

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**PhDr. Viera Gašparíková, DrSc.,
and Her Three Fairytale Groschen**
(*15 April, 1928)

If we want to speak now about the honoree's contribution to ethnography, we cannot but resort to the poetics of a fairy tale and start the speech celebrating PhDr. Viera Gašparíková, DrSc. with the magic formula) "once upon a time" in the town of Martin there was the Gašparík family into which a baby-girl Vierka was born eighty years ago. The intellectual milieu of the family, in which knowledge and letters were held in high esteem, together with the inspiring atmosphere of the town of Martin, invisibly but firmly shaped Viera's thinking throughout her school years. Her decision to set out on an uneasy journey to seek beauty and knowledge was a reflection of the particular conditions in which she was growing up. When studying at the Gymnasium at her native town, she attended the local self-educating circle. Here she met her first "godfathers" – professors Bednárík and Brtáň – who came to aid her. The former made a name for himself in ethnography while the latter became one of the most influential figures in literary history.

After graduating of the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Viera Gašparíková stood on the "crossroads". She naturally decided for the path taking her to the study of folklore because she had always found it attractive for its vitality, poetics and features entirely unknown elsewhere. Her further development as a scholar was not straightforward; however, once again she met "magic helpers", now at the Institute of Ethnography at the Academy of Sciences who encouraged her to take her apprenticeship at the Faculty of Art, Charles University, Prague and obtain her doctoral degree at the Department of Ethnography and Folkloristics there.

After that there was the time for Viera Gašparíková to start paying back the loan of groschen to those who had supported her. In the 1960s, she produced comparative commentaries for an edition of Slovak fairy tales. However, her work did not go on smoothly, and she herself, resembling a fairytale hero, had to take several tests of endurance. Since the climate of that time did not favour the study of classical concepts, she had to turn her attention to other themes which were more relevant to the time period. One of them was that of resistance as

related in folk tales. Her research study into bandit traditions directly continued Andrej Melicharčík's pioneering work which she managed to extend by her contributions dealing with the decrease in popularity of such traditions in 19th-century Slovakia. She also applied the comparative method to the study of similarities and differences in the representations of outlawed in Slovak and Polish folklore narratives. Recently, the results of her study composed in numerous books have been complemented by the latest synthetic work handling the bandit traditions contained in the folklore of peoples settled in the Carpathian Basin and in the Balkans. As the editor of the volume, Viera Gašparíková again manifested her patient, demanding and tireless attitude to work. When Professor N. V. Putilov, her colleague and friend died, she did not hesitate to follow his footsteps. She got involved in a very difficult task of editing a manuscript produced earlier by a group of international authors. This was the very moment in her life when she herself began to act as a fairy-tale godmother coming to those in need of her aid.

Not only in fairy tales do the fates of people get intertwined but this happens in real life, too. Many students of folkloristics will keep in memory Viera Gašparíková's lectures, erudite and inspirational, always providing them with a portion of her intimate knowledge of the narrative repertoire drawn from Slovak rural districts. She never hesitated to get them acquainted with many outstanding narrators with whom she had formed and maintained close relationships. Viera Gašparíková also deserves acknowledgement for her numerous books that give the reader penetrating insight into contemporary folkloristics and, at the same time, open way to a marvellously beautiful world of folk tales, legends, humoristic narratives and commemorative tales about the Slovak National Uprising. Her numerous books and articles are based on results of research conducted by her individually or on her work as a member of some research team. At present, the text archives of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences contain hundreds of texts transcribed from various recordings, all of them accompanied by important additional details.

Viera Gašparíková has become a major figure in the *Slovenský národopis* ("Journal of Slovak Ethnography"), which she considerably influenced mainly in 1979-1983 when she worked as the journal's editor-in-chief. In 1988, she originated the idea of establishing an international information bulletin, released as *Slavistická folkloristika* ("Slavic Folkloristics"). Since then it has served as a forum for an exchange of information in the area of Slavic studies in the period between two international Slavic congresses. In the field of Slavic studies, the honoree has become distinguished by her eminence and many insightful contributions delivered in a number of congresses. She also became influential as the Vice-Chair of the *International Commission of Slavic Folklore* established with the *International Committee of Slavists*. Only at this year's congress held in Ochrid she was missing because she had decided to pass on the torch of work for the Commission to a younger generation of Slavists.

At the beginning of Viera Gašparíková's professional life was work on fairy tales collected within Frank Wolman's project materialised between the two

world wars and she remained associated with this theme throughout her career till 2004. The first volume of *Slovenské rozprávky* ("Slovak Fairy Tales") was published on the occasion of a congress of Slavists in Bratislava in 1993 and the completion of this monumental work, absolutely unique within the European context, was celebrated with Viera Gašparíková in 2004. A year later, the opus was presented in a seminar on Frank Wollman's life and work.

Much of Viera Gašparíková's research and organizational work, both in the domestic and international field of verbal folkloristics, was carried out in rather unfortunate circumstances. But she never complained about nor succumbed to difficulties she had to face in her private life. Even the years-lasting care of her mother was considered by her as a mere instalment of the last of those three magic fairytale groschen once lent to her.

I feel as a great privilege that in recent years I have been one of Viera Gašparíková's collaborators working with her in the area of Slavic studies. I am also very happy that I could take part with her in many conferences in Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain and Hungary. A great number of her colleagues, both from Slovakia and abroad, highly appreciate her expertise, energy, and kindness. And what about pronouncing the fairy-tale closing formula? The time to do so has not come yet ...

Hana Hlôšková

Selected bibliography of PhDr. Viera Gašparíková, DrSc. (1998 – 2008)

BOOKS

- Slovakische Volksmärchen*. Gesammelt und herausgegeben von Viera Gašparíková. Übersetzt von Wilfried Fiedler. Serie: Die Märchen der Weltliteratur. München : Diederichs Verlag, 2000, 326.
- Slovenské ľudové rozprávky*. 2. zväzok. Západné Slovensko. Výber zápisov z rokov 1928 – 1947. Zapisali poslucháči Slovenského seminára UK v Bratislave pod vedením prof. PhDr. Franka Wollmana. Editorka a vedecká redaktorka Viera Gašparíková. Výber, poznámky Božena Filová. Úprava textov, porovnávacie komentáre a slovník Viera Gašparíková. Bratislava : Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied VEDA, 2001, 1076.
- Geroj ili zbojnik? Obraz razbojnika v folklóre karpatského regiónu. – Heroes or Bandits? Outlaw Traditions in the Carpathian Region*. Edited by Viera Gašparíková and B. N. Putilov. Budapest : European Folklore Institute, 2002, 456.
- Slovenské ľudové rozprávky*. 3. Zväzok. Východné Slovensko. Výber zápisov z rokov 1928 – 1947. Zapisali poslucháči Slovenského seminára UK v Bratislave pod vedením prof. PhDr. Franka Wollmana. Editorka a vedecká redaktorka Viera Gašparíková. Výber, poznámky Božena Filová. Úprava textov, porovnávacie komentáre a slovník Viera Gašparíková. Bratislava : Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied VEDA, 2004, 865.
- Slavistická folkloristika. Informačný bulletin. Bibliografia 1989 – 2005*. Abecedný zoznam autorov 15. ročníkov usporiadaný chronologicky. Účelová publikácia. Ústav etnológie SAV – Bratislava : Slovenský komitét slavistov, 2006, 48.
- Jiří Polívka (1858 – 1933). Bibliografická příloha Národopisné revue č. 20. Strážnice : Národní ústav lidové kultury, 2006, 62.
- Spievajúca lipka. Rozprávky západných Slovanov*. Výber z rozprávok západných Slovanov. Pod vedením prof. Dr. Pawła Neda (Lipsko) pripravil kolektív etnológov v Prahe, Bratislave, Varšave a Budyšíne v roku 1972 (V. Gašparíková, J. Jech, H. Kapeluš). Budyšin – Praha – Bratislava, 2003, Poznań, 2008.

STUDIES AND ARTICLES

- Cesta Izmaila Sreznjevského po Slovensku a jej význam pre poznanie slovenskej ľudovej kultúry. In: *Slovenský národopis* 46, 1998, 251-287.
- Materiály J. I. Sreznjevského zo slovenskej ľudovej kultúry I. In: *Slovenský národopis* 46, 1998, 471-493.
- Izmail J. Sreznjevskij's Attitude towards the Slovak Folk Prose. In: *Slovo i kultura*, Moskva, 1998, 353-362.
- XII. Medzinárodný kongres slavistov v Krakove. In: *Slovenský národopis* 46, 1998, s. 528-532.
- Ján Kollár's Attitude Towards the Slovak Folktales. In: *Europäische Ethnologie und Folklore in internationalen Kontext*. Festschrift für Leander Petzoldt zum 65. Geburtstag. Frankfurt am Main – Berlin – Bern – Bruxelles – New York – Wien, 1995, 67-74.
- Phfarer und Küster beim Messenlesen. In: *Enzyklopädie des Märchens* (AaTh 1831). Band 10, Lieferung 2, 2001, stĺpec 877-884.
- Polívka, Jiří. In: *Enzyklopädie des Märchen*. Handwörterbuch zur historischen und vergleichenden Erzählforschung. Band 10. Lieferung 3. Walter de Gruyter. Berlin – New York, 2002, stĺpec 1145-1150.
- K medzinárodnému rozšíreniu jednej humornej látky (AaTh 1831 C). In: *Fascynacje folklorystyczne. Księga poświęcona pamięci Heleny Kapetusz*. Warszawa, 2002, 41-47.
- XIII. Medzinárodný kongres slavistov v Lubľani. In: *Slovenský národopis* 51, 2003, 542-545.
- Frank Wollman und seine Sammelaktion slowakischen Märchens. In: *Märchenspiegel*, 14. Jahrgang 2003, 30-31.
- Príspevok k dejinám folkloristiky – O vzniku a realizácii medzinárodnej syntézy „Folklórne tradície o zbojníkoch v Karpatoch“. In: *Slovenský národopis* 51, 2003, 32-50.
- Ku genéze Polívkovho Súpisu slovenských rozprávok. Zur Entstehung von J. Polívkas Súpis slovenských rozprávok (Verzeichnis der slowakischen Volksmärchen. In: *Ethnologia slovacica et slavica*. Zborník Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského roč. 30-31. Bratislava, 2003, 137-151.
- Porovnávacie komentáre k jednotlivým textom. In: *Slovenské ľudové rozprávky III*. Bratislava : Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied VEDA, 2004, 510-574.
- Slovenská rozprávka v ľudovom podaní. In: *Slovenské ľudové rozprávky III*. Bratislava : Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied VEDA, 2004, 592-726.
- Schwimmen in Flaxfeld (AaTh/ATU 1290). In: *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*. Handwörterbuch zur historischen und vergleichenden Erzählforschung Band 12, Lieferung 1, 2005, stĺpec 444-447.
- Od výskumu k syntéze. Ľudové tradície o zbojníkoch na poľsko-slovenskom pomedzí v spomienkach etnológa. In: *Etnologické rozpravy XIII*, 2006, 68-77.
- Wollmanovská zberateľská akcia ľudovej prózy a vznik diela Slovenské ľudové rozprávky I-III. In: *Slavista Frank Wollman v kontexte literatúry a folklóru I-II*. Editorky Hana Hlášková. Anna Zelenková. Ústav etnológie SAV, Slavistická spoločnosť Franka Wollmana v Brnĕ, Česká asociace slavistů, Slavistický ústav Jána Stanislava SAV. Bratislava – Brno, 2006, 67-93.
- Slovenen. In: *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*. Handwörterbuch zur historischen und vergleichenden Erzählforschung Hrsg. Rolf Wilhelm Brednich. Band 12. Lieferung 2 Berlin – New York : Walter de Gruyter, 2006, stĺpec 736-787.
- Uršulin týždeň. In: P. Glocko: *Rozprávka a rozprávnik. Päť obrazov zo života P. E. Dobšínskeho*. Bratislava, 2006, 56-57.
- Towards the Origin and the Implementation of International Synthetic Work "Heroes or Bandits?" Outlaw Tradition in the Carpathian Region. In: *Ethnologia slavica et slovacica*. Roč. 33, 2008, 7-45.
- Medzinárodná spolupráca jednej generácie etnológov. Poľsko-slovenské folklórne kontakty v rokoch 1960 – 2007. In: Zborník z konferencie Po slonecznej stronie Karpat – Dni kultury slowackiej 21. – 22. 5. 2007 v Opole. Opole, 2008 (v tlači).

- Príspevok k poľsko-slovenským folklórnym kontaktom. In: *Folkloristika. Slavistika. Zborník prác k jubileu K. Wroclawského*. Warszawa, 2006 (v tlači).
- *Rozprávky Pavla Dobšinského po sto rokoch*. In: Zborník Slavistický ústav Jána Stanislava SAV. Bratislava, 2008 (v tlači).
- *Rozprávkové zápisy Sama Czambela a ich neskorší vývin*. In: Zborník. Slavistický ústav Jána Stanislava SAV. Bratislava, 2008 (v tlači).
- *Folklórne tradície o zbojníkoch na slovensko-poľskom pomedzí*. In: Zborník z konferencie 3.– 4. 8. 2007 v Terchovej. Bielsko-Biala, 2008 (v tlači).
- Viera Gašparíková: Rozhovor viedla H. Hlôšková. In: *Kontakty IV*. Slovensko-poľská komisia humanitných vied. Bratislava 2005, s. 33-42. Poľské znenie Kontakty IV. Krakow, 2005, 33-42.
- Spanilá jazda na slncovom koni. In: *Učiteľské noviny*. Dvojtyždenník o školstve a vzdelávaní. Zhováral sa Peter Holka. č. 8, roč. LVI, 10. 12. 2007, 10.

Complete bibliography of V. Gašparíková has been sent to be published

Several Thoughts on Dorothea Simonides' s Anniversary (*19 November, 1928)

Within the context of European folkloristics, Professor Dorota Simonides is an extraordinary figure one can meet only very rarely. She has distinguished herself by her scholarly work in the field of folk culture, but she has also been known as a relentless organiser, educationalist and politician. Only interested researchers and colleagues who have had the opportunity to follow her professional, cultural and social growth over many years and be part of her family and personal life will understand how all these activities can become interrelated. The books and studies that she has written usually deal with oral folk culture and changes which have occurred in this area in Upper Silesia, a region abundant in folk traditions preserved up to the present. She has used every occasion to study folk culture of this borderland region in its traditional expression as well as the ongoing process of changes, questions of identity, ethnicity, Polish-German relations and other current issues regarding German minority in Polish Silesia. Only her meticulous fieldwork and a huge amount of material thus obtained enabled her to publish so many books and articles important not only from the point of ethnology but also because of their social and cultural dimension. Dorota Simonides could also fully employ her expertise as a politician, when she worked for the *Unia Wolności* in the Senate in 1990 – 1993 and as the chair of the *Commission for Emigration and the Poles Living Abroad* and since 1990 as a member of the *Commission of Foreign Affairs*.

Professor Dorota Simonides, neé Badura, was born on 19 November 1928 at Janov by Katowice into a family of workers and miners. Because most of the family enjoyed playing music, there were various musical instruments hanging on the wall by which she had her bed. Her father and brothers used to go playing music at weddings and so there were always some trumpets and other musical