Driven by Society: Folklorists in Creating Cultural Heritage

Abstract

Folklore collections, at least in Baltic states, are perceived to be a valuable cultural heritage and are in recurrent use and constant reinterpretation and adaptation in contemporary society. The reuse of folklore materials collected into archives nowadays usually functions as a support to the various levels of identity: national, ethnic, local, or kinships identity. At the same time the process of creation of folklore collections has been and is under the control of folklorists, who (have to) decide what is valuable to be collected, recorded, documented, preserved, published, investigated, disseminated. In this work the task of researchers is to observe the society and find the ways to respond its needs and expectations in present time as well as in the future.

Short Bio

Mari Sarv is working at the Estonian Folklore Archives of Estonian Literary Museum since 1996, at the present time as a senior researcher and head of the research group of the archives. Her main subject of research has been the poetic form of Estonian runosong (PhD on the meter of runosong in 2008).

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