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The Folk Carols Repertoire in the Salaj and Codru Areas

Summary

The richness of the folk-carol repertoire in the Salaj and Codru areas is obvious if the category and typological variety of the lyrics is taken into consideration. In these areas, we have identified ten categories of carols, which are subdivided into 120 types and subtypes: 1. protocol carols - 8 types; 2. cosmogony carols - 11 types; 3. professional carols - 19 types; 4. the young lad and the lassie - lovers and courteship agents - 14 types; 5. family carols - 6 types; 6. character building and moralizing - 8 types; 7. Biblical and apocriphal - 23 types; 8. ballad- carols - 7 types; 9. war carols - 1 type; and 10. song-carols - 23 types. The carols contain an important number of themes and motifs (which could be analysed in family branches of themes and motifs). They are related to the most particular aspects of human life. Consequently, a complete image of rural life is presented, in its diachronic development and evolution since very old times. Thus, the protocol carols show the traditional scene with its special relationships between the actors: the facilitator, the addresser, the addressee, the divinity; the cosmogony carols contain beliefs and legends about the creation of the world, about the planets, etc.; professional carols present various characters, beliefs and customs, which contain magic and ritualistic elements related to the oldest human occupations; the lad and lassie category have a direct address to the behaviour of young men and women waiting to be married; the family carols shed light to aspects of family relationships in the archaic village; character building and moralizing carols give answers to a long series of human questions and issues, and help towards a moral education, from the angle of traditional and Christian spirituality; the subjects of the ballad carols answered a series of problems of rural life, by the dramatic character of the narration, and by the educational value of the role-models presented; war carols, as well as the lyrical songs which share the same themes, are an artistic answer given by the people to the endless horrors of modern wars; usually, song-carols were not performed at the houses of the hosts, but on the way from one house to another.