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THE ROLE OF THE BABKA-KOVAČICA GALLERY IN THE PROMOTION OF NAIVE ART PAINTERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Pavel Babka, Pavol Rybár

Résumé: Vojvodina in Serbia is inhabited by Slovaks (as well as other nationalities) who arrived around the 1770s. They are still living in the same area and have retained their cultural heritage and archaic language variants of the specific regions they came from - mainly Central Slovakia. Kovačica, as part of the contemporary border region, was among 17 other wasteland areas assigned to the commandery of the Potisje and Pomorišje military border. Today communities with Slovak majorities can be found in two Vojvodina municipalities: Bački Petrovac and Kovačica. The Slovak minority in Vojvodina has preserved homeland traditions and created their own identity. Kovačica naive art experienced the most dynamic development.

Babka-Kovačica Gallery was founded on 1 October 1991. Pavel Babka, its founder and also the founder of the Babka-Kovačica Foundation, systematically collects the artwork of painters who are freely associated in his gallery. He exhibits in Serbia, Slovakia and cities around the globe. It is also thanks to him that the naive art of Serbia-born Slovak painters was registered with the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Serbia as part of Serbian cultural heritage on 18 June 2012.

This monograph describes the characteristics of the most significant representatives of Slovak naive art in Kovačica and its surroundings, and it also analyses the activities of the Babka-Kovačica Gallery and the Babka-Kovačica Foundation that promote awareness of Slovak naive art in Serbia, Slovakia and around the world.

Keywords: Retaining cultural heritage, Slovaks in Serbia, Kovačica naive art, Babka-Kovačica Gallery.

ANCIENT DNA AND REWRITING HUMAN HISTORY

Andrej Choma

Résumé: Elementary and key factors that allow us to understand our human entity are answers to questions such as: Who are we? Who are our ancestors and where did they come from? I can confidently state that these questions are as old as humanity itself. To understand human past, we need to adopt a multidisciplinary approach: the analysis and interpretation of molecular genetic markers alone is not sufficient; what is important is the cooperation of the entire range of scientific studies such as palaeoanthropology, archaeology, linguistics, paleoclimatology, geochemistry, etc. However, the scientific progress of DNA study methods using fossil materials has brought about a qualitative shift in the evaluation of results and new insights that lead to explanations and a deepening of our current knowledge.

Migration is one of the most frequently used means by which humanity has hoped to solve its problems. The entire history of migration is mainly connected with demographic developments, as well as environmental disaster, disease, cultural expansions, and wars. Such patterns of migration can be very quick with a rapid course, or rather slow with an unclear trigger.

Modern next-generation sequencing techniques (NGS) increase the potential to acquire archaic DNA in its purest form, i.e. without any biological contamination impurities from older fossil materials; they allow people to be distinguished between at the level of individual nucleotides. This results in fragments of perused nucleotides that allow for the assembly of whole areas of authentic DNA. Paleogenetic studies use single-nucleotide polymorphisms to reconstruct the phenotype of historical populations and also to verify selection hypotheses. Single-nucleotide polymorphisms visible with the naked eye (such as skin pigmentation, eye colour, hair morphology) are extraordinarily attractive for researchers, and similarly attractive are polymorphisms that impact immunity and the ability to digest lactose (disaccharide sugar) in adult life.

Genetic data acquired from hypervariable sections of I. and II. mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) – more specifically from non-recombinant

sections of Y-chromosome, or acquired during total DNA sequencing using the NGS method, complemented with stable isotope analysis – sophisticatedly allow us to reveal dynamics in prehistoric society, understand social and family arrangements in prehistoric society, as well as the social behaviour of ancient man.

Its geographical location has led Slovakia to playing a role in many significant historical events in Central Europe; its high mountains and climatic conditions formed a natural barrier and provided solid protection to communities living there. It is interesting that the Slovak territory, more specifically its western border, is also a diffusive border of the most common Y-DNA haplogroups – R1a and R1b in Europe. Despite bipolar division in Europe, both haplogroups share a common origin of continental Eurasia and having spread here at different times but definitely as part of later migrations; they both also had a dominant influence on the spread and development of the Indo-European language. R1a and R1b Y-DNA haplotypes are present in more than 60% of Slovak men. The second biggest group (cca 22%) are Y-DNA haplogroups I1, I2a and I2b that belong to the family of the first Europeans and remained despite numerous subsequent migrations. Neolithic civilisations were responsible for the agricultural revolution, and they also brought cca 10% of their Y-DNA haplogroups. Besides the main Y-DNA haplogroups, there are also other haplogroups which are not so numerous, and rare Y-DNA haplotypes present in only a few Slovak individuals.

Keywords: Slovakia, paleogenetics, next-generation sequencing, haplogroup distribution.

PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY IN RELATION TO THE COUNTRY'S ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Pavel Hronček

Résumé: This paper presents opportunities for prehistory and protohistory research in the context of environmental history as a new progressive scientific field of study. The environmental history research of a specific country prior to its written history is hindered for many Slovak locations because written history very often dates back only to the 14th or 15th century. Many Slovak villages, mainly mountainous and sub-mountainous, lack any written records or even maps prior to this period, i.e. before the second half of the Middle Ages.

In the second part of the paper we discuss the origins of prehistory as a scientific field of study dealing with the longest period of human history – the prehistory period, which intersects with a large part of the Middle Ages in our geographical area.

The paper concludes with a depiction of G. K. Zechenter-Laskomerský, who in 1874 published a "scientific" thesis on prehistory–prehistoric times. Despite its eruditeness, the study was neglected by subsequent generations of scientists due to having been published only in the Slovak language – the main reason it sank into historical oblivion. G. K. Zechenter-Laskomerský chose his words wisely, and between the lines we can read the prevision of a new scientific field of study – environmental history, although it was codified only a hundred years later.

Keywords: Slovakia, prehistory, protohistory, country's environmental history

APPLICATION OF HISTORICAL MAPS IN TOURISM USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Mário Molokáč, Ladislav Hvizdák, Pavel Hronček, Martin Turóci

Résumé: The paper discusses the opportunities of IT applications in tourism. It suggests the option to digitize historical maps to acquire new information. Information acquired using digital means are new yet correct from the historical point of view. Information generated from maps using geographic information systems (GIS) cannot be acquired from other sources.

GIS allow new information to be acquired, thus enriching and increasing the quality of historical maps research, and offer many 2D and 3D modelling options. Such outputs bring forth new information whilst being visually attractive and easily legible.

In the paper we have focused on a historical map showing salt roads through the Kysuce region in the 18th century, and the opportunities of digitisation and subsequent visualisation using GIS. Such outputs can be widely used in tourism.

Keywords: historical geography, geotourism, geographic information systems, 3D visualisation

CAUSES FOR EMIGRATION TO SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN KINGDOM WITH A FOCUS ON PEOPLE FROM THE KYSUCE REGION IN SLAVONIA

Pavol Markech

Résumé: Our paper provides a comprehensive overview of the causes of emigration to southern regions of the Hungarian Kingdom, mainly the Slavonia region. It evaluates the exogenous and endogenous influence on internal emigration and migration within the Hungarian Kingdom, which cannot be explained solely based on the current knowledge regarding adverse living conditions in the Kysuce region.

Keywords: Internal emigration, Kysuce, Slavonia, Croatia

FOLK RELIGIOSITY AND ETHICS OF TINSMITHS FROM THE KYSUCE REGION

Alojz Kontrik

Résumé: Folk religiosity as a pious reflection in everyday human life is closely connected with official Church teachings, Christian philosophy and ethics. Christian catechism is the source of ethical standards based on which tinsmiths formed their own customs-ethics code. The paper provides details about the folk religiosity and ethics of tinsmiths during the inter-war period which had a fundamental influence on some aspects of their everyday life and work. It determined tinsmiths' attitudes towards God, themselves, apprentices, customers, family members, and state representatives.

Keywords: folk religiosity, ethics, tinsmiths, Kysuce, inter-war period

ŽIVČÁKOVÁ: INSIGHTS INTO THE HISTORY OF A CONTEMPORARY MARIAN PILGRIM SITE

Zuzana Lipková

Résumé: The study describes a specific form of Marian cult and respect on the example of Živčáková – a contemporary Marian pilgrim site. It follows the historical development of this phenomenon with regards to the location, residents and their piety, confessional conditions, and local political processes. Special attention is paid to the life and work of the visionary Matúš Lašut. His bond to the place was essential for its establishment as a pilgrim site. A description of the contemporary architectonic structure of the pilgrim site is related to tangible cultural aspects. The paper also includes a theoretical generalisation of Marian respect and the phenomenon of pilgrimage.

Keywords: Kysuce, Živčáková, Marian cult and respect, revelation of Mary, pilgrim sites, pilgrimage, folk religiosity, Catholic Church

GEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF LÚČANSKÁ MALÁ FATRA AS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTOURISM

Daniel Husárik

Résumé: The Malá Fatra is a core mountain range with a distinctive georelief. The presented work deals mainly with the Lúčanská Malá Fatra subdivision, and specifically with its western hillside. The author describes landscape changes since the first written records up to his own findings acquired during field trips. As a field research worker, he describes the

individual natural geological formations and creations of various forms. The aim of this work is to illustrate the natural resources of the studied landscape in the context of a new branch of tourism – geotourism.

Keywords: Žilina region, Malá Fatra, geotourism, landscape, relief, caves, karst, mines, springs

ĽUDOVÍT ŠTÚR

AS EUROPEAN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHER

Daniel Husárik

Résumé: This commented study on scientifically unexplored contribution of Ľudovít Štúr presents him as a European regional geographer. Štúr was a versatile scholar who combined knowledge of history, ethnography and politics to present a reader with regional geographic description of European countries in a popular way. Comparing Štúr's factual historical descriptions with contemporary knowledge brings us to a conclusion that his work can be used as appropriate didactic-pedagogical material even today – 170 years from its publishing date.

Keywords: Biographistics, Ľudovít Štúr (1815-1856), regional geography

AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVISATION

IN THE KYSUCE REGION

Helena Kotvasová

Résumé: Collectivisation was based on the Soviet model that sought to eliminate private agricultural small-scale production and prosperous farmers and their farms. The events of February 1948 and the change of political-social system in Czechoslovakia were evident in all aspects of life. The Kysuce region was an agrarian region with little-developed industry and non-profitable agricultural small-scale production. Hence the industrialisation of the region and the socialisation of agricultural production was very important for the new totalitarian regime. This work aims not to study the overall economic development of the region in the second half of the 20th century, but rather to focus on the basic documents used in the collectivisation process. We are mapping the origins of collective agricultural farms in both Kysuce districts until the 1960s. The presented paper also studies the establishment of state-owned properties, their role in the collectivisation process, and the transformation of several collective agricultural farms (JRD).

Keywords: Economic history, Communist ideology, agricultural collectivisation, collective agricultural farms (JRD), land dispossession, elimination of private farmers

ALCHEMIST BAVOR RODOVSKÝ OF HUSTIŘANY

Miloš Jesenský

Résumé: Noble Bavor Rodovský of Hustiřany (1526-1592) was a 16th century Czech alchemist who also covered mathematics, astronomy and philosophy in his works. His treatises, part of which are probably just a compilation of other older and lost works, suggest that alchemy was relatively advanced in contemporary Czech area. The paper analyses the significance of Rodovský's work with its implications on laboratory techniques and procedures, provides concise information about his life, and describes the preserved manuscripts in the collection of the National Museum in Prague and Leiden University Library.

Keywords: Biographistics, history of science and technology, alchemy, Bavor Rodovský of Hustiřany (1526-1592)

FORESTS IN THE MEDIEVAL KYSUCE REGION

Adam Buchta

Résumé: The paper aims to reconstruct the natural landscape of the medieval Kysuce region with its most characteristic feature – forests. It collects as much information as possible from archaeological research and studies all mentions of the various tree types in medieval parchments, specifically old trees' appearance and local names derived from plants. The author creates a vivid description of the medieval landscape based on these findings, supplemented by a description of trees and their utilisation. He focuses on the natural landscape covered by pristine forests as well as the landscape cultivated by people and adapted to their needs.

Keywords: Environmental history, medieval forest, Kysuce, economy in the Middle Ages, colonisation

DO THE RUINS OF RADOĽA – KOSCELISKO CHURCH HAVE FEATURES OF GREAT MORAVIA CHURCHES?

Pavel Selucký

Résumé: Archaeologist Anton Petrovský-Šichman performed field research in 1956 to answer whether the medieval church ruins in Radoľa – Koscelisko could be dated to the Great Moravia period, and eventually of Irish-Scottish origin. The presented paper evaluates

architectonic features that can be interpreted as indicators of Celtic and Great Moravian sacral architecture.

Keywords: Sacral architecture, age determination, archaeological research, national cultural monument Radol'a – Koscelisko, Anton Petrovský-Šichman (1919-1967)

NOTES

ON KYSUCE REGIONALISATION

Pavel Hronček, Martin Turóci, Mário Molokáč, Ladislav Hvizdák

Résumé: The Kysuce region, similarly to the regions of Horehronie (Upper Hron River region) and Podpoľanie (the region below the Poľana Mountains) has never in history been an autonomous administrative region. It has always been part of a larger administrative area – Trenčín County.

The Kysuce region is demarcated by significant natural barriers, and lies near the tri-border area where the Slovak, the Czech and Polish borders meet. In the east it is bordered by the Orava region, Námestovo and Dolný Kubín districts, and in the south by the mid-Považie region, former Trenčín County, which today are the Žilina, Považská Bystrica and Bytča districts.

Based on written records and historical maps, the Kysuce region can be demarcated as at the intersection of the Kysuce River divide, i.e. the boundary of a drainage basin with historical state borders and a territorial-administrative region in this part of Slovakia.

Natural barriers that have historically cut off the Kysuce region contributed to its character, the region being described as "distinctive and remote" in comparison to its neighbouring surroundings. Thus the imaginary boundary of the Kysuce region is of orographic-historical origin and almost exclusively related to the main Kysuce River divide. Therefore, we can say that the Kysuce region is a historical region in the Kysuce River drainage basin delimited by the historical border of the Hungarian Kingdom in the north.

Keywords: Kysuce, regional demarcation, environmental history, orography

SEVERAL NOTES ON POTTERY FROM THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD IN KYSUCKÉ NOVÉ MESTO

Samuel Španihel

Résumé: This paper presents two pottery sets from the early modern period found in the Lower Kysuce region. It is a finding from the cellar of Kysucké Nové Mesto town hall supplemented by further surface findings from the area of Dubský mill, which once stood somewhere near today's Nesluša fish pond.

The author briefly summarises the history of this region and the relevant archaeological research, followed by a basic analysis of both pottery sets and a general evaluation.

Keywords: Kysuce, early modern period, archaeology, early medieval pottery, analysis

FOUR VIEWS OF ŽILINA

Daniel Husárik

Résumé: The presented paper provides short excursus to contemporary historical Žilina and its surroundings. The reader is accompanied by four significant persons of different interests across various cultural periods. However, our four companions had one thing in common: all were talented writers. Their publishing activities provided insights into the historical information flow of incipient tourism.

Keywords: History of Žilina, Matthias Bel (1684-1749), Alojz Medňanský (1784-1844), Karol Alexander Modráni (1830-1864)