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Bibliographies of Lithuanian Ethnography

The history and principles of bibliography-compiling

by Vacys Milius, Vilnius

As Lithuanian ethnography is at present more closely associated with historical sciences than with folk-lore, we shall concern ourselves in this report with ethnographical bibliographies. Folk-lore bibliographies will be touched upon in as much as they pertain to ethnographical subjects.

The history of bibliography-compiling in Lithuania may be divided into three periods: 1) the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century; 2) the twenties and thirties of the 20th century (the period of bourgeois Lithuania) and 3) the post-war years (the period of Soviet Lithuania).

It should be observed that apart from Lithuanians, Russian and Polish scientists have also been engaged in compiling bibliographical literature on Lithuanian ethnography.

The first bibliography concerned with Lithuanian ethnography is "A bibliography of Materials for the study of the North-West Region ... in Archeological and Ethnographical aspects" compiled in 1881 by the Russian bibliographer P. Černevskij¹. According to the then existing administrative division the bibliography covers the provinces of Kaunas, Vilnius and Garden—provinces inhabited by Lithuanians and partly by Byelorussians. It includes books, journals and articles in newspapers, published in the fifties-seventies of the 19th century in Russian, partly in Polish and German. The ethnographical part of the bibliography is classified as follows: 1) mode of life, customs and ethnography in general; 2) mythology and religion; 3) superstitions, prejudices, legends; 4) traditions and rites; 5) monuments of folk art; 6) dialects and monuments of the Lithuanian language. The sections cover ethnographical literature, arranged in chronological order, in Russian, Polish and German respectively. If the title of an article does not clearly define its contents, the description is supplied with an annotation.

The first major Lithuanian bibliography is *Collected Materials for the study of Geography, Ethnography and Statistics of Lithuania*. Its author

¹ P. O. Černevskij, Ukazatel' materialov dlja izučeniija Severo-zapadnogo kraja (Kovenskaja, Vilenskaja i Grodnenskaja gub.) v archeologo-etnografičeskom otnošenii (A Bibliography of Materials for the Study of the North-West Region /Kaunas, Vilnius and Garden provinces/ in archeological-ethnographical aspects). Pamiatnaja knižka Kovenskoj gubernii 1882 goda. Kovno 1881, 329–367.

—the Lithuanian ethnographer and bibliographer S. Baltramaitis. The bibliography was first published in 1891 and reprinted in 1904, revised and supplemented in a great measure². The chapter entitled “Ethnographical References” includes both folk-lore and physical anthropology. The works in the chapter are subdivided into 16 sections; at the beginning are sections devoted to spiritual and material culture respectively. Ethnographical works on agriculture, cattle-breeding and accessory crafts of the peasants are also found in sections devoted to agricultural farming. The section on common law is presented in the part devoted to the history of law.

Ten years after the second edition of S. Baltramaitis’ bibliography, in 1914 appeared another bibliography of Lithuanian ethnography compiled by the Polish ethnographer and bibliographer F. Gawełek³. It covers literature on Lithuanian ethnography and folk-lore published in 1800–1910, mostly in Polish (literature in other languages is restricted to a few units). The materials are arranged in alphabetical order; the bibliography is supplied with an author and subject index (which is presented, however, in one list).

In bourgeois Lithuania the centre of folk-lore research was the Archives of Lithuanian Folk-lore, which in 1935–1940 published *Transactions of Folk-lore*. Three volumes of the publication contained bibliographies of current literature on Lithuanian folk-lore for 1935–1938 compiled by M. Šneideraitienė and L. Kalvelis⁴.

In the above bibliographies the materials are classified in comparatively great detail. As an example, we may give the bibliography of works published in 1937–1938: 1) bibliographies; 2) books; 3) articles; 4) folk music; 5) folk-lore texts in periodicals; 6) folk-lore and traditions in other countries; 7) chronicle; 8) biographies and obituaries; 9) illustrations. Some sections have even more specific rubrics, e.g. folk-lore texts in periodicals according to separate genres. Sum-

² S. Baltramaitis, *Sbornik bibliografičeskich materialov dlja geografii, etnografii i statistiki Litvy* (Collected Materials for the Study of Geography, Ethnography and Statistics of Lithuania). S.-Peterburg 1891; 2nd edition S.-Peterburg 1904.

³ F. Gawełek, *Bibliografja ludoznawstwa litewskiego* (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Ethnography). *Rocznik Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk w Wilnie* 5 (Wilno 1914) 326–400; Copy: Wilno 1914. 77 p.

⁴ M. Šneideraitienė, *Lietuviška tautosakos bibliografija 1935 m.* (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Folk-lore). *Tautosakos darbai* 1 (Kaunas 1935) 284–304; M. Šneideraitienė, *Lietuviška tautosakos bibliografija 1936 m.* (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Folk-lore). *Tautosakos darbai* (Kaunas 1937) 332–362; L. Kalvelis, *Lietuviška tautosakos bibliografija 1937/38 m.* (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Folk-lore). *Tautosakos darbai* (Kaunas 1939) 353–384.

maries are indicated as well. Two of the bibliographies are supplied with English translations.

The 5th volume of *Transactions of Folk-lore* contains a bibliography of Lithuanian ethnographical music compiled by Z. Slaviūnas⁵. It covers works published in 1825–1938. The bibliography is anticipated by a short survey of the history of the publication of Lithuanian folk melodies as well as by notes on the material selection principles. The bibliography consists of the following sections: 1) non-harmonized folk melodies; 2) harmonized folk songs; 3) essays on ethnographical music. The last section includes essays on folk musical instruments. Summaries are also indicated here.

Another thematic bibliography, devoted to ancient religion and mythology in Lithuania, was compiled by Z. Ivinskis⁶. The bibliography covers medieval works and studies up to 1937. The first part constitutes an introduction, where bibliographical collections are estimated and more general bibliographical materials are enumerated. Abbreviations of the collections are also to be found here. The second part is devoted to literature on Lithuanian mythology. The third part (i.e. the main one) covers not only works on the religion of ancient Lithuanians, but also certain works pertaining to the religion of Lithuania's nearest neighbours. It subdivides into six sections: 1) general works on the mythology of the Lithuanians and their neighbours; 2) Lithuanian religion as reflected in other works; 3) works on Old Prussian religion; 4) a few items on Latvian, Estonian and Finnish religion; 5) references to the religion of ancient Slavs and 6) works on the religion of ancient Lithuanians. The last section is the largest. It contains even three supplements. In separate sections literature is arranged in accordance with the language principle. In many cases, especially in the part devoted to bibliographical sources, detailed annotations are provided. Reviews are also indicated. Works of special importance are marked with two asterisks and other useful works are marked with one asterisk. At the end there is an index. However, the list includes both authors and subjects. Although the author tried to include even popular articles, the bibliography is not full: he had no access to complete sets of journals, magazines and newspapers published in the United States.

⁵ Z. Slaviūnas, Lietuvių etnografinės muzikos bibliografija (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Ethnographical Music). Tautosakos darbai (Kaunas 1938) 281–300.

⁶ Z. Ivinskis, Bibliografinė senovės lietuvių religijos ir mitologijos medžiaga (Materials on Ancient Religion and Mythology in Lithuania). Soter 2 (1935); 1, 2 (1936); 1, 2 (1937); Copy: Senovės lietuvių religijos bibliografija (A Bibliography of Ancient Lithuanian Religion). Kaunas 1938. 156 p.

It will be noted that in bourgeois Lithuania most attention was given to folk-lore. Ethnographic studies were carried on on a voluntary basis by the workers of the Society of Regional Studies in Šiauliai, which in 1934–1944 published the journal *Gimtasai kraštas* (The Native Land). In this journal two bibliographies were published. One of them was devoted to works on Lithuanian folk architecture in Eastern Prussia written by German scientists in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century⁷. The titles are supplied with detailed annotations. Another bibliography presents publications of the Šiauliai Society of Regional Studies, which include ethnographical studies as well as questionnaires for collecting field material⁸.

In post-war years Lithuanian ethnography has developed into an independent science. A number of bibliographies, both general and thematic, have been published. "An Outline of Lithuanian Ethnography", published in 1964, was supplied with a bibliographical list, including almost all literature of the Soviet period (up to 1962) as well as major works of the previous decades and centuries⁹. The materials are classified as follows: one group of the materials is made up by works published in Latin alphabet (in Lithuanian, German and Polish), the other group—in Russian alphabet.

Three general bibliographies of Lithuanian Soviet ethnographical works have been published by the author of the present report. The first bibliography appeared in the serial publication *Istorija* (History) published by the higher schools of the Lithuanian SSR¹⁰, the second—in the journal *Sovetskaya Etnografija* (Soviet Ethnography)¹¹, the third makes up a separate part of the book *The history of bibliography in the Lithuanian SSR*¹². As they appeared in different years, the period

⁷ Lietuvininkas, Šis tas apie Prūsų lietuvių statybą ir jos bibliografiją (A Few Things on the Architecture of Prussian Lithuanians and its Bibliography). *Gimtasai kraštas* 3–4 (Šiauliai 1934) 136–140.

⁸ V. Zdzichauskis, Šiaulių Kraštotyros draugijos bibliografija (A Bibliography of the Studies of Šiauliai Local Lore Society). *Gimtasai kraštas* 31 (Šiauliai 1943) 394–398.

⁹ V. Milius, Lietuvių etnografijos bibliografija (A Bibliography of Lithuanian ethnography). *Lietuvių etnografijos bruožai*. Vilnius 1964, 656–661.

¹⁰ V. Milius, Lietuvių tarybinės etnografijos 1945–1961 metų bibliografija (A Bibliography of Soviet Lithuanian Ethnography for 1945–1961). *Istorija* 4 (Vilnius 1963) 135–148.

¹¹ V. Milius, Bibliografija litovskoj etnografii za 1947–1964 gg. (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Ethnography for 1947–1964). *Sovetskaja Etnografija* 5 (Moscow 1965) 166–174.

¹² V. Milius, Etnografija (Ethnography). *Lietuvos TSR istorijos bibliografija* 1940–1965. Vilnius 1969, 135–160.

covered is also different: the first covers the years 1945–1961, the second 1947–1964 and the third 1945–1965. As far as material collection and general classification principles are concerned, the above bibliographies are alike, they only differ in regard to the description of separate units. Features common to all are the following: 1) all three bibliographies include only scientific materials; 2) they are subdivided into books and articles; 3) all Lithuanian units are translated into Russian. They differ in the following: 1) in the first two bibliographies synopses of theses are placed in a separate section, while in the third they are included in a section of the books; 2) in the first bibliography questionnaires for collecting field material are placed in a separate section, in the second they are not indicated at all, and in the third they are included in a section of the books (if they are published as separate booklets); 3) the first and the second bibliographies contain summaries, which cannot be found in the bibliography published in *Sovetskaya Etnographiya* (Soviet Ethnography). Moreover, the books are supplied with annotations.

In post-war years the number of thematic bibliographies have also increased. The first bibliography published in the post-war period is a survey by Academician D. Zelenin of the manuscripts of the Scientific Archives of USSR Geographical Society concerning Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians¹³. These materials, obtained from correspondents, mainly country teachers, were collected by the former Russian Geographical Society in the second half of the 19th century. The bibliography contains the following information: author, profession, the title of the manuscript, locality (which is described), the date and size of the manuscript and its press-mark in the archives. Then follows a detailed description of the contents of the manuscript.

With the view of attracting more students of local lore to collecting ethnographical materials, Lithuanian ethnographers and museologists prepared a number of questionnaires. Two bibliographies of the questionnaires appeared in the serial publication *Kraštotyra* (Regional studies) published by the Lithuanian Local Lore and Monument Protection Society¹⁴.

¹³ D. K. Zelenin, *Obzor rukopisnykh materialov Učionogo archiva Vsesojuznogo Geografičeskogo obščestva o narodach Pribaltiki* (A Survey of the Manuscripts of the Scientific Archives of USSR Geographical Society concerning the Baltic Peoples). *Sovetskaja Etnografija* 6–7 (Moskau-Leningrad 1947) 254–274.

¹⁴ V. Milius, *Programų ir anketų etnografiniui medžiagai rinkti bibliografija* (A Bibliography of Program and Questionnaire Materials). *Kraštotyra* (Vilnius 1963) 133–153; V. Milius, *Etnografinių anketų 1963–1969 m. bibliografija* (A Bibliography of Ethnographical Questionnaires for 1963–1969). *Kraštotyra* (Vilnius 1970) 351–355

It was suggested at the symposium on Agricultural Ethnography of the VII International Congress of Anthropology and Ethnography that a bibliography of agricultural ethnography should be compiled. As a response to the suggestion, "A Bibliography of Lithuanian Agricultural Ethnography" was published. It covers literature published in post-war years, including 1964¹⁵.

In the serial publication *Museums and Monuments* (printed in 1969) J. Kasperavičius published "A Bibliography of Soviet Lithuanian Museology for 1940-1965"¹⁶. Materials contained in the bibliography are classified according to separate museums.

Ethnographical museology is placed under the following rubrics: Museum of Ethnography in Vilnius, Museum of History and Ethnography in Siauliai, Museum of Folklife (the Skansen-type museum), Art Museums in Vilnius and Kaunas (which have special divisions allotted to folk art) and 13 Museums of Regional Studies, as part of the exhibits there are ethnographic.

The folk-lorist S. Skrodenis has published a bibliography devoted to Shrovetide and folk-lore¹⁷. It covers both scientific and popular articles published in the 19th and 20th centuries. The materials are classified in the following order: 1) general essays; 2) carnivals in Kaunas; 3) studies; 4) texts; 5) illustrative material. Bibliographical units are supplied with annotations.

Post-war years have witnessed the revival of interest by Polish scientists in Lithuanian folk culture. In the *Complete Works* by Oscar Kolberg (1814-1890) published by the Polish Ethnographic Society, the 53rd volume is devoted to Lithuania¹⁸. The volume contains two bibliographies of works on Lithuanian ethnography and folk-lore. The first was compiled by O. Kolberg himself and covers literature published up to 1890, the second—compiled by Witold Armon—covers literature published from the end of the 19th century up to 1965. In the first bibliography the materials are arranged according to authors in alphabetical order; in the second the following classification is presented: 1) bibliographies; 2) periodicals; 3) studies and materials, publications of folk-lore texts.

¹⁵ V. Milius, Lietuvių agrarinės etnografijos bibliografija (A Bibliography of Lithuanian Agricultural Ethnography). Kraštotyra (Vilnius 1966) 142-144.

¹⁶ J. Kasperavičius, Lietuvos muziejininkystės tarybinė bibliografija 1940-1965 m. (A Bibliography of Soviet Lithuanian Museology for 1940-1965). Muziejai ir paminklai (Vilnius 1969) 122-135.

¹⁷ S. Skrodenis, Užgavėnių papročiai ir šautosaka (Shrovetide Customs and Folklore). Liaudies kūryba 1 (Vilnius 1969) 343-354.

¹⁸ O. Kolberg, Dzieła wszystkie. Litwa 53. Wrocław-Poznań 1966, 485-504, 512-518.

The 12th volume of *Etnografia Polska* (Polish Ethnography) published by the Polish Academy of Sciences contains Witold Armon's review article "Studies in Lithuanian Folk Culture in 1945-1965"¹⁹. It is supplied with a list of references to ethnography and folk-lore published in the period indicated. The materials are arranged according to authors in alphabetical order, but unlike the above bibliographies, where works by one author are presented in alphabetical order, works by one author as given in this bibliography are arranged in chronological order.

The survey of bibliographies on Lithuanian ethnography, as presented in this report, cannot but raise the following question: how thoroughly has Lithuanian folk culture been explored? As far as material culture is concerned, most attention has been given to the basic occupation in the past, viz. the history of agriculture and its implements. Other subjects which have received comparatively much attention include folk architecture (it has been the concern not only of ethnographers, but also of architects and museologists), food, clothes and textiles. As regards trades, most works have been written on pottery. As far as traditions are concerned, the most popular have been studies and publications on wedding rites. In the field of folk art the greatest consideration has been given to crosses, chapels (which are distinguished in Lithuania by their variety and wealth of forms and decorative patterns) and sculpture. In recent years publications on folk furniture, dowry chests, in particular, have also increased. If previous works were mostly concerned with traditional peasant culture, in the last few decades considerable interest has been shown by ethnographers in the culture and life of industrial workers.

At present bibliographers are busy preparing a bibliography of current literature to be published in *International Folklore and Folklife Bibliography*. Then a retrospective bibliography waits its turn, as the bibliographies reviewed above do not reflect all periods of the history of Lithuanian ethnography.

¹⁹ W. Armon, *Badania nad litewską kulturą ludową w latach 1945-1965* (Studies in Lithuanian Folk Culture in 1945-1965). *Etnografia Polska* 12 (Warszawa 1968) 452-490.