

## Antropologicheskii Forum # 7

### **Forum: Visual anthropology**

Visual anthropology in Russia is now rapidly developing. As a result of such rapid development, the new discipline poses many questions. Even the name itself “visual anthropology” is often understood differently, let alone its methods, object and so on. Visual anthropologists and theorists of visual studies answer questions on the object of visual anthropology, methods of analyzing visual data, and ‘pictorial turn’ in Russia.

### **Round table materials “Audiovisual Anthropology: Theory and Practice”**

This section presents a transcript of the round table “Audiovisual Anthropology: Theory and Practice”, which was organized and carried out by the Russian Institute of Cultural Studies within the framework of the international symposium “Time of Culturology” on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007. After V.L. Krutkin’s introductory presentation “Anthropology in Print and on Screen”, participants of the round table (E.V. Alexandrov, O.V. Aronson, E.A. Bogatyryova, O.I. Genisaretsky, V.L. Krutkin, E.G. Lapina-Krasiuk, V.M. Magidov, E.V. Petrovskaya, K.E. Razlogov, B.V. Reifman, N.F. Hilko, E.M. Chetina, and the host V.O. Chistyakova) discussed the problems of anthropological films and of visual anthropology in general.

## Articles

*Maria Akhmetova.* The Choice “Between Petersburg and Moscow”, or a Discourse on Two Capitals in Bologoe

The article deals with the migratory discourse of inhabitants of Bologoe, a town between Moscow and St. Petersburg. Established judgments of the townspeople about both capitals, and about migratory preferences are analyzed. The narratives discussed in the article reveal a strong preference for St. Petersburg due to cultural and sociological reasons.

*Marina Hakkarainen.* Shamanism as a Colonial Project

The author turns to sources of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in order to trace the politics of the Russian state in relation to ‘local’ religious practices and to show the formation of shamanism as a religious institution in the context of the colonization of Siberia.

*Sergei Kan.* “My Old Friend in a Dead-End of Empiricism and Skepticism”: Bogoras, Boas, and the Politics of Soviet Anthropology of the late 1920s — early 1930s

This article is devoted to the relationship the great American anthropologist Franz Boas and his Russian colleague Vladimir Tan-Bogoraz from pre-revolutionary times to the mid-1930s. Using extensive archival material, the author places the material in a broad political and intellectual context of the era: the relationship of Russia and the USA, scientific controversy in the USSR, political campaigns and the history of Soviet scientific institutions.

*Eugeny Platonov.* Sacral Topography in Villages in the Lower Course of the Shelon (Research in the district of the former Ilemen, Reten and Sknyatin churchyards)

The article is devoted to the system of worshipped objects in villages in the western part of the Novgorod region and analyzes changes in this system during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The article is based on archival and field data collected in 2002, 2004 and 2006. An interesting aspect is the widespread worship of springs, which is characteristic of this region and has its origin, in the author’s opinion, in the liturgical practice of the 17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The author’s analysis of the functions of chapels, legends about icons appearing, worshipped stones and the system of rural holidays enables the study of the specific traditional cultural landscape and features of the regional religious culture of villages in the lower course of the Shelon in the context of the traditional mythology of space.

### Materials from expeditions

*Elena Ermakova.* The Healer and His/Her Knowledge: Contemporary Beliefs (Based on data from the South Tyumen Region)

The article considers contemporary beliefs in the south Tyumen region about the particular ways and forms of transferring and receiving magic medical knowledge. Attention is paid to moments of transformation in magic medical practices.

*Otilia Hedesan, Natalia Golant.* Carnival in the Romanian Banat: Field research in Moldova-Noue

The text is based on the authors' field observations during the carnival in March 2005 in the small mining town of Moldova-Noue (Romania). This town is situated in the Karaş-Severin district in Mountain Banat, a unique area of Romania where there is a tradition of spring carnivals. The carnival (faşanc) in Moldova-Noue is characterized by absence of a stable 'traditional' script, and has free scripts in response to the latest events, varying from year to year. However some characters involved in carnival sketches (for example, representatives of some occupations) are typical for carnival masking in various regions of Europe, and also for Romanian Christmas masking.

*Galina Komarova.* Female Portrait in Scholarly Context

The article is a publication of a dual interview from the project Female Portrait in Scholarly Context, which involved interviewing female anthropologists from different countries, who study the peoples of Russia and the former USSR. The participants in this particular interview were Yelena Batyanova, senior researcher in the Far North and Siberia Department, IEA RAS (Moscow), and Yukari Nagayama, a researcher from Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University (Japan). Participants of the interview talk about their personal scientific career, share their experience and discuss the prospects of their discipline.

### Museum

*Alison Petch.* A Typology of Benefactors: the Relationships of Pitt Rivers and Tylor to the Pitt Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford

Based on a huge amount of archive material, the article focuses on the formation of the anthropological Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The article traced the ideological foundation, which became the basis of the classification of artifacts collected by Pitt Rivers. The author

addresses the emergence of anthropology as a university discipline in Britain.

### Reviews

*Andrey Toporkov.* William Ryan. *Balia at Midnight: An Historical View of Magic and Fortune-Telling in Russia.* M.: New Literary Review, 2006. 720 p.

The reviewed book presents full and systematized data on magic, witchcraft and divination in Russia. The reviewer emphasizes the validity of the author's historical and philological approaches, the value of many European parallels and the extensive bibliography in foreign languages. At the same time he mentions the author's estrangement from the described tradition, his uncritical attitude to sources, and lacunae in the Russian bibliography.

*Yury Berezkin.* *Coming to Shore. Northwest Coast Ethnology, Traditions, and Visions* / Ed. Marie Mauzé, Michael E. Harkin, and Sergei Kan. Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. 508 p.

The reviewed book is not only a collection of articles on American Northwest Indians, but also a commentary on important events in the history of anthropology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is based on an American-French conference which took place in the Collège de France in June 2000 on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Claude Lévi-Strauss. Besides reviewing various articles, the reviewer mentions a radical change in ethnological research problems which, the articles show, have seen a shift of research interest from global laws and the pre-colonial past of Indians to the interaction of North American Indian cultures with the dominating Euro-American culture.

*Catriona Kelly.* Svetlana Malysheva. *Soviet Holiday Culture in the Provinces: Space, Symbols and Historical Myths (1917–1927).* Kazan: Ruten, 2005. 399 p.

The book is devoted to the holiday culture of the first Soviet decade and is based on materials from Kazan. While noting the positive aspect of the book, the reviewer indicates the many repetitions and the work's lack of conceptual equipment.

*Elena Miagkova.* *Dreams of the Mother of God. Research on the Anthropology of Religion.* / Ed. Zh.V. Korminói, A.A. Panchenko, S.A. Shtyrkova. SPb.: European University at St. Petersburg, 2006. 304 p.

As a main concept of the history of mentality, popular culture attracted everybody's attention. In 1970 it had already caused serious disappointments in its heuristic possibilities. Against the scientific logic which put together history and ethnology, the problem was never reconsidered in anthropological way. Sharp criticism of mass character, immobility, automatism, middling and social homogeneity made the historians study rather different subjects in a distinctly alternative manner. The issue of collected articles (European University at St. Petersburg) revives our interest in popular religiosity after a long period of intentional oblivion. A large comparative scale, new research strategies, and a set of modern analytic tools enable the reconsideration of a number of problems: sources, terminology, and the opposition of dynamism/stability, and popular/official culture.

### Publications

*Sofia Loiter.* Vladimir Yakovlevich Propp's letters (1968–1970) to Irina Petrovna Lupanova

The publication presents Vladimir Yakovlevich Propp's letters of 1968–1970 addressed to Irina Petrovna Lupanova (24.06.1921–4.02.2003), a specialist in folklore and literary studies, who worked at the Petrozavodsk state university.

### Personalia

*Tatyana Ivanova.* Boris Nikolaevich Putilov: The Beginning of the Road

The publication traces B.N. Putilov's first steps in science based on his personal archive, which is preserved in the manuscript department of the Institute of Russian literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkin House). The archive contains data on the family of B.N. Putilov, his first scholarly publications, and the defence of his candidate's thesis in Pushkin House.

*Eleonora Shafranskaya.* Meletinsky's Tashkent

Through folklore and literary discourse the article presents a fragment of the biography of Eleazar Moiseevich Meletinsky (a specialist in literature and folklore), linked to his stay in the city of Tashkent.

*Maria Yanes.* Klavdia Leontievna Zadykhina — ethnographer, researcher of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The article is based on previously unpublished archival data and is devoted to the life and scientific legacy of K.L. Zadykhina,

a researcher of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The article contains list of publications of K.L. Zadykhina prepared by M. Yanes.

### **Letters to the editor**

*M. Kuchinsky.* Letter to the editor

The author of the letter M. Kuchinsky mentions a number of mistakes and discrepancies in the article of Aleksei Zhukov “The Saami, 1200–1700 (Source Materials and Commentary)” published in the first issue of *Antropologicheskii Forum*.