

# ČESKÝ LID 95 / 2008

## OBSAH – CONTENTS

1 / 2008

### STUDIE – STUDIES

- František Vrhel, *Etnologie a pražský strukturalismus II: Claude Lévi-Strauss*..... 1  
(Ethnology and Prague structuralism II: Claude Lévi-Strauss)

**Abstract:** Conceiving of the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss as a sort of ethnological parallel to the Linguistic Circle of Prague, the author is dealing with the possibilities and results of Lévi-Straussian application and inspiration derived from the Praguian phonology. Nevertheless: whereas Nicolai S. Trubetzkoy's influence seems to be dominating in the *Elementary Structures of Kinship*, the *Mythologiques* as a whole manifest a very massive and autonomous development of one Jakobsonian concept known as a primary triangle under the form of *culinary triangle*.

**Keywords:** Lévi-Strauss, Linguistic School of Prague, Jakobsonian inspiration, Culinary triangle

- Markéta Křížová, *Transkulturation: možnosti využití a rozšíření konceptu*..... 15  
(Transculturation: possibilities of use and application of the concept)

**Abstract:** The article aims to introduce and explore the concept of „transculturation“. Unlike the affiliated concept of „acculturation“, capitalized widely in anthropology, sociology and other branches of social sciences, the concept of transculturation had until recently commanded little attention outside the limited area of Latin American studies. The concept, originally formulated in the 1940s by Cuban sociologist Fernando Ortiz, accentuates the mutual character of cultural interaction, the active participation of „subordinate“ groups in the process, as well as the unique character of the resulting cultural formation. That is, the processes of enforced cultural exchange (for example, through colonial expansion) are perceived as not only destructive, but also creative. While the concept of transculturation had commonly been applied within the frame of American or African history and anthropology, the present article proposes the advantages and possibilities of its use in the study of (Central) European milieu – be it in the study of German-Jewish-Czech interaction in the nineteenth century, or in the study of Protestant-Catholic cultural exchange after the year 1620.

**Key words:** transculturation, acculturation, cultural interaction, colonization, modernization

- Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik, *Scraps of the History of Ethnology in Slovenia* ..... 37

**Abstract:** This paper summarizes the discussion of ethnology in Slovenia between ‘narodopisje’ and anthropology from the point of view of its theoretical and methodological issues. At the same time it delineates some characteristics of ethnology and folklore studies in Slovenia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, whereby the discussion on the wider social implications is omitted. Considerations put forward here are limited to those disciplinary issues which are the fruit of self-reflexive and critical insights in ethnology, which enable to highlight the origins, the formation and changes of research patterns from predominant philological and cultural-historical roots of ‘narodopisje’ to anthropologically oriented contemporary research. Some general observations, a retrospective view of the status of theory and methodology, the tradition of ‘narodopisje’, the ‘farewell to folk life’, the new methodological horizons, the predicament of the ‘two-headed ethnology’ and recent anthropologization are considered.

**Key words:** ethnology, Slovenia, 20<sup>th</sup> century; history of ethnology

Božena Radiměřská, <i>Evropa „na východ od Rýna“ na mentální mapě anglicky píšícího cestovatele sedmnáctého století</i> .....	63
(Trans-Rhenic Europe on the Mental Map of the Seventeenth Century English Traveller)	

**Abstract:** The study dealt with the problem of the other European identity as reflected in the English travel writing of the seventeenth century. The crucial question was if any coherent whole, in cultural terms, was distinguished on the mental map of the 17th century English traveller in the area of “Trans-Rhenic Europe”. The mental map was understood here as a sort of image which is not related to sensory experience. It is considered as creative construction of unknown based on what was read, what was heard, and on past experience. The viewpoints defining units and drawing borders were of cultural character. Firstly, it was interested in traveller’s division of known and unknown Europe. Secondly, it was looking for the borders of learned part of Europe drawn on the traveller’s mental map. Thirdly, it was focused on characteristics of people given by travellers. Finally, the borders of “civilization” and “barbarism” on the mental map of a 17th century traveller were questioned.

**Key words:** mental maps, English travel writing of the 17th century, the other European identity, symbolic cultural borders, civilization and barbarism

## KONFERENCE – CONFERENCES

Olga Skalníková – Petr Skalník, <i>Konference Deutsche gesellschaft für Völkskunde – Halle an der Saale, 1.–4. října 2007</i> .....	85
Tereza Hyánková, <i>Anthropology of/in Post-Socialist World. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Student Conference of AntropoWeb. 2.–3. listopadu 2007, Plzeň</i> .....	87
Jana Nosková, <i>25. Österreichische Volkskundetagung – „Erb. gut? Kulturelles Erbe in Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft“, Innsbruck 14.–17. listopadu 2007</i> .....	90

## ZPRÁVY – NEWS

<i>Jubilanti v roce 2008</i> .....	92
------------------------------------	----

## LITERATURA – REVIEWS

<i>Lidová kultura: národopisná encyklopedie Čech, Moravy a Slezska</i> (Mojmír Benža, Soňa Švecová) .....	93
Lenka Budilová – Marek Jakoubek (eds.) <i>Cikánská rodina a příbuzenství</i> . (Zbyněk Andrš) .....	102
Stanislav Brouček – Oldřich Černý – Ivan Dubovický (eds.), <i>Exil sám o sobě. III. setkání nad českým vystěhovalectvím, exulantstvím a vztahy zahraničních Čechů k domovu</i> (Naďa Valášková) .....	104
Bohuslav Blažek, <i>Venkovy: anamnéza, diagnóza, terapie</i> (Pavel Klvač) .....	105
Jaroslav Skupnik, <i>Kultury sexuality: Západ a ženská obřízka. Kulturně antropologická perspektiva</i> (František Vrhel) .....	107
<i>Narody zapadnoj Sibiri. Chanty. Mansi. Selkupy. Něncy. Jency. Nganasany. Kety</i> (František Bahenský) .....	109

Marek Janáč – Pavel Tumlíř – Milan Harvalík, <i>Divnopsis. Proč se to tak jmenuje?</i> (Jaroslav David) .....	111
---	-----

## 2 / 2008

Úvodem k monotematickému číslu Českého lidu .....	113
(Introduction to the monothematic issue of Český lid)	

### STUDIE – STUDIES

Vladimir Penčev, <i>Češi v Bulharsku, aneb O typologizaci, etapizaci a procesech adaptace českého vystěhovalectví do bulharských zemí</i> .....	115
(Czechs in Bulgaria, or Typology, stages and adaptation processes of Czech migration to Bulgaria)	

**Abstract:** The article is composed of three chapters, corresponding to the three discussed themes. The first chapter addresses the problem of the social science theory in the field of ethnic minorities, more specifically, then, it outlines the author's delimitation of three particular types of ethno-cultural communities in the other-ethnic milieu, which are: 1. ethno-enclave, 2. ethno-diaspora, 3. ethno-dispersion. The second chapter, which forms also a specific thematic bloc, deals with migration of the Czechs to Bulgaria, delineating of individual migratory waves and their basic specification, all of which is framed in the conceptual scheme set up in the previous chapter. In the last chapter, finally, the author discusses and analyses the most important factors influencing the contacts of ethnic communities both at the general level and applied to one particular case of the only Czech village in Bulgaria – Vojvodovo.

**Keywords:** Ethnic minorities, typology of ethnocultural communities, migration from the Czech lands to Bulgaria, Vojvodovo

Lenka Budilová, <i>Některé aspekty příbuzenství a sňatkových vzorců u „vojvodovských Čechů“</i> .....	127
(Some aspects of kinship and marriage patterns among the „Czechs of Vojvodovo“)	

**Abstract:** The article is aimed at the analysis of kinship and marriage patterns in a “Czech compatriot community” in Bulgarian village Vojvodovo. The question of the definition of kinship, type of kin groups and the character of kinship and descent is discussed in the text. Vojvodovo villagers used to practice some specific types of marriage to maintain religious endogamy – marriages between relatives, so called “marriage alliances” and leviratic and sororatic marriages. The “marriage alliances”, however, cannot be interpreted in terms of Levi-Straussian “alliance theory”, since there were no clearly bounded unilineal descent groups (kinship was bilateral), and hence there were no structural units that could maintain “alliances”. On the contrary, “marriage alliances” can be seen as a function of the endogamous community in its effort to perpetuate its singularity and uniqueness.

**Keywords:** Vojvodovo, ethno-confessional community, kinship, marriage patterns, endogamy

Michal Svoboda, <i>Belinci: „zapomenutá“ osada na Balkáně, v níž se hovořilo česky</i> .....	145
(Belinci: „Forgotten“ community in the Balkans where Czech was being spoken)	

**Abstract:** Belinci is a small village located in north-eastern Bulgaria. This essay covers the 1930s and 1940s – the period when Czech-speaking Protestants lived there – and aims at describing the Czech-speaking settlement in the village from its beginning in the middle of the 1930s. At that time this group of people moved in because of land shortage in their former place of residency (Bulgarian village called Vojvodovo) and lived there up to the late 1940s when they left to resettle the Czechoslovak border regions after the expulsion of Sudeten Germans.

I don't approach the Czech-speaking settlement of the Belinci village in the traditional way and thus don't regard them as subjects of the Czech nation (this is why I do not call them "Czechs"). The descendants of the first Czech settlers have lived outside The Lands of the Czech Crown for many generations and did not in any way participate in the process of building the modern Czech nation in the 19th century. I understand their collective identity as primarily religious: they were strict Protestants with a strong sense for religious ascetism and Protestant work ethics. The essay is based mainly on the biographical method in anthropology, namely narrative interviews.

**Keywords:** Belinci, Vojvodovo, Czechs in Bulgaria, compatriots, biographical method

Petko Hristov, <i>Etnická identita na Balkáně. Příklad tzv. hraničních regionů</i> .....	163
(Ethnic Identity on the Balkans. Research of the so called Border Regions)	

**Abstract:** This article is a summary of the author's experience gained while studying the border areas with compound communities (in ethnic, national, or confessional meaning) in the various regions of Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia in the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are two difficulties that the researcher faces. The first comes from the fact that the researchers from the Balkans (ethnologists, historians, anthropologists) belong to one of the researched traditions; the second difficulty arises from the inadequate understanding of the history of those border areas, as well as the predominant primordial concept of national identity. Hence, the question is about regions of dispersed interwoven cultures, in which the tradition of contacts and conflicts made a unique cultural pattern. The comparative studies in these regions require, according to the author, a new understanding of the reasons, ways and patterns of the "construction" of national identities on the Balkans.

**Keywords:** the Balkans, frontier regions, ethnic markers, nationalism, theory of ethnicity, social constructivism, instrumentalism

Barbora Machová, <i>Kurban. Obětní slavnosti v Bulharsku</i> .....	173
(Kurban. Sacrificial ceremony in Bulgaria)	

**Abstract:** In Bulgaria, the word *kurban* denotes bloody sacrifice brought to God, saints or mythical protectors of family group or the whole village. It represents a specific feature of spiritual culture that runs across the whole structure of traditional as well as contemporary folk customs in Bulgaria. The sacrifice of animal constitutes part of family, annual and work customs and church ceremonies. The article renders basic information on the roots and context of this custom and characterizes its traditional form. It focuses on the preparation of *kurban* as ritual dish and the attitudes of the Orthodox Church to this custom. It traces the persistence of the custom in contemporary Bulgarian society, where the broad traditional family relations are being lost. The article is based on field research realized in the years 2005 and 2007 as well as the study of literature.

**Keywords:** Bulgaria, kurban, sacrificial ceremonies, church ceremonies, annual customs, family customs, folk religiosity, living tradition

Helena Bočková, <i>Vicedílný dvůr na Balkáně – specifický fenomén mediteránní tradice v Evropě</i> .....	191
(Multipart house in the Balkans – specific phenomenon of Mediterranean tradition in Europe)	

**Abstract:** Balkan multipart house yard is unknown in Europe and not appreciated duly within the frame of the ethnology of the Balkans. The yard is being divided territorially and functionally to living, working and cultivated spaces, with graduated requirements for each zone and an elaborated system of communication. The parts of the yard function almost independently. In the majority of the cases, the yard is being divided into two parts, living and working one. During the long summer period, the residence is being transferred from the inner, closed part of the house to the living part of the yard and the adjacent, roofed terrace opened to the yard. The clean residential part of the yard is the norm and it resembles a living garden – in rural as well as contemporary urban milieu. The division of the yard and the marginalization of its economic functions depend on the type of cultivation. The author analyses the causes, contexts and manifestations of functional differentiation and complicated systems of cultivation of the Balkan yard. Its formal unity can be perceived as a proof of its developmental stability and long, unrestrained development. The concept of residential family intimacy of the closed yard is being followed to the Ancient roots, the atrial and peristyl house, as well as to the tradition of two thousand years of multipart houses of privileged and unprivileged milieu. This tradition is being interpreted as the carrying over of the value of Mediterranean, originally urban cultivated yard and the adaptation of the principle of division of the house – social, historical, ethnical and religious, of great potential for invention and renovation. It represents the Balkan unity in diversity.

**Keywords:** yard, architecture, residence, economy, village, city, Balkans, Mediterranean

## LITERATURA – REVIEWS

Natalija Raškova – Vladimír Penčev (eds.), <i>Bálgari v Slovákija. Etnokulturni charakteristiky i vzaimodejstvija. Terenno izsledvane.</i> (Helena Bočková) .....	210
Eva Krekovičová – Vladimír Penčev (eds.), <i>Bulhari na Slovensku. Etnokultúrne charakteristiky a súvislosti. Štúdie</i> (Helena Bočková) .....	211
Katja Michajlova, <i>Stranstvijat sljap pevec prosjak vav folklornata kultura na Slavjanite</i> (Bohuslav Šalanda) .....	214
Neco Petkov Necov, <i>Dějiny Vojvodova</i> (Michal Svoboda) .....	217
Vladimír Penčev, <i>Paralaks v ogledaloto ili za migrantskite obštnosti v čuždoetnična sreda (čechi i slovaci v Balgarija, balgari v Čechija)</i> (Marek Jakoubek) .....	219
Lenka Majchráková – Snežana Joveva-Dimitrova, <i>По пътя към познанието (Po patja kam poznanieto)</i> (Gabriela Imrichová) .....	222

## STUDIE – STUDIES

- Zdeněk R. Nešpor, *Lidová náboženská četba na prahu 21. století* ..... 225  
 (Popular Religious Reading at the Beginning of the 21st Century)

**Abstract:** The Czech spiritual market is today as developed as that of western European countries. De-traditionalised and individualised holistic milieu has created a demand for spiritual literature and magazines as well as other marketable goods (“magic” stones, amulets, horoscopes, natural drugs etc.). This paper attempts to analyse the character and sources of contemporary best selling spiritual literature and its readership in the Czech Republic. It also provides a case study of a Prague spiritual bookshop and its comparison with five other Czech spiritual outlets (including an Internet outlet). The results clearly show that marketing spirituality has become a mainstream phenomenon with regard to all gender, age and class categories, although there was found to be an over presence of older middle-aged women among the buyers. There is emphasized “churchless” and “nonreligious” character of the buyers and the best selling books, that include predominantly those referring to “modern” and “esoteric” western or “ethnic” spiritualities. The supply side comprises both special and general publishers, the former having been more successful in specialised bookshops and spiritual outlets and the latter in addressing the wider population (including via the Internet).

**Keywords:** Czech Republic – religion; popular religion; spirituality; New Age

- Marek Mikuš, *Diskurzívna (de)konštrukcia kolektívnej identity: súperiacie obrázky „Rómov“* ..... 251  
 (Discourse (De)Construction of Collective Identity: Clashing Images of ‘Romani’)

**Abstract:** This interdisciplinary work explores current controversy over the collective identity of Romani and reasons for their social predicament. The first position, associated with Romani studies and identity politics, sees all Romani as a part of an ‘ethnic group’, and connects their plight to ‘racial’ discrimination and intolerance. Some anthropologists and social policy-makers call this ‘primordialism’ and deconstruct the notion of a unitary and natural ‘Romani nation’, maintaining most ghetto inhabitants are only classified as ‘Romani’ and their identity derives from their ‘social exclusion’. Matching policies are advocated. The author combines contemporary anthropological approaches to the identity construction with theories of discourse to conceptualize the debate, completing the framework with self-reflection of social science. The method of Critical Discourse Analysis is applied in examining corpora of academic and specialized writing, policy papers and media texts for the discourse construction of identity. Arguing that both discourses are differentiated instantiations of the same diagram of power normalizing ‘troublesome’ subjectivities, the author touches upon the ethical responsibility of scientists deconstructing essentialist representations of identities and circulating their own constructs instead.

**Keywords:** anthropology of science; collective identity; discourse analysis; identity politics; Romani; social exclusion; social policy

## MATERIÁLY – MATERIALS

- Tomáš Kotrlý, *K proměnám postavení hrobníka* ..... 273  
 (To the changes of the position of gravedigger)

**Abstract:** We have been witnesses of the revival of various moral, cultural and religious differences among people based on a concrete description of activities of a Czech gravedigger. In the recently launched standardization of particular qualifications of a gravedigger and in the manner of verification of his/her professional competence, the author, who is personally involved in this process, looks for the assumptions for establishing a cemetery open for all nationalities where religion and culture could co-exist. The text introduces both the historical (diachronic) interpretation of the position of a gravedigger as

well as its socio-cultural (synchronic) delimitation. The author attempts to incorporate all objectively existing elements into the requirements laid upon professional competences of a gravedigger. Especially globalization, migration and recovery of local communities on the religious and ethnic basis belong among them.

**Keywords:** gravedigger, grave, public burial plot, exhumation, standardization, Czechia

Ludmila Mazalová, <i>Sbírka kramářských tisků v Muzeu Prostějovska</i> ..... 293 (Collection of the chapbook collection in the Museum of Prostějov Region)
---

**Abstract:** The article introduces the Czech broadside ballad as one of the genres of semi-popular production. It outlines its development, formal characteristics and specific features and, at the same time, points out its integration into the broader Central European cultural context. It mentions the interest of the Czech public at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century in this song genre and concerns more closely with the collection of broadside ballads in the Museum of the Prostějov Region in Prostějov. It presents the extent of the collection, its physical state and the stage of scientific scrutiny. It specifies the chronological and genre aspects of the collection and mentions the minor curiosities. The aim of the article was not the content analysis of the individual prints, but rather the specification of their provenance. The enclosed provenance register lists the individual printers as well as printing families dedicated to the broadside production from the end of the eighteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century. The concluding part of the article accentuates the importance of broadside prints and the need of their preservation for future generations.

**Keywords:** broadside ballad (development, features, specifics), collection of broadside ballads in the Museum of the Prostějov Region, provenance of prints, Czech Lands, Central Europe

## DISKUSE – DISCUSSION

David Z. Scheffel, <i>Česká antropologická romistika a vědecká poctivost: Kritické poznámky k textu „Příbuzenství, manželství a sňatkové vzorce“ Lenky Budilové a Marka Jakoubka</i> ..... 305 (Czech anthropological Romani studies and scientific honesty: Critical remarks to the text „Kinship, family and marriage patterns“ of Lenka Budilová and Marek Jakoubek)
--

## KONFERENCE – CONFERENCES

Jana Nosková, <i>Město: (ne)proměnlivá samozřejmost. Fakulta sociálních studií MU Brno, 30. listopadu–1. prosince 2007</i> ..... 311
Daniela Stavělová, <i>Přednáškový cyklus pro nové etnochoreology – IPEDAK – Erasmus Intensive Programme Dance Knowledge, Trondheim 18.–27. 4. 2008</i> ..... 312

## ZPRÁVY – NEWS

Josef Vařeka (5. 7. 1927–14. 6. 2008) ..... 315
Tereza Trubačová – Oldřich Kašpar – Miloš Tomandl – Jitka Vlasáková – Iva Magulová – Mirjam Moravcová, <i>Bakalářské, diplomové, rigorózní a dizertační práce obhájené v roce 2007</i> ..... 316

## LITERATURA – REVIEWS

<i>Lidová kultura: národopisná encyklopedie Čech, Moravy a Slezska</i> (Zdeněk Měřinský)..325
---

Elisabeth Fendl, <i>Aufbaugeschichten. Eine Biographie der Vertriebenengemeinde Neutraubling</i> (Jana Nosková) .....	330
Paul Robert Magocsi, <i>Národ znikadiaľ. Ilustrovaná história karpatských Rusínov</i> (Ján Botík) .....	332
Petr Janeček, <i>Černá sanitka: Druhá žeň. Pérák, ukradená ledvina a jiné pověsti</i> (Jan Luffer) .....	334
Bronislaw Malinowski, <i>Sex a represe v divošské společnosti</i> (Zuzana Korecká) .....	335

#### 4 / 2008

##### STUDIE – STUDIES

Ondrej Kaščák, <i>Materská škola ako miesto profánnych a magicko-náboženských prechodových rituálov</i> .....	337
(Nursery school as a place of profane and sacral transitional rituals)	

**Abstract:** The author analyses the organization of selected nursery schools and their interactive patterns with the assistance of ethnological concept of rituals of transition. Two types of nursery schools were chosen for this purpose – the alternative model of initial schooling represented by approach of Maria Montessori and the common public nursery school. The author describes the Montessori-preschool as a place of sacral ritual practices which correspond to transitional schema of A. van Gennep and V. Turner. The common public nursery school can be also understood as organization based on rituals of transition, but its rituals are symbolically reduced and meet more profane purposes. These propositions are demonstrated with the assistance of conceptual and field data (resulting from school ethnography). The significant symbolic divergence of transitional schema in both organizations is in contrast to similar formative effects on children. The common implicit aim of these schemas seems to be the effective conformization of behavior, which Montessori calls “joyful obedience”.

**Keywords:** rituals of transition, pre-liminal stage, liminal stage, post-liminal stage, profane and sacral component, nursery school, Montessori-preschool

Jan Kajfosz, <i>Magic, categorization and folk metaphysics. Towards cognitive theory of magic</i> .....	355
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**Abstract:** It is the aim of this work to interpret magical thinking as a strong tendency towards categorization, towards simplification of an infinitely diverse reality and of its modifications, and its reduction to a limited number of static prototypes. In magical thinking similitude and contact (adjacency) are not only crucial principles of the human cognition; moreover they have their ontological dimensions: they direct the course of the world. Numerous examples of human conduct that are motivated by the laws of magic can be found not only in systems and their elements mentioned in canonical studies of magic (Frazer, Mauss) or in Eliade’s phenomenology of religion, but also in texts concerning European medieval and folk culture (Gurevich) or contemporary popular culture (astrology, prophecies etc.). Different phenomena of magical thinking like recurring time, imitations of extra-mundane models or of the past deeds can be described and explained by means of cognitivism. Various forms of popular metaphysics are also based on the tendency towards categorization. It is a tendency to eliminate everything particular and variable, and to inspell what is general and certain.



Magical thinking does not acknowledge coincidence or probability, since everything is considered here necessary and can be instantly explained.

**Keywords:** Anthropology, Anthropology of religion, Cognition, Popular culture, Collective memory, Magic

František Vrhel, <i>Pojem lévi-straussovské „torze“</i> ..... 369 (Levi-Strauss's idea of „torsion“)
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**Abstract:** The article is focusing on Lévi-Straussian concept of „la torsion“ (the twist), which was for a long time fairly neglected by the structuralist criticism. The article consists in three parts. The first one is dedicated to the „torsion“ in the context of Claude Lévi-Strauss' works; the second part is trying to take into account different interpretations of the „twist“ within the frame of Canonic Formula, and the third one raises the question about the meaning of the Lévi-Straussian twist, which emerges – in view of the present autor – as an exponent of cross-cultural horizon.

**Keywords:** Claude Lévi-Strauss, la torsion/the twist, mythology: canonic formula

## MATERIÁLY – MATERIALS

Marek Jakoubek, <i>Dějiny Vojvodova očima jeho obyvatelky. Edice Historyje rodu Čížkových a Karbulových Barbory Čížkové</i> ..... 383 (History of Vojvodovo through the eyes of its inhabitant. Edition <i>Historyje rodu Čížkových a Karbulových</i> (History of the Čížek and Karbula families) by Barbora Čížková)
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**Abstract:** The text presents transliteration of the manuscript written by Barbora Čížková who was born and lived in the only Czech village in Bulgaria, Vojvodovo, till the remigration to the Czechoslovakia after WW II. In her text, named “History of the Čížek and Karbula families”, the events are mentioned that are related to the Czech Vojvodovo community in a broad time-span from the foundation of the village in 1900 till the situation of the community in Czechoslovakia after the remigration in 1948–1950. Although history of Vojvodovo is rather known, this is the first time when it is thematised by a member of the given community. The transliteration of the Čížková's manuscript is supplemented by explanatory notes and a short introduction to the phenomenon of Vojvodovo

**Keywords:** Vojvodovo, Bulgaria, Czechs in Bulgaria, Re-emigration

## DISKUSE – DISCUSSION

Lenka Budilová, <i>Kritické poznámky Lenky Budilové k textu Davida Scheffela „Česká antropologická romistika a vědecká poctivost“</i> ..... 401 (Czech anthropological Romani studies and scientific honesty: Critical remarks to the text „Kinship, family and marriage patterns“ of Lenka Budilová and Marek Jakoubek)
David Z. Scheffel, <i>Věda a pseudo-věda: odpověď Lence Budilové</i> ..... 411 (Science and pseudo-science: answer to Lenka Budilová)

## ZPRÁVY – NEWS

Kateřina Sedlická, <i>Český lid číslo 2 ročníku 95/2008 v Bulharsku</i> ..... 413
Irena Štěpánová, <i>Len, konopí, kopřiva. Musaion – národopisná expozice Národního muzea (říjen 2008–únor 2009)</i> ..... 414

## LITERATURA – REVIEWS

- Emil Brix – Arnold Suppan – Elisabeth Vyslonzil, *Südosteuropa: Traditionen als Macht.* (Adam Horálek) ..... 415
- Milan Leščák, *Pramene k obyčejovej tradícii a sviatkovaniu na Slovensku na konci 20. storočia* (Alexandra Navrátilová) ..... 417
- Eva Procházková, *Národopisná pracovníce Marie Kovářová (1910–1993). K úloze osobnosti v regionální práci ve 20. století* (Lydia Petrářová) ..... 419
- Margarita Karamichova (ed.), *Gradivo za etnologojata na migraciite. Sbornik studii.* (Marek Jakoubek) ..... 420
- Radek Chlup (ed.), *Pojetí duše v náboženských tradicích světa.* (Martin Rychlík) ..... 422
- Hana Urbancová, *Mariánske legendy v ľudovom speve. Príspevok k typológii variačného procesu.* (Věra Frolcová) ..... 424
- Marie Brandstetterová, *Odívání rožnovanů. Čtení o rožnovském kroji.* (Irena Štěpánová) ..... 426
- Jana Nosková, *Reemigrace a usídlování volyňských Čechů v interpretacích aktérů a odborné literatury.* (Naďa Valášková) ..... 427
- Filip Tesař, *Etnické konflikty.* (Ondřej Klípa) ..... 429
- Helena Heroldová, *Jitřenka pluje na Východ. Deník českého námořníka Václava Stejskala z cesty korvety S. M. S. Aurora do Malajsie, Indonésie, Číny a Japonska z let 1886–1888.* (Marcela Suchomelová) ..... 432
- Ludmila Kopalová – Markéta Holubová, *Katalog kramářských tisků.* (Bohuslav Beneš) ..... 434
- Tobias Weger, *„Volkstumskampf“ ohne Ende? Sudetendeutsche Organisationen, 1945–1955.* (Petr Lozoviuk) ..... 435
- Immanuel Wallerstein, *Evropský univerzalizmus. Rétorika moci.* (Michal Svoboda) ..... 437
- Marcin Brocki, *Antropologia: literatura – dialog – przekład.* (František Vrhel) ..... 439
- Tomáš Hirt – Marek Jakoubek (eds.), *Rómské osady na východnom Slovensku z hľadiska terénneho antropologického výskumu 1999–2005.* (René Lužica) ..... 441