

MISCELLANEA

15th Congress of Finno-Ugric Writers

21st – 25th August 2019

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„The rocks we have seen on our way, remember such stories that even the eldest among us cannot know.” These words of an old Khanty woman concisely describe the profound experience that we could feel as participants

or organisers of the 15th Congress of Finno-Ugric Writers, held in the cultural centre of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár) between 21st –25th August 2019. This congress was characterised by an astonishing ambiguity. On the one hand, we could hear some scientific-informative, but also personal presentations about being a writer, poet or editor in the diaspora. On the other hand, besides the purely intellectual part of the congress we could also experience some more basic and spiritual layers with our various language relatives. We could listen to and sing, together with the Khanty woman, a song with no meaning in any language, as its text was sent by Higher Spirits, we could listen to a Sami joik song, we listened to and recited poems in original and their translations. On our excursion to Kalotaszek, we also showed some Transylvanian specialities, such as „pálinka” (specific alcoholic beverage), „gulyás” (specific Hungarian meal), Kalotaszegi music, dance and traditional folk costume. Many of the participants also wore their national costumes, and numerous similarities could be noticed in their styles. Participants came from many parts of the world: Estonia (Seto), Finland (Sami), Russia (Khanty, Komi, Komi-Permyak, Mansi, Mari, Udmurt, Veps), Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania (Hungarians from the last four countries). The congress was multilingual, all the information was translated mainly into English, Finnish, Hungarian and Russian.

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