

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 30th, 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 junošik* (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 rozprávanie 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