

Participants coming from abroad, students and teachers must all prepare on the chosen problem. We spend two days preparing for the collective field research with lectures on the theoretical background and forming the work groups. After 2-3 days of research we again have 1 – 2 days to present our preliminary results to our fellows and the community concerned in the form of short talks. Then on the basis of these talks within a semester we prepare the studies intended for publication in a bilingual (Hungarian-English) volume. It is a great pleasure for us that we are often able to welcome both students and teachers from Bratislava at the Szeged seminars. In this way the Slovak initiative lives on in Hungary. But the common goal remains the same: to get to know each other's culture and the research methods taught and to cultivate connections between departments through professional friendships. Ján Podolák and his team provided a good foundation for this.

Gábor Barna

**The Brno students
at the 7th Seminarium Ethnologicum
(Opatová, September 2nd – 13th 1974)**

When our colleagues from Bratislava asked us to contribute to the jubilee publication with our memories of what the participation in the Seminarium Ethnologicum in Opatová (Trenčín district), joint field research with our the Slovak and foreign students of ethnography and folklore meant to us, at first we found ourselves in the territory of "oral history" due to the time that had passed since then and to the fact that all research material was given to the organizers of the Seminarium a long time ago. However, when we started recollecting our memories and slowly reconstructing our almost two-week stay in the Trenčín district we agreed on one thing: the participation in the 7th Seminarium Ethnologicum left a deep and unforgettable memory due to its unusual friendly atmosphere and because it exceeded the routine of university study like e.g. the study trips abroad organized by professor Richard Jeřábek. At the same time it was our first encounter with a foreign world in the area of research.

First the memories of our journey to Slovakia emerged. We travelled to Trenčín by bus at the beginning of September accompanied by professor Jeřábek having feelings whether we are not "the chosen ones" that we (Lia Černíková, Jana Tomancová, Miroslav Válka) were selected from among many other students. The perfectly organized event started by the departure from Trenčín bus station accompanied by Milan Chlebana, one of the Seminarium secretaries. And how spontaneously and warmly professor Richard Jeřábek greeted Viera Ábelová, another worker of the Trenčín Museum! We could see that our professors are also people of flesh and blood and spontaneity and warmth affects also them.

Dignified and ceremonious was our introduction to the scientists, Béla Gunda, and Robert Wildhaber or professor Ján Podolák, "spiritus agens" of this and previous Seminariums, whom we knew theoretically from lectures and who represented legends to us. Later we learnt that the cultural section of the district council Trenčín, the Trenčín Museum, and District Heritage Board co-organized the event.

Due to the research character of the Seminarium the student participants not only the home ones i.e. Czechoslovak, but also those who came from abroad were divided into thematic groups according to their interests and professional orientation which were supervised by senior researchers. The studied research topics covered the branches of traditional folk culture, their recording and analysis in the meetings was the main intention of the organizers and the mission of the whole event. As the students of the University of Jan Ev. Purkyně we focused on recording of folk architectures in collaboration with three students from a university in Bratislava.

Their task was to work out the ground measurement plans of selected folk constructions on the basis of the terrain recognition. Our records were based on a questionnaire including questions which aimed at a complex description of individual constructions from the material, structural, disposition and social point of view. The research was carried out both in the mountainous Carpathian Trenčín district on the border with Moravia and in the lowlands of the Považie region. Especially in the remote hilly areas the field research was logistically demanding. On the other hand it was balanced by getting to know traditional cultural phenomena and the world where the time had stopped in a material and social sense. Doctor Ján Kantár from the State Heritage Institute in Bratislava was the leader of our team. His colleagues Mária Medvecká and Viera Kaľavská were two other members of the team.

During the Seminarium the father of Lia Ryšavá, the member of our team, had died. I remember her deep sorrow, when she announced "My daddy died". I went with her to Brno. I felt that I could not let Lia travel on her own and after the funeral we returned to Opatová as I thought that I could not leave the research unfinished. I wanted to meet my obligations and to be with my new friends. One of them was Lenka Nováková, our a little older colleague and a fresh ethnographer of the Slováké Museum in Uherské Hradiště, who also represented the Czech Republic. She concentrated on the research of food under the supervision Dr. V. Ábelová. To her unforgettable research experience belongs the recording of manual washing of laundry in a water stream with the use of wooden laundry bats.

Besides working part the Seminarium offered opportunities for socializing and getting to know our colleagues from Slovakia and abroad, for sharing our experience, for the visits of Trenčín. Although songs were never missing in our student events at the Seminarium we were charmed by beautiful and spontaneous singing performances of our Slovak female colleagues and their wide repertory of classical folk songs and the songs performed by a brass band invited to one of our social gatherings.

So that we do not remain only in the area of "oral history" a detailed and factual information on the 7th Seminarium Ethnologicum for Národopisné aktuality (12, 1975) was written by Zita Svítková (second Seminarium secretary) and for Vlastivedný časopis (24, 1974) by Milan Chlebana. The report appeared also in Yugoslavian Glasnik Etnografskog Instituta written by Dragomir Antonievič.

***Jana Pospíšilová
and Miroslav Válka***