

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, 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), *Lúd 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 obydľia 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