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**THE FORMER STAFF  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY  
AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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## Professor Karel CHOTEK

\*1881 – †1967



He was a significant ethnographer, researcher, professor of general ethnography, a founder of ethnography branch of study at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava, the first university in Slovakia. Professor Chotek represented a man of wide knowledge, which he gained first at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University in Prague and then at universities in Leiden, Zürich and Berlin. During his pedagogical activities at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University (1921 – 1931) he influenced the development of the study of ethnography, at first as part of geography studies and since 1922 ethnography was studied within “The Seminar of general ethnography” and since 1924 within “the Seminar of Czechoslovak ethnography”. In 1931, after he had finished his activities in Slovakia, he left for Prague, where he held an important position of the chairman of the Czechoslovak Ethnographic Society. Later he became a member of prestigious scientific societies at home and abroad as well.

In his scholarly and research activities he focused on the issue of habitation, dwellings and agriculture. He analyzed the issues of general ethnography and anthropology. Majority of his publications comprise of monographs and synthesizing texts on material culture, periodization of the Czech culture development in which he emphasized the study and publications of research results from some Slovak regions (*Cerovo, Národopisná studie*, In: *Národopisný věstník československý*, 1906), *Pletené stavby na Slovensku* (*Slovenský národopis*, 1954), *Příspěvek k dějinám slovenského domu* (*Národopisní věstník československý*, 1926), *Ethnické rozdíly v anthropologii dítěte se zřetelem ku Slovensku* (*Sborník Filozofické fakulty Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave*, 1922/23). His effort to contribute to the development of ethnography and the museology concept in Slovakia was manifested especially in his work *Program slovenského národopisného súpisu* (1924).

During his activities at Comenius University besides giving lectures, he supervised students in field trips and engaged them in ongoing research activities he participated in. Through his varied activities and as an enthusiastic researcher himself, he contributed to the education of the first representatives of Slovak experts in ethnography, who later influenced the ethnographic studies not only at the Faculty of Philosophy (R. Bednárik, J. Mjartan) but also in other scientific institutions. Professor Karel Chotek justly remains in the memory of many generations as a doyen of Slovak ethnography.

Magdaléna Paríková

## Professor Bruno SCHIER

\*1902 – †1984



Professor Bruno Schier belonged to the influential personages who participated in promoting the study of ethnography at Comenius University.

During his university studies he concentrated on gaining good knowledge of East-European realia. He continued his studies in München with the emphasis on linguistics, study of German language and history. In the years 1927 – 1934 he worked as an assistant in the Seminar of German dialectology in Prague. Later he got a PhDr. degree in national history and geography. In Leipzig he extended his studies by specializing in the morphology of culture and geography, which led to his interest in the culture of habitation and husbandry. His linguistic orientation in research resulted in the study of the Czech multiethnic space. He concentrated on the issue of material culture in the area – as he called it – of “ethnic contacts”. As a professor of cultural history, inaugurated in Leipzig, he comes to Bratislava in 1940 as a visiting professor, later becomes a regular professor of German linguistic and ethnography at the University of Comenius. During his stay in Bratislava he was a chairman of the Commission for Ethnography in Sudetenanstalt für Landes- und Volksforschung in Liberec. In his field research he focused on material culture, where he did research on the continuity in culture of central Europe. In his study of habitations and forms of settlements he pointed to the mutual German-Slavic influences. He also focused on traditional clothing and jewelry and popular tales, pre-concepts and customs (*Die Hirtenspiele des Karpatenraumes*, Berlin 1943). During his stay in Slovakia he started working on his monograph on beehives (*Úl ako zdroj národopisného výskumu*, *Národopisný sborník*, 2, 1941), which he published later. Even after his departure from Slovakia he maintained his interest in the Slavic studies (1947 Halle/Saale – the linguistics of western Slavs, 1949 – Marburg/Lahn, 1950 – a co-founder of the Herder Institute. The scientific orientation of Professor Schier to East-European space with the emphasis on the territories settled by the German ethnic found its reflection in his later scientific activities (since 1961 he was a member of the scientific team of Collegium Carolinum in München and also of Johann-Künzig Institut für Ostdeutsche Volkskunde in Freiburg, an important centre of the research of the Germans).

Some views and results of Professor Schier’s research exaggerating ethnic specifics in creation of folk culture were close to the national socialism in Germany and were exposed to criticism.

Magdaléna Paríková

## Professor Rudolf BEDNÁRIK, DrSc.

\*1903 – †1975



He is one of the significant representatives of Slovak ethnology who created its character. He was also a versatile scientist and a university professor for many years.

After finishing secondary school studies in Nové Mesto nad Váhom he continued his studies at Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava, where he studied geography and history and he also visited lectures of professor Karel Chotek in ethnology. He graduated by defending his diploma thesis *Národopisná monografia Skačian* (1929).

He started his career as a custodian of the Slovak National Museum in Martin (1930 – 1931). Later as a secondary school teacher (1931– 1951) he closely cooperated with Matica slovenská organizing ethnographic research, editing *Ethnographic Proceedings of Matica slovenská* and also as a chairman of Ethnographic Section of Matica slovenská (since 1946). At the same time as an employee of the Slovak national Museum in Martin (1934 – 1939) he participated in many research projects and collecting ethnographic exhibits of the museum.

As a respected authority on Slovak ethnography in 1947 he started to give lectures on ethnography at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava as an external lecturer and after 1951 as an internal teacher. In 1959 he gained the degree of an Associate Professor and then in 1965 gained the “PhD” degree. In 1965 he became the first Slovak university professor of ethnology. He participated considerably in the creation of the department and a study program. In 1965 – 1968 he was a head of archeology history of art, ethnography and folklore department.

Scholarly and publishing activities of R. Bednárík are exceptionally wide and varied. He published over 70 articles and about 20 monographs. He focused on the issues of folk architecture and dwellings *Ludové staviteľstvo na Kysuciach* (1967), *Duchovné základy ľudového staviteľstva* (1944), *Ľudový nábytok* (1949), folk fine arts *Pastierske rezbárske umenie* (1956), *Maľované ohništia v oblasti Malých Karpát* (1956), *Slovenské úle* (1957), *Cintoríny na Slovensku* (1972), customs *Ľudové náhrobníky na Slovensku* (1949), *Ľudová liečba na Slovensku* (1954), *Príspevok o náboženských prežitkoch na Slovensku* (1957), jobs *Ľudové poľovníctvo na Slovensku* (1943). He contributed significantly to the ethnographic research of the Slovaks abroad *Slováci v Juhoslávii*. His work is characteristic of a wide thematic scope oriented to specific manifestations of traditional culture of Slovaks.

*Duchovná a hmotná kultúra slovenského ľudu* (In: *Slovenská vlastiveda*, 1943). His work represents a significant and unique product and an evidence of one significant stage in the development and creation of Slovak ethnography. Together

with his colleagues Professor Andrej Melicherčík and Doctor Ján Mjartan from the Slovak Academy of Sciences he contributed to the establishment of Slovak ethnography as a scientific branch. For many years as a teacher he participated in the education of the whole so-called founding generation of Slovak ethnography.

Ladislav Mlynka

### Professor Andrej MELICHERČÍK, CSc.

\*1917 – †1966



Andrej Melicherčík after finishing his secondary school studies in Dolný Kubín in 1935 began to study Slovak and German at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University. He took an interest in the lectures of Professor's P. G. Bogatyrev, who taught at that time at the faculty and A. Melicherčík, influenced by his approach, published a work *Niekoľko poznámok k ľudovému staviteľstvu na dolnej Orave*, which came out in The Ethnographic Proceedings of Matica slovenská in 1939.

After he had graduated, he worked as a secondary school teacher and in 1941 he defended his doctoral thesis *Funkčné premeny spevu na dnešnej dedine*. Then he began to work as an assistant-lecturer in ethnography at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Slovak University in Bratislava, where he worked until 1945. During this period he visited Germany and one of the results of the visit was a book *Teória národopisu* (Liptovský Mikuláš 1945) for which he gained a degree of a senior lecturer (docent). In this work he introduced contemporary European trends in and approaches to ethnography and folklore.

Since 1945 he had worked in Matica slovenská in Martin in Ethnographic Section of Matica slovenská and since 1948 he was a secretary of Matica slovenská. At the same time he worked as a private senior lecturer at the Bratislava University. In 1950 he became the director of the newly founded Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He also continued in his pedagogical activities at the Faculty of Philosophy at first as its senior lecturer until 1952 and since 1963 as its professor of folklore studies.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1966 he died unexpectedly while being on a field trip in Orava with his students.

His research in the highwaymen tradition in Slovakia with the emphasis on Juraj Jánošík resulted in a number of his works: *Jánošíkovská tradícia na Slovensku* (Bratislava 1952), *Juraj Jánošík, hrdina protifeudálneho odboja slovenského ľudu* (Praha 1956), *Jánošík junošík* (Bratislava 1963), etc. Andrej Melicherčík focused also on theoretical issues of folklore studies and he published several books on the topic.

He also participated in publishing several books: publications of a book of fairy-tales by P. Dobšínský *Prostonárodné slovenské povesti*, by Záturecký *Slovenské príslovia, porekadlá a úslovia*, the selections of Slovak vernacular folklore and love lyrics *Zo živých prameňov* and *V šírom poli studienečka*, to which he wrote extensive forewords, after-words and notes.

His chrestomathy *Slovenský folklór* (Slovak academy of sciences – Bratislava 1959) offers a complex view of the repertory range of folklore genres in Slovakia.

The plans of A. Melicherčík to write a history of folk culture in Slovakia and a complete monograph on Orava failed due to his sudden death.

Melicherčík also contributed to the development of ethnography and folklore studies by his organizational activities as a member of numerous committees and boards. He was a member of the scientific board of the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, he worked on the editorial board of the Slovak Ethnography, he was also the member of the expert committee for ethnography and folklore of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, a member of the Advisory Board for History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1958 he was one of the founders of Slovak Ethnographic Society and in the years 1963 – 1966 acted as its vice-chairman.

Hana Hlôšková

### Professor Ján MICHÁLEK, DrSc.

\*1932



In 1956 J. Michálek finished his studies of history and ethnology at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava where he worked as a university teacher at the Department of ethnology and cultural anthropology until his retirement in 2004.

In his scientific work he focused especially on the history of folklore, theory of folklore and the genres of folk prose. In 1965 he defended successfully his doctoral thesis on *Historická tematika v ústnom podaní na Podjavorinsko-Podbradlansku*. In collaboration with J. Olexa he published the international catalogue of folk tales by A. Aarne – S. Thompson *The Types of Folk-Tales* (1928) in 1960. In 1971 he published a monograph on commemorative narratives, as a specific narrative genre: *Spomienkové rozprávania s historickou tematikou* (Bratislava, 2001) as his habilitation thesis.

J. Michálek published several course books and textbooks: *Dejiny etnografie a folkloristiky: Postavy, diela a inštitúcie*. (Bratislava, 1990, 1994, 1998), *Tradícia a inovácia (štúdie o ľudovej kultúre)* (Bratislava, 2001). He edited and wrote an

afterword for the work by P. J. Šafárik *Slovenský národopis*, which was published as Volume IV of *The Writings of P. J. Šafárik* (Košice, 1995). He also edited a number of collections of folklore tales for publishing houses of VEDA, Tatran, Mladé letá, etc. Some of these were republished in *Čarovné zrkadlo. Výber zo slovenskej ľudovej slovesnosti* (Bratislava 1973, 1983, 1988). He initiated the edition Folk art in Slovakia in the Tatran Publishing House, where he published the monographs of commemorative stories such as *Keď je dobrá klobása* (Bratislava, 1987), local and historical folk-tales *Zvonové studničky* (Bratislava, 1991) and demonological tales *Na krížnych cestách* (Bratislava, 1991). In *Protifašistický odboj na Slovensku v rozprávaniach ľudu* (Bratislava, 1985) he focused on the folk narratives about the Slovak National Uprising.

He edited a number of local and regional monographs *Liptovská Teplička* (Košice, 1973), *Stará Turá* (1983), *Brezová pod Bradlom*, (1970, 1998), *Ľud hornádskej doliny* (Košice, 1989) and a number of conference proceedings e.g. *Slovenská ľudová kultúra (stredoeurópske vzťahy)* (1966).

He is the author of 20 entries in *Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska I., II.* (Bratislava, 1995) and *Slovenský biografický slovník* (Martin, 1987 – 1992).

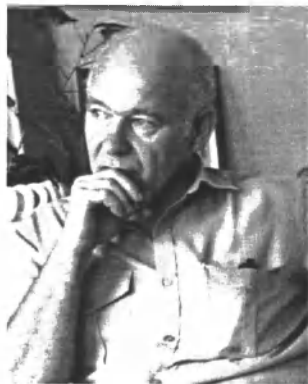
He supervised tens of diploma and dissertation theses. He is a member of numerous journal editorial boards and scientific boards and committees for academic degrees at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He was among the founding members of the Slovak Ethnological Society, founded in 1958.

Pedagogical, scientific and organizational activities of J. Michálek were acknowledged by many institutions, e. g. from Comenius University he received the Gold Medal of Comenius University.

Hana Hlôšková

### Assoc. Professor Štefan MRUŠKOVIČ, CSc.

\*1932



He was a significant representative of Slovak museology and a university teacher. After he had finished his studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava he worked as an assistant-lecturer of ethnography in the years 1958 – 1963. During this period in his lectures he focused on the problems of folk material and art culture of the Slovaks, ethnography of Slavs with a special emphasis on the topics in folk architecture and museology. In the years 1963 – 1975 he was a director of the Ethnographic Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Martin and later he became a director of the Slovak

National Gallery. After 1990 he returned to the Slovak National Museum in Martin. He oriented his scholarly interest to the problems of folk architecture and culture of habitation especially in the region of Záhorie and western Slovakia (*Záhorie, vývoj ľudového staviteľstva a kultúry bývania*, the doctoral thesis, 1967). Fine arts, especially ornaments, became another sphere of his research. He paid a special attention to the history and theory of museology. His scholarly, organizational and managerial activities of the author of the concept of the Museum of a Slovak Village and the exhibition of the Slovak National Museum and of a script writer and an editor of the Slovak National Museum Miscellany – Ethnography are the most significant ones.

He published a number of articles on the topic of folk architecture and habitation in the region of Záhorie. Myjava and Slovak-Moravian border especially in the Slovak National Museum Miscellany – Ethnography (1975, 1976) and in thematic miscellanies (1963, 1972, 1974). He was also an editor and author of extensive chapters in regional and local monographs: *Brezová pod Bradlom* (1970), *Stará Turá* (1983), *Myjava* (1985), *Helpa* (1999), *Turiec* (2001, 2004), *Vrútky* (2000), *Žilina region* (2000). He dealt with the problems of the development and relations in a lowland Pannonian and Carpathian house especially in the region of Slovak-Moravian border. The topic of architecture is connected with the studies on habitation types and with the project of the museum of folk architecture in the Museum of the Slovak Village in the Slovak National Museum in Martin (The Slovak National Museum Miscellany 1965, 1967, 1970, 1972, 1974). He wrote a monograph *Obilné zásobnice* (1974) published by Fontes, which links to his study of millstones (in historical and interethnic context – The Slovak National Museum Miscellany, 1992). He wrote an extensive study on the folk furniture decorations (1993) and classification of folk decorative art (1998). Of special significance are his studies on the dictionary and terminology of ethnographic collections: transportation and traffic (2003), harvest and picking (2009). He concentrated on contemporary artists (Mária Žilavá, 1974), their relation to tradition (1980, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1987), children's book illustrations (1984), political posters (1980, 1984), textile design (1980) and making an inventory of creative communication and a central catalogue of exhibits (1983, 1988).

In the sphere of museology besides the issues concerning the museums in nature he also dealt with the history and the theory of ethnomuseology. He wrote a course book *Etnografická muzeológia* (1979). He compiled and coauthored a manual *Etnomuzeológia* (1993) and several textbooks. He studied the history of museums and galleries, in particular the history of the Slovak National Museum in Martin (the Slovak National Museum Miscellany – Ethnography 1997 – 1999), The Slovak National Museum Miscellany (1996, Slovak Ethnography 1971). He also paid attention to the Slovak National Museum exhibitions, distinguished representatives and pioneers of museum studies in Slovakia. As the director of the Slovak National Gallery he analyzed its development and activities (1979, 1989).

Ladislav Mlynka



## Professor Ján PODOLÁK, DrSc., Dr.h.c.

\*1926



Despite the fact that he spent almost thirty years with Comenius University his entry into the active professional life was connected with his activities in the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, where he worked immediately after his graduation (1951) From the very beginning he participated as a scientist and organizer in the development and professional orientation of the Institute in the research activities with the emphasis on rural culture (traditional agriculture, shepherd culture in the Carpathians and the Balkan peninsula) and the research of Slovaks abroad and the history of ethnography and in organization and publication of first collective monographs and works of synthesis: *Banícka dedina Žakarovce, Horehronie, Československá vlastivěda. Lidová kultura, Slovensko – ľud, Slowakische Volkskultur, etc.*

He also initiated the work on ethno-cartographic synthesis of folk culture (*Etnografický atlas Slovenska*) to which he contributed as an author as well as to a collective work *Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska*.

He manifested his scholarly and organizational abilities in founding and editing the journal *Slovenský národopis* (from 1953). His interest in international collaboration in the ethnography field found a positive response with his Slovak and foreign colleagues with whom he co-founded *The International Committee for the Research of Folk Culture in the Carpathians and the Balkan Peninsula* and until 1971 he was its general secretary. Before he started work for the university he had become Associate Professor with his work *Traditional Ways of Working the Soil in Horehronie*.

Shortly after he had joined the Department of archeology, art history and ethnography and folklore of Comenius University he founded a department of research The Cabinet of Ethnology and an international student seminar *Seminarium Ethnologicum* (1968). His efforts to build ethnography at the university resulted in establishing an independent Department of Ethnography and Folklore (1969). In the same year he founded an international journal of Slavic ethnologists *Ethnologica Slavica* published in foreign languages. He edited the journal until 1996 and until today he has been its editor-in-chief. In 1986 by his work *Traditional Sheepbreeding in Slovakia* he gained the degree of the doctor of sciences. In 1991 he was inaugurated the professor ethnology at the Masaryk University.

In his pedagogical activities at Comenius University he was implementing the results of his research of many years in farming culture, history of ethnography, Slavic ethnography, the culture of non-Slavic minorities living in Slovakia, ethno-cultural processes in Slovakia and Central Europe. He supervised doctoral students and was a member of habilitation and inaugural committees. Besides pedagogical activities he also focused on publication activities, not only his own research

results but also those of his colleagues from the Department of Ethnography and Folklore of Comenius University (monographs of *Vajnory*, *Záhorská Bratislava*, *Rača*, *Zamagurie*, *Horná Cirocha*) and from other institutions where he had worked (the Slovak Academy of Sciences, The University of Cyril and Methodius in Trnava).

For a long period he worked for Matica slovenská. He became the first chairman of a renewed Ethnography Section of Matica slovenská (1992 – 2004). He was a member of editorial boards and scholarly societies in Slovakia, in former Czechoslovakia and abroad (e.g. *Ethnologia Europaea* – Kopenhagen. *Ethnology* – University of Pittsburgh).

After he had left Comenius University he worked as an advisor for specific problems in the Slovak Republic President's Office (1993 – 1994). Since 1997 he had worked as a teacher and research worker at the University of Cyril and Methodius in Trnava. In 1999 – 2002 he was the rector of this university. Professor Podolák belongs to the nestors of Slovak ethnology. With his name are connected wide scientific, research and organizational activities oriented to the collaboration with abroad as well as extensive pedagogical and publication activities.

His activities were recognized by numerous awards in Slovakia – The Silver medal of Comenius University 1996, The Gold Medal the University of Cyril and Methodius 2006, Great Medal of St. Gorazd of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic 2002, The Prize of Ludovít Novák of Matica slovenská 2006, The Order of Ludovít Štúr from the President of Slovakia, 2006. The most significant foreign awards: The Herder Prize – Vienna, 1974, G. Pitré Prize – Palermo, 1969, 1995. In 1989 he was elected the member of Swedish Royal Academy of Gustav Adolf in Uppsala.

*Magdaléna Paríková*

### **Assoc. Professor Ľubica DROPOVÁ, neé MARKOVIČOVÁ, CSc.**

\*1935



Ľubica Droppová, neé Markovičová started to study ethnography and history at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in 1953. She graduated in 1958 with a diploma thesis *Jarmočná pieseň na západnom Slovensku / Fair-market Songs in Western Slovakia*. With this work and other studies she started and developed the theme of fair-market songs in Slovakia. In 1958 – 1967 she worked as a research assistant in the Ethnography Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1967 she started to work as an assistant-lecturer at the Department of Ethnography and Folklore at the Faculty of Philosophy of

Comenius University where she worked until 2006. Even after her retirement she carried on with her pedagogical activities. She also participated in organizational activities in the department, first as its executive secretary and later as its head for seven years.

In 1972 she received the degree of "PhDr." for her thesis *Príspevky k štúdiu ľudových piesní na Slovensku / The Contribution to the Study of Folk Songs in Slovakia*, in 1984 she gained the degree of "CSc." for the thesis *Folklór v súčasnej socialistickej spoločnosti / Folklore in Contemporary Socialist Society* and in 1988 she became Associate Professor for her work *Slovenské ľudové piesne so sociálnou a revolučnou problematikou / Slovak Folk Songs with Social and Revolutionary Themes*.

During her pedagogical activities at the Department of Ethnography and Folklore at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University (since 2002 the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology) she taught tens of ethnographers and folklorists, supervised a number of diploma thesis and supervised three doctoral students. In 2000 she published a textbook *Slovenská ľudová pieseň. Texty a kontexty / The Slovak Folk Song. Texts and Contexts*. After 1989 she played a significant role in the reconstruction of the ethnology studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University and creation of a new study program.

In her research and theoretical work Ľ. Droppová concentrated on the problems of research methods applying socio-metric methods. She focused on the folklore themes and genres which until then were not studied in Slovakia – semi-folk production, workers' songs, reflection of historical events in songs, miners' folklore, folklore in mass-media, the present-day folklore. She is the author of the chapters on folk songs in the Czechoslovak National History and Geography (1968). She published a monograph on the songs with social themes and she is the author of chapters on song and narrative repertory in the local and regional monographs (*Rača, Stará Turá, Vajnory, the Hornad River Valley*).

She prepared the concepts of and organized four ethnological seminars in Slovakia and four conferences in former Czechoslovakia on the problems of the research in working class regions. In 1993 she organized an international conference with the participants from 11 ethnological institutions. The papers presented at the conference were published in the conference proceedings *Ethnocultural Processes in Central Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, compiled by Ľ. Droppová and M. Paříková (Bratislava, 1994). Since 1976 Ľ. Droppová has been giving lectures at the summer school for foreign Slovakists *Studia Academica Slovaca*.

She participated in a number of scientific projects of the Department of Ethnography and Folklore at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in collaboration with the Ethnography Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1998 – 2001 Ľ. Droppová was on the scientific board of the Ethnography Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences/Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Since 1990 she has been a member of the Permanent Commission for the defense of doctoral theses in the field of ethnography and since 1997 the member of the Joint Commission for doctoral study in ethnology.

She played a significant role in the organization of scientific life. Since 1965 she had acted as a member of the Central Committee of the Slovak Ethnographic Society. Since 1999 L. Droppová has been an honorary member of the Slovak Ethnographic Society.

L. Droppová is the member of the editorial board of the *Slovenský národopis* and *Národopisné informácie / Etnologické rozpravy* in 1985 – 1986 and *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slaviaca* in 1999 – 2003.

She used her knowledge and experience from field research and the results of her research to popularize folklore – she prepared a number of radio and TV programs, methodological materials for out-of-school activities for children and young people.

*Hana Hlôšková*

### **Professor Ján KOMOROVSKÝ, CSc.**

\*1924



The well-known Russianist, Slavist, folklorist, ethnologist, religionist and translator.

He started his career at the Language Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science in 1951 while still a student. In 1954 – 1959 he continued his studies at the Department of Russian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy focusing on the Old Russian literature and Russian folklore. However, this young, successful scientist and the author of *Kráľ Matej Korvín v ľudovej prozaickej slovesnosti* (1957) was expelled from the faculty for his religious beliefs.

In spite of the fact that he was forced to work out of academic environment he succeeded in defending his doctoral thesis in comparative vernacular rhetoric (1976).

After he had been rehabilitated in 1968 he returned to the faculty to join the newly founded Cabinet of Ethnology as a research worker. In this period he published studies in spiritual culture of Slavs and his most significant work was a monograph *Tradičná svadba u Slovanov* (1976) – a major work in comparative and semantic study of customs. He was a co-founder, and for 7 years, an executive editor of the international bulletin of Slavic ethnologists *Ethnologica Slavica*. He also gave lectures on spiritual culture of Slavs and European folklore to the ethnography students.

In 1975 political pressure forced him once again to leave the faculty for 15 years. During these years he was publishing translations of foreign epics, myths and legends. This “mythological” period resulted in his interest in religion studies after his return to the faculty in 1990. Religious studies were introduced as a new

branch of study and he focused on this area. His appointment as Professor (1992) strengthened the position of religious studies at the faculty. At first religious studies existed within the Department of Ethnology and since 2003 as an independent Department of Religion Studies with Professor Komorovsky as its head until his retirement in 2001.

In 2008 he was given the Award of the Chairman of the Slovak National Council in Humanities and Culture for his life achievements.

*Kornélia Jakubíková*

### **PhDr. Jozef UŠAK**

\*1938 – †2006



Jozef Ušák got his degree in ethnography in Bratislava in 1969 and started to teach at the department of ethnography and folklore studies. As an assistant – lecturer he gave lectures on material culture, especially on architecture and habitation. The research in the forms of habitation and architecture became the subject matter of his professional orientation. He dealt with this topic not only in his diploma thesis but also in other scientific articles and the chapters in regional and local monographs *Liptovská Teplička* (1973, in chapters Clothing, Family and Social life), *Lud Hornádskej doliny* (1989) and in the monograph

*Zamagurie* (1972), and other texts such as articles on the region of Spiš (*Architektúra spišských miest a jej odraz vo vidieckych stavbách – Slovenský národopis*, 1977), region of Záhorie (*Morfológia sídiel na Záhorí – Zborník SNM*, 1983) and Gemer, mining towns and locations (*K problematike zvláštnych foriem obydlia v rustikálnom prostredí – The Slovak National Museum Miscellany* 1985, *Zmeny v bývaní handlovských baníkov – 1978*). He published the results of his ethnographic study of working class regions (*Slovenský národopis*, 1978), cultural status of workers and farmers (1986), farming of non-farmers (*The Slovak National Museum Miscellany* 1989). He analyzed the themes of habitation in a monothematic miscellany (*Reťazové sídelné formy na Slovensku – ĽSKO* 1974). He also touched upon the theme of folk technical constructions (miscellany *ŠÚPS* 1988, *Miscellany SAS* 1989) and the problems of protection of folk wooden architecture (1995).

As a teacher during his more than 20 years long career (until 1991) he influenced the whole generation of professional ethnographers. Besides lectures and seminars, especially on the topics such as architecture, clothing, crafts, methods and techniques of field research, he organized excursions for students, field and museum practices and field research. He specialized in keeping records of folk material

culture and their recording on photographs and films. He participated in organizing of the international student Slovak – Polish seminars Bratislava – Poznan in 1970s.

After he had left the department he worked in the National Heritage Institute, where he concentrated on the protection of folk architecture, as a chairman of ECOVAST – the European Council for the Village and Small Town.

*Ladislav Mlynka*

### **PhDr. Sylvia DILLNBERGEROVÁ, PhD.**

\*1947



Sylvia Dillbergerová is a graduate of the Department of ethnography of the Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University. After she had finished her studies (in 1971) she concentrated on the issue of folk food. On the basis of the field research in Záhorie, regions of southern and eastern Slovakia she studied food culture in Slovakia also in wider contexts of social and family life. She published the results she had gained in scientific articles in the monographs: *Vajnory*, 1978; *Záhorská Bratislava*, 1986; *Rača*, 1989.

She extended her research in the food by the table etiquette: *Dotazník na výskum spôsobov a zvykov pri jedení a stolovaní*, 1979. She also dealt with interethnic relationships in folk food in Slovak Ruthenian environment (*K štúdiu ľudovej stravy Ukrajincov-Rusínov na severovýchodnom Slovensku*, 1983, and in Slovak-Hungarian environment (*Strava a etnická identifikácia v okolí Hurbanova*, 1989).

She co-authored *The Ethnographic Atlas of Slovakia* (1990) and *The Encyclopedia of Folk Culture, Vol. 1, 2* (1995).

Within her teaching activities she gave lectures on selected topics on material culture (e.g. the social functions of food, etiquette and nutrition, the history of clothes, cultural traditions and tourism) and she supervised field research. She also supervised a number of diploma theses.

She wrote a number of scientific and popular articles on traditional food. She spent a number of years organizing lectures for the University of the Third Year, which the department had started in 1991. Until her retirement she was in charge of the Ethnologic archives of the department.

*Magdaléna Paríková*

## PhDr. Ján ORDOŠ

\*1952 – †2005



Ján Ordoš was a graduate of ethnography in the Department of Ethnography and Folkloristics, where he began his academic work in 1971. He was the lecturer of Material culture, Social culture and for a short time – Ethnogenesis of the Slavic people, in the position of special assistant till the year 1991. Not only did he give lectures on the methods and techniques of the field research, he was also the head of the summer field practice for students. Besides his educational activities, he was dedicated to field research and to the processing of materials of material culture, family and social culture, which he later published in ethnographical works (*Stará Turá* and *Lud Hornáskej doliny*).

After his departure from the Faculty of Philosophy, he focused more on the field research and the job of a museum ethnographer for the Museum of Zemplín in Michalovce. He published the findings acquired of his field researches in various academic essays. He also in compiled and drafted local monographs (*Výčapky, Čermany, Zemplínska Teplica*), while he paid special attention to the handling of the folk culture of his home village (*Sečovce*).

Popularization of science was another activity J. Ordoš was dedicated to in the form of radio shows (*Klenotnica ľudovej hudby -- Zemplínska Teplica*, 1990), and also in the regional press of Zemplín and Šariš (folk crafts, customs of the year cycle and family traditions). He was also the head of the Ethnographic museum in Prešov and the Museum of Zemplín.

Magdaléna Paríková

## Assoc. Professor Emília HORVÁTHOVÁ, CSc.

\*1931 – † 1996



The first twenty years of her career were connected with the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences where she started to work in 1954 while still a student. She had worked there until 1978. There she defended her doctoral thesis on history of gypsies, which she published in 1964 as a monograph *Cigáni na Slovensku / Gypsies in Slovakia*. She became a pioneer expert and also a recognized authority on the problems of gypsies – Romany people (in 1968 – 1990 she was a member of the Slovak government commission for the gypsy population matters).

Later on she focused on the study of spiritual culture (customs, demonology, superstitions, cosmogony) in wider Slavonic contexts applying consistently historical and comparative method.

In 1964 she started working at the department of ethnography as an external lecturer giving lectures on non-European nations. In 1975 she became an external and in 1978 internal head of the Cabinet of Ethnology of the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University, where she habilitated as a Associate Professor of ethnography. As the head of the Cabinet she led the research team working on the state supervised basic research in ethnic minorities, ethnic processes and cultural traditions in socialist society. She carried on with her own research in and study of custom traditions the results of which were published in a monograph called *Rok vo zvykoch nášho ľudu / The Year in the Customs of Our People* (1986) – the first synthesis of seasonal customs in Slovakia. In the sphere of theory she focused on the category of traditions and ethnic categories.

As a lecturer she gave lectures on spiritual culture, Slavonic ethnography, the ethnography of non-European nations. She supervised seven doctoral students. For teaching purposes she published a textbook *Úvod do štúdia etnografie a folkloristiky* (1989) / *The Introduction to the Study of Ethnography and Folklore*.

She was also active as an organizer of scientific activities as a head of the Section of Spiritual Culture in the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, head of the Cabinet of Ethnology of the Faculty of Philosophy and the deputy head of the Department (in 1990 she was a designated head of the Department). In 1975 – 1978 she acted as a chairperson of the Slovak Ethnographic Association. In 1993 she was appointed its honorary member. E. Horváthová belonged to the most significant and productive representatives of ethnography of her generation.

*Kornélia Jakubíková*

### **Assoc. Professor Ladislav MLYNKA, CSc.**

\*1954 – †2010



The personality, and to ethnology and museology oriented professional career of professor Ladislav Mlynka significantly influenced the development of the Department of ethnology and cultural anthropology in the previous two decades. Since his graduation he focused on the study of folk architecture which on the basis of his field systematic research he interpreted and made accessible in his works.

The key problems of his scientific interest were not only the research of the types of dwellings in the context of construction and settlement development



in Slovakia, but he paid attention to the social and professional orientation of their dwellers (*Remeselník vo vidieckom prostredí. Remeslo a status remeselníka v lokálnom spoločenstve*, 2004).

He was interested especially in folk technical constructions (with the emphasis on the water-mills) in Slovakia which he presented in numerous studies not only from the view of an ethnologist and exquisite expert in constructional principles of these objects (*Vodný mlyn a jeho terminológia v slovenčine a v slovanských jazykoch*, 2006, editor of the miscellany: *Ochrana banských technických pamiatok na Slovensku* 1988, *Výrobné technické objekty v ľudovom staviteľstve* 1988), but also as a museologist and conservator of the Slovak cultural heritage (*Prezentácia technických stavieb in situ" a v múzeách v prírode na Slovensku*, 2004).

The professional erudition of professor Mlynka resulted from his knowledge he gained through the activities of many years in the institutions of cultural heritage preservation. These two priorities were reflected in his publications and teaching activities in the department of ethnology and cultural anthropology in Bratislava resulting in the foundation of the museology branch of study he became head of. (*Muzeológia na Filozofickej fakulte UK Bratislava ako študijný odbor*, 2008).

Besides lectures and seminars on folk architecture he extended his professional interest by the issues of environmental ethnology with the emphasis on the preservation of historical settlements, their cultural and spiritual dimension and the sights as the items of settlement structure and its identity (*Identita vidieckych sídel / k jej duchovnej a kultúrnej dimenzii*), 2003, *Pamiatky v regióne, regiónov pamiatkach / na príklade využitia mlynov v turizme*, 2005).

The bibliography of his works includes monographs he authored and edited (*Región Vodného diela Žilina. Ľudová kultúra zátopovej oblasti* 2005, *Volkovce* 2000, *Zlaté Moravce* 1998, *Komjatice* 2008).

Magdaléna Paríková

## Professor Milan LEŠČÁK, CSc.

\*1940



After finishing his studies of Slovak language and ethnography and defending his diploma thesis (*Humoristické rozprávanie v Spišskom Hrhove, Klčove a Dolanoch*) in 1963 M. Leščák became a doctoral student at the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1971 he defended his doctoral thesis *Humoristické rozprávanie v Spišskom Hrhove, Klčove a Dolanoch*. In the Institute he held the positions of research worker, scientific secretary (1967 – 1971), deputy director (1976 – 1988) and the director in 1988 – 1992. In this period he was also an editor-in-chief of the journal *Slovenský národopis*.

In his scientific work he continued in the work of his teacher Professor A. Melicherčík and the Russian folklorist P. G. Bogatyrev. M. Leščák focused on narrative genres (humourous narratives, riddles), theory of folklore (its subject-matter, category of the present, folklore field research methods), history of folklore studies, the folklore aspects of the theory of communication, theory of folklore studies.

He organized a number of international seminars and conferences on the topic of the theory and history of folklore studies and edited several conference proceedings such as *Folklór a scéna* (Bratislava 1971), *Folklór a umenie dneška* (Bratislava 1980), *Folklór a festivaly* (Bratislava 1985, and for two years he edited *Folklorism Bulletin*.

In 1982 in collaboration with Oldřich Sirovátka he published a manual *Folklór a folkloristika* (Bratislava 1982), a textbook *Úvod do folkloristiky* (Bratislava 2006) and *Folklór a scénický folklorizmus* (Bratislava 2007) and he is the author of 51 entries in *Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska I., II.* (Bratislava 1995).

In the 1960s he was one of the founding editors of the journal *Národopisné informácie* (now *Etnologické rozpravy*), published by the Slovak Ethnographic Society which he chaired in 1987 – 1990.

In the 1990s he contributed significantly to the foundation of the Department of folklore and regional studies at the Faculty of Humanities in Nitra, where he lectured. In 1995 he habilitated with the work *K rozdielom foriem folklórnej a literárnej komunikácie* and in 2001 became a professor with the work *O asimilácii literárnej a folklórnej komunikácie*.

Since 1995 he worked at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Philosophical Faculty and since 1996 he was head of the department. In this period he still collaborated with the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on a number of scientific projects. He also supervised many diploma and doctoral theses.

Since 1995 M. Leščák was a member of the scientific boards of academic institutions and universities, editorial boards of ethnologic journals, advisory boards and committees, artistic boards of folklore ensembles such as *Lúčnica* and *SĽUK*.

He was one of the founding organizers of *Etnofilm*, a festival of ethnographic films in Čadca (since 1980) and a member of the festival jury for several years.

He was also a member of several home and foreign scientific organizations and a holder of numerous awards such as the Slovak Academy of Sciences Award for popularization of science and The Memorial Medal of the *Východná Folklore Festival* and *SĽUK*.

At present he works as an expert guarantor of the Encyclopedia of Scenic Folklorism project at the *Národné osvetové centrum*.

Hana Hlôšková