

## Foreword

Is it possible to say something scientifically new about the Moldavian Csángós nowadays? Is there a need for further research and for more monographs and volumes? If we take a look at the *Bibliography of the Moldavian Csángós* – which was edited by us in 2006 – as a first impression, we might vote against further publishing, because the data base included shows a very high number of items, and the number of publications has been growing ever since.

A more profound analysis will also show that while some research areas are overloaded, others reflect major gaps and lots of unanswered questions, unsolved problems. The Csángó topic is still interesting from a scientific point of view, and it also has its actuality regarding politics and public life.

Our present volume does not undertake to fix the mentioned disproportions; instead it signals that there is still serious work going on at Kriza János Ethnographical Society and at the Department of Hungarian Ethnography and Anthropology of Babeş–Bolyai University, and the results are worth to be made public. Those who already know us will not be surprised by the content of this volume. And all those to join us now will – hopefully – value the variety of the offered Csángó-image, of the scientific approach and of the chosen topics for analysis.

Some of the articles are the result of the basic Csángó-research programmes initiated by our Society together with our Department. All the other writings are signed by authors we have met during the mentioned research programmes and who we have been working together with ever since.

Hungarian, Romanian, American, Polish and German scholars give their best here so that both the English and the Hungarian volume – summarizing the views and results of our Society and our collaborating friends on the Csángós – would assure a multi-structured corpus enabling very different ways of use and interpretation. The utility should conclude first of all from the variety of the scientific approach and the interdisciplinary aspirations that characterise this material. Ethnographers, anthropologists, historians and musicologists managed to complete and to back up each other, thus offering the most complete Csángó-image possible for all those interested.

The writings of this volume analyse many topics already considered as “classic” ones (e.g. regional and ethnic division, history of research and ethnography, social life, demography, folk customs and popular belief etc.), completed by new interpretations which include several aspects of the same topic (e.g. biopolitics, material culture and identity, history and identity, religious life and modernization, narrative representations and colonization etc.).

We could consider this volume the synthesis of our activity in research and editing: the basic works of renowned specialists found their place here along with the more experimental writings of the younger researchers.

*The editors*