

Antropologicheskii Forum # 12 Online

Articles

Svetlana Ryzhakova. “And Many Souls Awoke”: On the Role of the Herrnhut Movement in Latvian Ethnic History and Culture

The article deals with the Herrnhut Brotherhood’s communities spread in the Baltic lands since the middle of the 18th century, and how this played an important role in both religious history and the national formation of the Latvians. A detailed description of the ethnic and cultural features of Latvian Herrnhuters’ life demonstrates the large, although hidden impact on Latvian culture and ethos.

Keywords: Herrnhut Brotherhood, Latvian religious and cultural history, national awakening

Pavel Belkov. On the Use of Geometrical Code in the Classificatory Kinship Systems of Scholarship

Scientists sometime blame contemporary anthropology for their unsuccessful attempts to

shift away from ‘studies of kinship as a terminological system’ towards ‘kinship in term of social relations’. What could be the reason for such a situation? The subject matter of comparative linguistics continually merges with that of ethnology (see the notion that ‘kinship systems are terminologies’). On the contrary, the main purpose of this paper is to delineate the ethnographical approach into the phenomenon of classificatory kinship by comparing graphical diagrams. In the context of the question under consideration, the graphical method should be virtually synonymous to the structural method. In other words, kinship studies are ethnographic insofar as geometrical models are constructed and tested. A survey of previous scholarship in the area of techniques leads us to Radcliffe-Brown’s discovery of idealized classificatory kinship types in Aboriginal Australia: Kari-era, Karadjeri and Aranda. These three models are likely to be universal enough to cover all the accessible ethnographic data.

Keywords: classificatory kinship, geometrical code, idealized type, ethnology, Australia.

Russian political folklore

Mikhail Lurie. Political and Prison Songs in the Early 20th Century: Between Propaganda and Folklore

This article looks at the interaction between two strata of Russian singing traditions which formed in the late 19th — early 20th centuries: suppressed political (revolutionary) songs and prison folklore lyrics. By analysing and comparing a series of lyrics, the author shows how the image of the captive in prison songs is substituted for the image of a political prisoner, how in songs about prison and labour camps the topic and rhetoric of revolution propaganda seeps through, and how the tradition of political songs uses a structural content-rich model characteristic of prison romances. As a result of this process, towards the mid-1910s a situation finally arose in which the presence of elements of forbidden political content became a common ground for prison songs, which in this period were one of the most important and popular parts of the national song culture. This allowed revolutionary song to enrich its poetic arsenal, shake off its social limitations and to widen the audience receptive to propagandistic influence.

Keywords: folklore, revolutionary propaganda, reciprocal influence of traditions, political songs, prison songs

Alexandra Arkhipova. The Last Tsar-Deliverer: Soviet Mythology and Folklore in the 1920s–1930s

Many of the 17th- and 18th-century peasant revolts were driven by the legend of the Tsar-Deliverer: the real good Tsar who had been

deposed but still lived in hiding somewhere. People believed he would return and that this return would bring about favorable social changes. After the 1917 Revolution two main new versions of this legend emerged: the first was concerned with the return of the Tsar Nicholas himself or that of his heirs. The second described Lenin and several other Bolshevik leaders as Tsar-Deliverers according to the classical formula: their enemies tried to kill them but they escaped and vanished to an unknown place. Soviet peasants believed they would return at the darkest hour and change the social order. All these ‘legends’, narratives and gossip were inspired by a belief in a ‘good Tsar’ who simply did not know what was going on because the local authorities were hiding the truth from him. As a result several social disturbances took place under aegis of the good Tsar returning.

Keywords: soviet folklore and mythology, legend of Tsar-Deliverer, Tsar Nicholas, Lenin, Trotsky, uncensored folklore

Irina Kozlova. “Stalin’s Falcons”: Totalitarian Phraseology and ‘Soviet Folklore’

The specific role of folklore in political and ideological discourses of Soviet culture in the 1930–1950s was often noted by students researching this period. Stalinist society’s interest in ‘folk poetry’ resulted not only in the reproduction of ideologically inspired texts of ‘Soviet folklore’, but also in the wide use of genres, ideas, symbols and tropes related either to real or imagined ‘folk traditions of the USSR’. This paper deals with the genesis of one of the stable idioms of the time, ‘Stalin’s falcons’, which was often used in reference to ‘the heroes of Soviet aviation’. The Soviet media began to use the simile in 1935, after the crash of the airplane “Maxim Gorky” and the bird’s name was probably borrowed from the works of the writer whose name the airplane bore. Soviet newspapers and poetry compared aviators to falcons, eagles and other birds, but the only idiom that emerged was ‘Stalin’s falcons’. It seems that its genesis was determined by the Nazi phrase ‘Göring Falke-Division’, Gorky’s ‘Song of the Falcon’ and the idea of the falcon in Russian folklore.

Keywords: bird names in folklore, Soviet folklore, totalitarian phraseology, history of aviation, arctic travel

Anna Minaeva, Alexander Panchenko. “Gorbachev’s Dream” and Russian political folklore of the Perestroika period

The article deals with the form, content and functional specifics of anonymous political satire of the late 1980s (“Gorbachev’s Dream”) and mid-1960s (“A Tale of Tsar Nikita” et al.) in the USSR. The discussion focuses on the genesis and history of these poems in the con-

text of Russian political folklore of the 20th century and analyses the political and economic ideas that they represent.

Keywords: political folklore, Perestroika, anonymous manuscript satire, Gorbachev, Khrushchev

Jeanne Kormina. Political Characters in Contemporary Hagiography: How Saint Matrona of Moscow Gave her Blessing to Iosif Stalin

The article analyses visual and hagiographic narratives about saint Matrona of Moscow gave her blessing for Iosif Stalin's victory in the Great Patriotic War. Research into hagiographic literature about saints from the Soviet period and of Orthodox folklore about the war provides data to explore the causes for the popularity of the 'pro-Soviet' version of history of the Russian Orthodox Church in contemporary Russia.

Keywords: anthropology of religion, modern hagiography, Orthodox Stalinism, female elders, political folklore.

Mikhail Alekseevsky. Anecdotes from Zyuganov: Folklore in the Modern Political Battle

The article analyses the transformation of the genre of the political anecdote in post-Soviet Russia. Based on material from the pre-election PR project 'Anecdotes from Zyuganov' (2007), the author examines how the modern political anecdote functions, how it is created and is changing, who uses it in political battles and why. A comparison of Soviet and post-Soviet political anecdotes shows that this genre is maintains its opposition status, although its form is changing significantly: anecdotes are no longer told, but instead printed in newspapers and spread on the Internet. This work analyses the mechanisms for creating current political anecdotes (from adapting old texts to creating new ones) and traces the path of their spread in the media.

Keywords: modern folklore, politics, humour, political anecdotes, Zyuganov, the media, Internet, party, authority, opposition, PR, election, scandal, agitation

Materials from Expeditions

Maria Akhmetova. Norms and Deviation from them in 'Professional Texts' (Tales about Alcohol Use by Train Drivers)

This publication brings together recorded oral tales from railwaymen in which the realities of alcohol use by train drivers are depicted. Attitudes towards drinking in many respects depend on the historical

period in which the story takes place, as well as on the social status and gender of the storyteller.

Keywords: oral history, professional subcultures, drinking, train drivers

Natalia Vozyakova. The Romance of Bastarda and Sung Folklore of the Spanish District of El Rebollar (material from expedition in 2005)

This work analyses different versions of the Spanish romance of Bastarda that were recorded from three generations of people from the El Rebollar district, in the Salamanca province. In particular, the transformation of the text can be traced due to the changes in the way it functions. The fact that the romance belongs to various contexts explains why it has split into fragments and why some of its motifs exist separately.

Keywords: Salamanca, El Rebollar, family folklore, Spanish spring/summer traditional holidays, May tree, erotic folk-song, Spanish ballad, couplet, Bastarda

Anna Klepikova, Iliia Utekhin. Child Development Deviation: An Essay in Frame Analysis

Fieldwork has been conducted in a special long-residence institution for children with development deviations in order to provide an ethnographic description and analysis of practices that contribute to the social construction of deviation. A deviant children's lifeworld is reconstructed by considering the routine interactions between children and their caretakers. Two discourses and correspondent sets of practices in which the children are involved are shown to be in competition: that of the regular staff (nurses) and that of the volunteers working in the institution.

Keywords: child disability, development deviations, anthropology of the body, social construction of the self

Elena Ermakova. Honouring the Krivankovsky Well in the Yurginsky Region, Tyumenskaya Oblast

The Krivankovsky well is visited on the Devyataya Pyatnitsa (Ninth Friday) in the Yurginsky region. This article describes the history of Krivankovsky well and where it is situated. It is based on the stories of eye-witnesses and literary sources. The book describes the pilgrimage made to the well, the recovering qualities of its water, icons and vows.

Keywords: Krivankovsky well, Devyataya Pyatnitsa, phenomenon of wells, destruction of wells, pilgrimage, Holy water, vows, recovery

Conferences

Franco-Russian summer school “Life-creation, mystification and forgeries in Russia and France” (*Alexander Stroev, Andrey Toporkov*)

The summer school “Life-creation, mystification and forgeries in Russia and France” was run in the settlement of Annensky Bridge in the Vytegorsky region, Vologodskaya oblast from 13th–19th July 2009. The problem of mystification and forgeries is examined in different geographical and historical contexts, but primarily Russia and France in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern periods.

Keywords: mystification, forgeries, Franco-Russian cultural connections, history of literature, folklore

Conference “Pilipinas muna!” — “The Philippines First of All!” (*Elena Revunenkova*)

The article gives detailed information on the first Russo-Philippine conference, dedicated to the 80-year anniversary of Gennady Evgenievich Rachkov’s birth, who was an outstanding Philippian who taught at the Eastern Faculty. Reports from various nations of the Philippine archipelago on history, ethnography, anthropology, languages and literature were heard at the conference, a summary of which is included in the paper.

Keywords: Philippines, Russia, history, archaeology, linguistics, ethnography, folklore, literature, epic, fleet, collections, art, Ifugao, Bontoc, Tagali, Javanese, Malaysians, Indians

Review of the Festival ‘The days of Ethnographic Cinema’ (28th September — 3rd October 2009, Moscow, Russian Institute of Culturology) (*Aleksey Vasiliev, Viktoria Chistyakova*)

The article reviews ‘The Days of Ethnographic Cinema’ (28th September — 3rd October 2009) which brought together more than fifty films on the themes of ethnography, anthropology and folklore from various countries around the world. The main themes of the films were the anthropology of towns, rituals and beliefs, crafts and trade, the problems of indigenous peoples and the adaptation of migrants. In the theoretical part of the event, the fate of visual anthropology as an academic discipline and the experience of teaching it in the higher education system was discussed, as well as the peculiarities of developing a methodology of sciences about culture, posited as a fundamental principle of the culture of visuality.

Keywords: ethnographic film, visual methods in the arts about culture, archive audiovisual legacy

Spring School on Folklore Studies and Cultural Anthropology. 'Folklore in our Time: Traditions, Transformations and Neologisms' (*Natalia Komelina*)

This review features the 'summer school' on folklore studies and cultural anthropology organised by the Centre for Typology and the Semiotics of Folklore at the Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow). The school took place in May 2010 in Moscow and Pereslavl-Zalessky. On this occasion it was entitled 'Folklore in our Time: Traditions, Transformations and Neologisms'. The range of issues discussed at the School included both phenomena directly linked to 'post-folklore' and also issues distantly related to urban culture. The boundaries of research for the School's theme were quite broad: from 'paleo-folklore' to 'post-folklore'; and the programme included reports whose themes ranged from paper gods and Scythian ornaments to the secret of Rosa Kaganovich and the Darwin Awards.

Keywords: folklore studies, cultural anthropology, traditions, transformations, neologisms, post-folklore

Personalia

Olga Gorokhova. About the Library Named after D.N. Anuchin in the Kostroma Region

The article describes the public library named after D.N. Anuchin that existed from 1908–1917 in the Kostroma region. This library was founded by him to commemorate the death of his mother who was born in the village of Stepanovo. The statutes of the library are applied to the article.

Keywords: libraries, library statutes, books, inscriptions, Anuchin

In memoriam

In Memory of Claude Lévi-Strauss (28.11.1908–31.10.2009) (*Alexander Ostrovsky*)

This article (obituary) traces the fundamental phases and landmarks of the life of this great scientist, and briefly sketches his methodological and theoretical contribution to anthropological study and his scientifically-organised work on the development of anthropological research in France. Lévi-Strauss' culturological ideas are described, as well as his structural method for analysing the facts of traditional oral culture and his conception of mythological thought. Special attention is paid to the peculiar reception of Lévi-Strauss' ideas in Russia.

Key words: Claude Lévi-Strauss, anthropology, ethnology, French structuralism, structural method, myth analysis, conception of mythological thought

Vladimir Rafailovich Kabo (1925–2009) (*Elena Ivanova*)

Vladimir Kabo (1925–2009) was an outstanding ethnographer and researcher of the history of primitive society. He fought in WWII, receiving the Red Star order. He was the victim of political repression, spending five years from 1949–1954 in Kargopollag prison camp. From 1957 until his departure in 1990 to Australia he worked at the Institute of Ethnography at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (until 1977 in Leningrad, and afterwards in Moscow). He won the Miklouho-Maclay Prize.

He is the author of the books ‘The Origins and Early History of the Australian Aborigines’ (Moscow, 1969), ‘The Tasmanians and the Tasmanian problem’ (Moscow, 1975), ‘The Primitive Pre-agricultural Community’ (Moscow, 1986), ‘The Circle and the Cross: Reflections on primitive spirituality’ (Moscow, 2006), and the memoirs ‘The Road to Australia’ (Moscow, 2008). In Canberra, Australia, the monograph ‘Wandjina and the Icon: Australian Aboriginal art and Russian icon painting’ (2002) and a collection of essays entitled ‘The Eternal Present’ (2006) were published.

Keywords: origins of Australians, Tasmanian problem, origins of religion, primitive religion, primitive pre-agricultural community

Response to Questionnaire

Sergei Sokolovsky. Stanley Diamond on the Structuralism of Claude Lévi-Strauss: Metacommentary

This article is a response to the publication of Alexander Ostrovsky (*Ostrovsky A. Monitoring the Scientific Life of the Anthropological Community* (2008)) in the electronic section of Forum for Anthropology and Culture Online (2009. No. 11 Online. P. 59–64). The main point of Ostrovsky’s criticism was the position of American anthropologist Stanley Diamond in relation to the structuralism of Lévi-Strauss which Diamond formulated in the article which attained notoriety “The Inauthenticity of Anthropology: The Myth of Structuralism”, which, however, until its publication in Russian translation (*Ethnographic Revue*. 2008. No. 6. P. 28–55) remained little known in Russia. In the response, Ostrovsky’s accusation of Diamond’s anti-Semitism is rejected based on biographical materials and correspondence with his pupils.

Keywords: Stanley Diamond, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Jean-Paul Sartre, structuralism, anti-Semitism