

## 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 *Ľudové 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.