. It is their opinion that they can accomplish more together. Their projects include the establishment of a folklore data base in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár), a documen-

tation center with a library, and an archive. They would also like to publish both a periodical and a yearbook, and duplicate guide-books for collecting folklore data.

Finally, they aim to organize scientific conferences and discussions. Study camps for young people are coordinated in Erdővidék from July 26 and in Gyimesközélpok from August 15. Since precise documentation is essential in scientific research, the organization plans to compile a bibliography of association members listing their published or forthcoming works. In their work they encounter many financial difficulties, yet they continue to proceed using their own resources.

The honorary president of the Association is István Almási; its president is Ferenc Pozsony, and its secretary is Erzsébet Zakariás Zalat.

They were happy to receive the information that the problems of university folklore education within the Department of Hungarian in Kolozsvár was being resolved. Since the beginning of 1990, it has become possible to study folklore as a minor with Hungarian as a major. If the program succeeds, it would lighten the problem of replacement of folklorists although only an independent folklore department would resolve the lack of qualified persons entirely.

The Association emphasizes that it would like to be an all-embracing protective organization of Hungarian folklore research in Romania, and not simply a transitory group lasting for only one generation. The younger ones rely on the knowledge of the more experienced ones, and the elders count on the energy and working capacity of the youngsters. They know that they should not be isolated from the researchers who work in the neighboring countries, especially in the mother country — Hungary. They have common goals although the working, social and political conditions are not the same. They feel that from now on, the possibility to learn from each other is greatly enhanced; primarily from the great experts of the field, and secondly, from the exchange of information and communication by means of conferences, exchange of publications, and by taking part in common folklore research tours.

Ferenc Pozsony