

FOREWORD

We hereby present the 33rd volume of the Klaipėda University periodical *Res Humanitariae*, with 13 articles from various fields of the humanities, testifying to both traditional and contemporary approaches to language, culture, literature and issues of social life. As in previous publications, this volume presents the work of both scholars with solid academic and scientific experience, and young researchers just starting out on their scientific path. Four such articles by young scholars are published with experts in the relevant research areas as co-authors. The publication reflects the diversity and depth of the humanities, inviting readers to familiarise themselves with the latest developments in theology, ethnology, ethnomusicology, literary studies, linguistics and interdisciplinary research.

This is the first volume compiled by me. I am taking over from its long-time compiler, the doctor of humanities (ethnology) Kristina Blockytė-Naujokė, head of the Lithuanian Studies and Foreign Languages Centre in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to her for her dedicated work in preparing previous volumes of *Res Humanitariae*.

The first three articles are devoted to theological issues. **Darius Petkūnas**, a doctor of humanities, senior research fellow at the John Paul II Christian Studies Centre of Klaipėda University, and associate professor of theology at the University of Helsinki, discusses the pastoral activities of Kristijonas Donelaitis and the life of the Tolminkiemis parish during his spiritual ministry from the perspective of an Evangelical Lutheran priest in the Klaipėda region. The article discusses Donelaitis' path towards becoming a pastor, the ethnic composition of the parish and the reasons for the decline in the number of Lithuanians, the construction

projects initiated by the pastor, the upheavals experienced during the Seven Years' War, the records left by the clergyman in the registers, the liturgical life of the parish, the Pietistic stance of the pastor, the land partition case that was unfavourable to the Church, and the opinions of later pastors about their predecessor. The author believes that the village described in the poem *Metai* by Donelaitis is a Lithuanian village in the parish of Tolminkiemis, as the pastor saw it when communicating with his Lithuanian parishioners.

Arvydas Ramonas, a professor, doctor of theological sciences, member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, member of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences, head and senior research fellow at the John Paul II Christian Studies Centre in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Klaipėda University, together with **Vita Bajarova**, from the Spiritual Counselling and Assistance study programme at the Christian Studies Centre, analyses Oswald Spengler's philosophical work *The Decline of the West*, and its philosophical and cultural context in the 20th century. Spengler investigated the stages in the development of world history, paying great attention to Western civilisation. A hundred years ago, he sensed that a new war would break out if spiritual values were devalued. In the current Russian war in Ukraine, we can see that history is truly repeating itself. The article acknowledges that, in the words of Spengler, Christianity can no longer offer a very solid spiritual foundation; the God it proclaims seems neutral to the course of history, unknowable and distant. However, the decline of the West he predicted has only partly come true, because Christianity has not disappeared, and today man is still searching for authentic truth, meaning and God.

Skaistė Barkutė, a doctor of humanities (philology), MA in religious studies, and associate professor at Klaipėda State College, studies the role of the conscience in the sermons by the late 19th-century Lithuanian priest and writer Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas from a didactic perspective. She testifies that the sermon as a religious discourse in its time enabled the orator not only to comment on the word of God revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and to explain the truths of the faith, but also to achieve pragmatic goals with the help of these truths: to educate, teach and provide practical knowledge. The problem and main goal of the article is to find out how this priest's perception of the conscience and its meaning correlates with the texts of the Holy Scriptures. The sermons of Tumas-Vaižgantas at Mintauja in 1894 were chosen for the study. In the analysis, it became clear that, for the preacher, not only is the conscience the final instance of morality, which must be unconditionally obeyed, but also a close relationship between the conscience and faith is important. Discussing the educational role of the conscience, Vaižgantas emphasises the need to keep a clear conscience.

Two articles are published here on the topic of ethnology. **Rimantas Balsys**, a doctor of humanities (ethnology), professor in the Department of Philology, and dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University, together with the research fellow **Maryna Ponomarenko**, a doctor of arts and associate professor, publishes an article in English about manifestations of pagan archaism: the ceremonial features of the Ukrainian *pysanka* and the Lithuanian *margutis* in the context of pre-Christian and Christian world-views, their role in ritual culture in Lithuania and Ukraine, the symbolism of their decoration, and the technique. The comparative analysis conducted by the authors has revealed similarities and differences in the use of ritual eggs in traditional rituals in rites for choosing a partner and commemorating the ancestors in Lithuania and Ukraine, and highlighted changes in the structure and semantics of these rituals determined by Christian culture. The results of the study allow us to reconstruct the original form and content of the rituals in which *pysanky*, *krashanky* and *margučiai* were and still are used.

Jonas Mardosa, a doctor of humanities (ethnology), long-time professor at the Lithuanian Institute of History and the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, and currently an independent researcher, discusses the beliefs and customs of farmers in the Aukštadvaris area of the Trakai district in the works of Jonas Balys (1909–2011). The article is based on the agricultural customs and beliefs collected by the ethnologist in the Lithuanian Folklore Archive, which were taken out of Lithuania and published in a book in the USA. The aim is to determine to what extent the sources published by him in the USA correspond to the data of the Beliefs Index in the LII Library archive, and the conclusion is drawn that most of the material published by Balys is in this index, but there is also unpublished material, and the beliefs in the book were not found in the Lithuanian Institute of History. The analysis of beliefs relating to ploughing and sowing cereals and planting vegetables has revealed a possibility to use the material in the book and the index to conduct a fully fledged local and wide-scale study of the 20th century, an important area of the economic and spiritual life of farmers in the first half of the 19th century.

Three articles are devoted to discussing topical issues of ethnomusicology. **Evelina Grygier**, a doctor of arts and associate professor at the Institute of Musicology of the University of Warsaw, discusses in English issues of the use of the simple wooden transverse flute, an instrument used in Ireland, Cuba, Brittany (France) and Roztocz (Poland), in traditional and folk music. It traces the transition of the instrument from the professional concert sphere to amateur use, and describes regional features of its use (performance technique, ensemble function, repertoire). This approach to the wooden transverse flute in folklore is

innovative. In addition to existing scientific research, the article is partly based on the author's own research (including material from folklore expeditions) in the context of traditional Polish musical culture.

Vida Palubinskienė, a doctor of humanities (ethnology), and professor in the Department of Modern Didactics of the Teacher Training Institute at the Academy of Education at Vytautas Magnus University, studies the impact of pan-ethnic European musical instruments on the traditional repertoire of the west Aukštaitija and Samogitian *kanklės*. Based on archival material and data from ethno-instrumental expeditions, the article puts forward the assumption that, as the traditions of ethnic music-making changed, polyphony, the most characteristic feature of old music and fiddles and bellows instruments, the prevailing pan-ethnic European musical instruments, had a great impact on the *kanklės* music of west Aukštaitija and Samogitia. It is noted that the harmoniums and other bellows instruments that became prevalent in the 20th century finally changed the characteristics of the ethnic music of *kanklės*, and ethnic music affected the traditions of folk music-making with bellows instruments and fiddles. West Aukštaitija and Samogitia experienced the greatest influence from Central Europe.

Based on authentic terminology recorded during folklore-ethnographic expeditions, the article by **Volha Baryshnikova**, an independent researcher currently residing in Poland, an MA in music arts, and a prominent member of the younger generation of Belarusian ethno-musicologists, analyses in English the phenomenon of the simultaneous functioning of three types of *valachobnya* (Easter hymn) song melodies in villages in the Hlybokaya, Miory and Sharkaushchyna districts of the multi-confessional west Podzvina region of Belarus. The study has revealed that the classification of these song melodies created by people is based on the ethno-confessional component, and is consciously used to distinguish and describe types of song melodies of the custodians of local traditions.

Two more articles close to the ethno-musicological theme should be seen in the context of interdisciplinary research. **Ēvalds Daugulis**, a doctor of arts and professor in the Department of Music and Art of Daugavpils University, presents in English current events in the emergence and development of the country music band marathon as a new and increasingly popular phenomenon in Latvian cultural life. The author testifies that the country music performers marathon was first organised in 2008 as part of the 24th National Latvian Song and Dance Festival. The article attempts to review the goals, content, variety of forms of expression, instrumentation, repertoire, achievements and problems of this marathon. A new concept of the folk music band is presented.

In his article, **Rytis Ambrazevičius**, an ethnomusicologist and acoustic physicist, doctor of humanities, and professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at Kaunas University of Technology, and in the Department of Ethnomusicology at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, publishes the results of his interdisciplinary research on the acoustic and psychological spaces of the work *Bolė Lt* (2015) by the composer Ričardas Kabelis. The author formulates the question, how does the listener ‘measure’ and reflect on the mathematical-acoustic foundation of the string orchestra and spatial system of this music? The conclusions of the study state that, together with a number of other parameters, this depends primarily on the individual, and on the psychological adequacy of the structural principles.

The article on communist social engineering and the perpetrators of the Holodomor in Ukraine, in memory of those who survived it, by **Tetiana Boriak**, a doctor in humanities (history), and associate professor and research fellow in the Faculty of History of Vilnius University, is based on the results of interdisciplinary research, and is published in English. It analyses the assessment of government institutions and measures used during the artificial famine through the testimonies and memories of witnesses and victims of the Holodomor. The author focuses on how the government shaped rural communities before and during the artificial famine, their way of life, their perception of this social engineering, and the activities of the perpetrators of the Holodomor at the level of ordinary people, as described by survivors. The author uses archival and oral history data, applies the method of source criticism, and suggests the limits of and possibilities for further research into the perpetrators of the crimes.

The last two articles are intended to convey the topicality of linguistic and educational research. **Kristina Blockytė-Naujokė**, a doctor of humanities and research fellow in the Department of Philology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University, together with **Gerda Banaitytė**, a graduate of the Lithuanian philology study programme in the department, investigates the motivation for learning the Lithuanian language as a non-native (including inherited) language, based on the experience of Lithuanian-language schools abroad. The authors testify that globalisation and migration have determined that an increasing number of children of Lithuanian origin grow up outside Lithuania, where their connection with their native language is not formed in a natural linguistic environment. Lithuanian-language schools are becoming an important tool to help maintain the Lithuanian language and the national identity. The article pays special attention to the aspect of student motivation. The study shows what pedagogical, family and social factors influence children’s

motivation, and contributes to the development of research on Lithuanian-language education in the diaspora.

In an interdisciplinary research article published in English, **Sandra Degtiar**, a lecturer in the Department of Philology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University, together with her student **Saulius Mockus**, a master of philology, investigates linguistic expressions of melancholy and enthusiasm in the songs of the popular American singer and songwriter Lana del Rey. The authors testify that linguistic means of expression not only provide great freedom for the emotions and the imagination, but are also a common way for singers to express indirectly the nature of their personal lives. Musical works full of melancholy and enthusiasm can evoke strong emotions in listeners, and the analysis of the linguistic features in them can help us understand how they evoke these emotions. This study analyses a number of linguistic means in order to determine how melancholy and enthusiasm are depicted in the extensive work of this singer.

Two publications are published in the Reviews section. **Dalia Kiseliūnaitė**, Doctor of Humanities (Philology), Professor at the Department of Philology, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Klaipėda University, reviews just published at the University of Latvia monograph by **Benita Laumane**, a prominent Latvian linguist, Professor, Habilitated Doctor of Humanities, Corresponding Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, on the search for the identity of names and surnames, known in same Latvian regions.

The head of the aforementioned Department, Associate Professor, Doctor of Humanities (Philology) **Asta Balčiūnienė**, in her review, discusses the solid monograph of linguistic research by her colleague, Professor, Doctor of Humanities (Philology) **Dalia Pakalniškienė**, published at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language in 2023.

In the Chronicle section, **Lina Petrošienė**, a doctor of humanities (ethnology) and professor in the Department of Philology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University, discusses the results of the eighth international interdisciplinary scientific conference 'Interaction of Tradition and Modernity', held on 20 and 21 November this year, dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the publication of the first collection of Lithuanian folk songs, Martynas Liudvikas Rėza's *Dainos, oder littauische Volkslieder* (Königsberg, 1825), and the prospects for further research that arose in the discussions.

Saulius Stumbra, a doctor of social sciences (educology), and Prof. Dr. **Rimantas Sliužinskas** presents the results of the international scientific conference 'The Queen of Heaven Shines', initiated by him and held on 28 November this year, dedicated to **Alfonsas Motuzas** (1955–2019), a researcher of Catholic

folk piety, professor and doctor of humanities (ethnology), to commemorate the 70th anniversary of his birth. Presentations were given by both lay scholars from Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, and by distinguished clergy. The patron of the conference was the Bishop of Telšiai, His Excellency **Algirdas Jurevičius**.

Volume 33 of *Res Humanitariae* includes the creative and analytical efforts by scholars of different generations to reveal the diversity of the humanities. We hope that the articles in this volume will become not only a source of information, but also an inspiration for further research and discussions. We invite readers to join this intellectual journey, contributing to the expansion of our cultural and scientific horizons.

Prof. Dr. (HP) Rimantas Sliužinskas
Editor of the volume