

Antropologicheskii Forum # 11 Online

Articles

Anna Kushkova. Rural nicknaming: their nature, use, and social functions (based on field materials from the district of Belozersk, Vologda region)

The article describes individual nicknames and short nickname expressions recorded over a period of 8 years (1998–2006) in a compact group of villages situated in the district of Belozersk, Vologda region. Such nicknames represent the only relatively well-preserved fragment of the “nickname continuum” in the area discussed. Special attention is given to the relation between nicknames and their motivating contexts, from the notion of “local knowledge”, to the pejorative nature of nicknames and the role they play in everyday interactions of village dwellers, in particular as a tool of “the rural politics of reputation”. Possible ways of looking at the relations between nicknames and conflicts are discussed in the conclusion.

Keywords: nicknames, motivating context of nicknames, pejorative nicknames, “local knowledge”, social regulation, conflict

Elena Rudenko. Wedding ceremony according to Internet data

The article “Wedding ceremony according to Internet data” deals with the analysis and comparison of Belarusian wedding ceremony from ethnographic and Internet sources. The stages of wedding ceremony and the content of these stages are defined and compared. The collated material is summarized and deductions are made about the mechanisms of transformation of the ceremony upon transcoding to the format of mass culture.

Keywords: ethnolinguistics, wedding ceremony, mass culture, Internet, mechanisms of transformation

Materials from Expeditions

Maria Kaspina, Svetlana Amosova. The paradox of interethnic contacts: non-Jews taking part in synagogal practices (based on fieldwork materials)

The close relationship between Eastern European Jews and non-Jewish Slavs influenced the religious practices and beliefs of both nations. One example of this is the practice of the Slavic people visiting the synagogue and Jewish cemetery in Chernovitz as well as the attitude of the Jewish population to this. The article is based on field material recorded between 2004–2009.

Keywords: religious practice, ethnocultural contact, Jews, Slavs, “friend or foe”

Publications

Magomedkhan Magomedkhanov. Samples of writing by the Archi people

These published samples of 19th-century texts, written by the Archi people of Daghestan using Arabic orthography, change the widespread opinions about the absence of a written tradition in the Archi language. In their religious, ritual and cultural life the Archi people used the Avarian, Arabic and Archi languages. The richness of the Archi people’s spiritual life is confirmed by the translations of these texts into both Russian and Avarian languages.

Keywords: Daghestan languages, non-literary languages of Daghestan, Archi people, Archi language, texts in Archi language

Denis Liapin, Alexey Piskulin. Historical songs of the Russian people in the mid-19th century

This publication is devoted to Russian historical songs. A manuscript from the mid-19th century which includes ethnographical informa-

tion was found in the State Archives of the Orel region. This material contains rare historical songs of the Russian people of Tzarevokok-shaisk province (the present-day Mari El Republic).

Keywords: historical songs, war, Alexander, Ivan IV, Arakcheev, archives

Bibliographical and background materials

Anna Kushkova. Subject matter index to N.Ya. Nikiforovsky's collection "Common People's Signs and Beliefs, Superstitious Rites and Customs, Legendary Stories about Persons and Places. Collected in Vitebsk, Belarus by N.Ya. Nikiforovsky". Vitebsk: Provincial Typolithography, 1897. 344 p.

The subject matter index aims at simplifying the procedure of searching the collection on the basis of key words, and also allows estimation of the number and frequency of the semanticized notions, as well as their probable compatibility.

Keywords: N.Ya. Nikiforovsky, index, semiotics of objects and actions

Conferences

The Russian field: A View from Abroad (*Jeanne Kormina*)

The review analyses the international conference "The Russian field: A View from Abroad" which was organized by the Centre for Independent Social Research and the European University at St Petersburg in June 2009. The conference discussed questions of academic colonialism and the convention of the borders which divide the academic community of social scientists into camps of "Russian" and "Western" researchers.

Keywords: history of academia, anthropology, sociology, qualitative methods, field methods

Culturological Research in an Integrated Europe: the International Conference in Sofia (*Valeria Kolosova*)

The review concerns the international conference "The Balkans and the Baltic in an Integrated Europe: History, Religions and Cultures" held on 8–10th October 2008 at the Institute of Folklore at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Sofia) with the support of the Estonian and Lithuanian embassies in Bulgaria. Participants' papers touched upon such themes as "Ethnic, National and Euro-

pean Identity”, “Science and Society”, “Democracy and Society”, “Culture — Traditions and Innovations”, “Science by Young Researchers”, “Religion, Religious Identities, and Religious Politics in an Integrated Europe”, “Borders and the Dynamics of Migratory Processes in Europe” and “Folklore Studies and Astronomy”.

Keywords: Europe, the Balkans, the Baltic, democracy, cultural studies, identity, migrations

The Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies (*Valery Dymshits, Marina Hakkarainen*)

The review examines the Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies that took place at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in August 2009. The article particularly focuses on the discussions, organized within the framework of the Congress that concerned the development of Jewish studies in Russia in recent years and the role of Russian researchers in modern Jewish studies. The main developmental trend of the research field of Jewish studies is characterized by an extension beyond the bounds of the traditional problems related to religious studies, philology and history, and a broadening of disciplinary boundaries, primarily owing to anthropological approaches. The review also briefly touches upon the problem of establishing Jewish studies as an academic discipline in Russia.

Keywords: the Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, history of studying Jews in Russia, Jewish Studies in the Russian Federation, Jewish studies abroad, academic disciplines

The conference “Traditional urban culture in Russia as the subject of interdisciplinary research” (The 14th international “Traditional Slavic culture and the modern world” conference) (*Mikhail Alekseevsky, Mikhail Lurie*)

The report is dedicated to the conference “Traditional urban culture in Russia as the subject of interdisciplinary research”, organized by the State Republican Centre of Russian Folklore on 26–28th May 2007 in Moscow. Participants’ papers looked at the problems of interaction between rural and urban cultures, questions about the creation and introduction of new rituals, the study of urban folklore, and an analysis of local texts from different cities and provincial towns.

Keywords: urban culture, myth, folklore, local text, conference, narrative, methodology, province, capital, traditions, rituals, social anthropology

Discussion of the Biobibliographical Encyclopedia of Russian Folklorists project

The publication “Russian Folklorists: a Biobibliographical Encyclopedia” was conceived as a reference book which would summarize the information about Russian folklorists from the 18th to the beginning of the 21st century. It is supposed that the edition will consist of two volumes: the first will consider the 18th and 19th centuries and the second — the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. Within each volume articles will be ordered alphabetically.

The term ‘folklorist’ is understood to mean people who gathered, published, studied or popularized folklore irrespective of whether they were scientists or not, or of which discipline they represented. The term ‘Russian’ denotes primarily those folklorists who recorded or studied Russian folklore and also wrote their articles, books, travel notes and observations about the storytellers etc. in Russian.

The materials include A.L. Toporkov’s article with the general conception of the project, T.G. Ivanova’s article, in which she defines the place of the forthcoming Encyclopedia among the existing biographical and bibliographical reference books, as well as the specialists’ answers to the questions posed by the authors of the project.

Keywords: folklore, folk studies, history of folk studies, biography, bibliography, encyclopedia, Russia, USSR, Russian.

Questionnaire

The publication presents materials of the annual questionnaire carried out by ‘Antropologicheskii Forum’ with the purpose of monitoring the academic life of the Russian anthropological community. The questionnaire considered the results of research activity throughout 2008 in ethnography, anthropology, folklore studies and ethno-/sociolinguistics (monographs, collections of articles, published field data, reference books, reviews, textbooks, published discussions, conferences), as well as trends in the disciplines within the anthropological circle.

Keywords: results of academic life, anthropology, ethnography, folklore studies, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics