

in Slovakia, but he paid attention to the social and professional orientation of their dwellers (*Remeselník vo vidieckom prostredí. Remeslo a status remeselníka v lokálnom spoločenstve*, 2004).

He was interested especially in folk technical constructions (with the emphasis on the water-mills) in Slovakia which he presented in numerous studies not only from the view of an ethnologist and exquisite expert in constructional principles of these objects (*Vodný mlyn a jeho terminológia v slovenčine a v slovanských jazykoch*, 2006, editor of the miscellany: *Ochrana banských technických pamiatok na Slovensku* 1988, *Výrobné technické objekty v ľudovom staviteľstve* 1988), but also as a museologist and conservator of the Slovak cultural heritage (*Prezentácia technických stavieb in situ" a v múzeách v prírode na Slovensku*, 2004).

The professional erudition of professor Mlynka resulted from his knowledge he gained through the activities of many years in the institutions of cultural heritage preservation. These two priorities were reflected in his publications and teaching activities in the department of ethnology and cultural anthropology in Bratislava resulting in the foundation of the museology branch of study he became head of. (*Muzeológia na Filozofickej fakulte UK Bratislava ako študijný odbor*, 2008).

Besides lectures and seminars on folk architecture he extended his professional interest by the issues of environmental ethnology with the emphasis on the preservation of historical settlements, their cultural and spiritual dimension and the sights as the items of settlement structure and its identity (*Identita vidieckych sídel / k jej duchovnej a kultúrnej dimenzii*), 2003, *Pamiatky v regióne, regiónov pamiatkach / na príklade využitia mlynov v turizme*, 2005).

The bibliography of his works includes monographs he authored and edited (*Región Vodného diela Žilina. Ľudová kultúra zátopovej oblasti* 2005, *Volkovce* 2000, *Zlaté Moravce* 1998, *Komjatice* 2008).

Magdaléna Paríková

Professor Milan LEŠČÁK, CSc.

*1940



After finishing his studies of Slovak language and ethnography and defending his diploma thesis (*Humoristické rozprávania v Spišskom Hrhove, Klčove a Dolanoch*) in 1963 M. Leščák became a doctoral student at the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1971 he defended his doctoral thesis *Humoristické rozprávania v Spišskom Hrhove, Klčove a Dolanoch*. In the Institute he held the positions of research worker, scientific secretary (1967 – 1971), deputy director (1976 – 1988) and the director in 1988 – 1992. In this period he was also an editor-in-chief of the journal *Slovenský národopis*.

In his scientific work he continued in the work of his teacher Professor A. Melicherčík and the Russian folklorist P. G. Bogatyrev. M. Leščák focused on narrative genres (humourous narratives, riddles), theory of folklore (its subject-matter, category of the present, folklore field research methods), history of folklore studies, the folklore aspects of the theory of communication, theory of folklore studies.

He organized a number of international seminars and conferences on the topic of the theory and history of folklore studies and edited several conference proceedings such as *Folklór a scéna* (Bratislava 1971), *Folklór a umenie dneška* (Bratislava 1980), *Folklór a festivaly* (Bratislava 1985, and for two years he edited *Folklorism Bulletin*.

In 1982 in collaboration with Oldřich Sirovátka he published a manual *Folklór a folkloristika* (Bratislava 1982), a textbook *Úvod do folkloristiky* (Bratislava 2006) and *Folklór a scénický folklorizmus* (Bratislava 2007) and he is the author of 51 entries in *Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska I., II.* (Bratislava 1995).

In the 1960s he was one of the founding editors of the journal *Národopisné informácie* (now *Etnologické rozpravy*), published by the Slovak Ethnographic Society which he chaired in 1987 – 1990.

In the 1990s he contributed significantly to the foundation of the Department of folklore and regional studies at the Faculty of Humanities in Nitra, where he lectured. In 1995 he habilitated with the work *K rozdielom foriem folklórnej a literárnej komunikácie* and in 2001 became a professor with the work *O asimilácii literárnej a folklórnej komunikácie*.

Since 1995 he worked at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Philosophical Faculty and since 1996 he was head of the department. In this period he still collaborated with the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on a number of scientific projects. He also supervised many diploma and doctoral theses.

Since 1995 M. Leščák was a member of the scientific boards of academic institutions and universities, editorial boards of ethnologic journals, advisory boards and committees, artistic boards of folklore ensembles such as *Lúčnica* and *SLUK*.

He was one of the founding organizers of *Etnofilm*, a festival of ethnographic films in Čadca (since 1980) and a member of the festival jury for several years.

He was also a member of several home and foreign scientific organizations and a holder of numerous awards such as the Slovak Academy of Sciences Award for popularization of science and The Memorial Medal of the Východná Folklore Festival and *SLUK*.

At present he works as an expert guarantor of the Encyclopedia of Scenic Folklorism project at the Národné osvetové centrum.

Hana Hlôšková