

BOOK REVIEW

MOLNÁR JÁNOS, *Virágok a templomban. Zsoboki (kalotaszegi) kötények díszítőmotívumai [The Flowers of the Church]. The Ornamentical Motifs of the Aprons from Zsobok¹ (Kalotaszeg),* Ed. Egyetemi Műhely, Bolyai Társaság – Kolozsvár, 2009.

The book of the University Professor Molnár János PhD was released recently with the help of the Bolyai Society of Cluj-Napoca. Regarding the contents of this Ethnographic folkloric monograph, we quote the summary of the book as follows: "*The traditional costumes from Kalotaszeg have been transformed during the years in ceremonial dresses worn in church festivals, Sunday's services. The church is the place where the traditional costumes appear in an absolute beauty and harmony even if it is only a Sunday morning ceremony, not necessary a well-known high day. When the members of the community are dressed in these traditional clothes, the church not only becomes a colourful place but it burst out into bloom. This blooming inspired the title of the book: **The flowers of the church**, having its main aim to present the most beautiful and the most decorative piece of women traditional clothing: the apron, and its ornamental motifs, flower - patterned composition, the structure and symbol of the design, and the correlation among the elements, motifs. The book contains more chapters. In the first part the author presents the geographical location, the history of the village, how the village came into being, the origin of its name, first of all the history of the church and the*

historical legends linking to this settlement. This is followed by a socio-graphical presentation, which explains the demographical changes of the village. The chapter ends with the history of the Reformed School. The description of the traditional costume is in the next part of the book: the presentation of the apron containing very detailed description of the pattern, how it is sewed, who are sewing today and the pattern-motifs are for which occasion and age. The description is followed by the presentation of each pattern, as well as the decorative motifs – for example: wasp, rose, tulip, daisy, carnation, lily of valley, ear, different fruits, bird, stars, wind and fire. Coming to an end of the volume, we find the references. In the third and the last part of the volume, we find a very colourful presentation and description of the 120 apron models, 47 simple aprons (without ribbons) and 73 aprons with ribbon, totally 120 and 250 photos. In the attachment we find another 50 photos with the traditional costumes."²

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We present some of the illustrations of the book:

- Simple apron (without ribbons), with two details of the image:

¹ Zsobok (Romanian: Jebuc) is a village from the region Kalotaszeg (Țara Călatei), from Romania.

² Molnár, János, *quoted op.*, p. 193.

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Popular costumes:



The models that have been presented and analysed in the pages of the monograph, have an admiring complexity as all of them are hand sewn. In the same way as the music to be a fluid architecture, in the same way, these popular artistic creations are, in fact, music that is transposed onto a colour.

Often, the fellow citizen sings when he works. It would be an interesting thing to comprise in this ethnographic monograph into a series of works that would present in the same accurate scientifically way and by using the same design and graphic quality of the book all the other elements of the popular costumes of the respective zone. I would insert in this series description of the customs and the presentation and the analysis of the popular musical repertoire, namely, the vocal and the instrumental repertoire.

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Along with the special documentary value that the book carries, its lecture is very pleasant. The author presents in equilibrium the information of the dry, archive data of the statistics type to the descriptions of the models of the musical play and the illustration of the costumes.

He makes his way from a complex to a simple way of things. After the introductory chapters of the piece of work, the models of the costumes that are analysed are chronologically ordered from 1900 to the present time. The first forty pages of the book rely greatly on the processing of the documentary and bibliographic sources of the archive and the ones that have been typed.

The rest of the one hundred and fifty pages are an accurate expression of the fieldwork of the author that was done with the help of the Assistant University PhD student, Péter István – Who is also the editor of this monograph. The quality of the photography (made by University Professor Buzogány Dezső PhD), and the quality of the photographic paper increases the value of the book. This should be in every personal book-case or a specialized library.

The monograph can be ordered from the author:

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