

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 Ľudovít Novák of Matica slovenská 2006, The Order of Ľudovít Štúr from the President of Slovakia, 2006. The most significant foreign awards: The Herder Prize – Vienna, 1974, G. Pitřé 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 20th 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 Ľ. Droppová has been an honorary member of the Slovak Ethnographic Society.

Ľ. 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, Slavicist, 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