

Гиряк, Михайло  
Дзвони не втихають  
Українські народні казки Східної Словаччини.  
(Ukrainian Folktales from East Slovakia) Том I.

Братіслава, Словацьке педагогічне видавництво — Пряшів, Відділ української літератури — 1982.  
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In the easternmost parts of present-day Czechoslovakia (East Slovakia) live the Ukrainians. They are a western group of people, currently living on the West side of the Carpathian mountains, predominantly as a special political unit called, in Russian, *Zakarpat'e* (which literally means 'behind the Carpathians', clearly identifying a *point de vue*). Until the end of the First World War they lived in Hungary, and between the two wars in Czechoslovakia. Their rich folklore has already been studied for more than a hundred years by Hungarian, Ukrainian, Slovak, Russian, Polish and other folklorists, whose direct ethnic affiliation is sometimes difficult to tell. In Hungarian publications the name of the people is *rutén* or *ruszin* (the form Ruthenian is also used in English), and the territory is named *Kárpátalja* 'foot of the Carpathians'. In earlier Czechoslovakian publications the territory was called *Podkarpatska Rus* literally 'Russia at the foot of the Carpathians', and scholars, such as P. G. Bogatyrev, the world famous Russian folklorist working in Czechoslovakia, made a distinction between that land and East Slovakia proper.

Ruthenian folktales are a favourite field of investigation for Ukrainian, Hungarian and Slovak folklorists, as well as for comparative Slavic philology, because of the richness and beauty of the texts, their archaic language, interconnections with old beliefs and customs, etc. However, a distinction between Ukrainian folk tales in *Zakarpat'e* and in East Slovakia was not always maintained. Folklorists generally appreciate the Carpathian tales, and are not always aware of the fact that many of them were in fact rather from East Slovakia.

Mikhajlo Giryak, or, preferably Michal Hirjak (as the author writes his name in the Slovakian orthography) collected and published the folklore texts under review from East Slovakia. Between 1965 and 1979 he got seven volumes done by the Prešov (in Ukrainian Prjašiv, in Hungarian Eperjes) Ukrainian publisher, and one volume in Užgorod (in Ukrainian Užhorod, in Hungarian Ungvár) for Soviet readers. After these publications the folk tale type index of East Slavic peoples (Russians, White Russians, and Ukrainians) appeared (in 1979), facilitating a more detailed comparative study of the Ukrainian folk tales from East Slovakia. Hirjak publishes 32 tales in this volume, which is the first one in a larger series. The language of the tales is normalized, about one hundred of the rare words are explained. Hirjak works from his own material, and in one third of the work makes use of Volodimir Hnatyuk's classical Kiev publications (1897–1900). Unfortunately he does not tell us who told the tale and when. After each tale he gives references to the East Slavic, Polish and Slovak tale type indices, as well as to the international type index by Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson. It is regrettable that he does not refer to Romanian and Hungarian tale type indices, in spite of the fact that the similarities are striking.

It was precisely because of this fact that we wanted to review this important publication, in the hope that in forthcoming volumes the shortcomings will be corrected.

It is a well-known fact that Hungarian folktales and folktales from *Zakarpat'e* have very much in common. Now one can see that the same is true for Ukrainian folktales from East Slovakia. Not knowing the family names of the story-tellers, nor the year of the field work, we are not able to make precise remarks concerning school, broadsheet or literary sources. In the terminology of course Hungarian words often occur, as e.g. *gazda* 'head of a family, owner of the farm', *kocs* < *kocsi* 'coach', *kocsis* 'driver of a coach', *oriaši* < *óriás* Hungarian plural, in fact 'giants', *palinka* 'brandy', *sovgor* < *sógor* 'brother-in-law', *sárkány*

'dragon', etc. For folk tale research the importance of the terms is especially great, as parallel forms, like *zmij* 'dragon' and *sárkány* 'dragon', or even *čort* 'devil' and *fras* (from German) 'devil' are quite astonishing.

It is probably not known to everybody that the Hungarian lawyer, Mihály Fincicky (1842–1916) collected 92 folk tales in the 1870's from the Ruthenians, or "Hungarian–Russians" as he called them. Later, in 1910 he translated 40 tales from the collection into Hungarian, for publication. However, the texts were only published in 1970 (*A vasorrú indzsibaba. Kárpátukrajnai népmesék. A szövegeket gondozta és a jegyzeteket írta Kovács Ágnes. Bp. 1970. "Népek meséi"*), and of course, only in Hungarian. The Ruthenian originals were lost so we do not know whether some of the tales might not also have been from East Slovakia. Nevertheless folklorists should remember his collection, because it is the oldest special folktale collection of the Ruthenians and very much akin to some of the tales published in Hirjak's books.

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### **Annales Universitatis Scientiarum Budapestinensis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae. Sectio Historica; Sectio Philologica (Moderna); Sectio Linguistica**

The main title above, with its different subtitles, covers the different foreign language yearbooks of the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. The series started in 1957, and since then has been published uninterruptedly with a widening scope of theme. Today, thirteen different sections are published, covering science, law, and the humanities. The existence of this series is justified by the fact that it makes the results of Hungarian scientific life and research undertaken at the Eötvös Loránd University more available outside Hungary. It also aims to strengthen international scientific connections and the exchange of information. This goal is also served by the system of international distribution. In general the volumes are sent to foreign institutions and libraries by the special branch libraries of the different departments. They form the basis of an international book exchange program, thus helping to improve the stock of foreign books in these libraries. This seems to be a very profitable way of exchanging information bilaterally. At the same time, the editorial boards have compiled lists of those foreign scholars who may be interested in the contents of these publications which are sent to them. It would be possible to extend the scope of distribution further; the number of copies printed would allow this.

*Annales, Sectio Historica* is one of the series that started in 1957. Since then it has appeared continuously; Volume XXI is the most recent to have appeared. From the beginning to 1967, the editor of the series was Zoltán Oroszlán, and since then István Diószegi has been the editor-in-chief. Studies and articles are mostly published in German, French, and Russian. The subjects treated include different problems of Hungarian and international history, their connections, the results of archeological research, articles on settlement history and social politics, etc. In more recent volumes, the editorial board has tried to group the articles of a given volume around one period or one main problem. There are very useful bibliographies concerning the results of Hungarian historical research between 1962–1964 and 1945–70, respectively, in Vols VII and XII. Vol. XVIII contains further documentation on the publications between 1971–75 by the members and scholars of the different departments of historical studies. The same volume contains also a list of B. A. dissertations written in that period (1971–75). This list is especially useful, as the results of these studies would not be available in any other way and would be forgotten. The latest volume (XXI, published in 1981) was devoted to the 60th anniversary of the birth of Endre Arató (1921–1977). His friends and disciples offered the latest results of their research to his memory. The entire bibliography of his publications can also be found here. One characteristic feature of the volumes of *Annales, Sectio Historica* is that they contain book reviews of possible interest to non-Hungarian readers and also a chronicle of the year's scientific events.