

# archiviodietnografia

Rivista del Dipartimento delle Culture Europee e del Mediterraneo:  
Architettura, Ambiente, Patrimoni Culturali (DiCEM)  
Università degli Studi della Basilicata



n.s., anno X, n. 1-2 • 2015



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## Abstracts

edited by Sandra Ferracuti

Mikaela Minga

*Korça's Song. Musical Practices and the Urban Condition in Albania  
at the Beginning of the XX Century*

This article focuses on the role that the city of Korça had in the development of a specific urban musical genre: the Korça's song (Kënga Korçare). Since the early 1900s, this genre has been a major reference point for the musical life of the city. Studying this genre means coming to terms with the "urban" as a concept and with the way that processes of Europeanization and westernisation characterized urban life at that time. It prompts us to consider various factors that are intrinsically related to it, such as nationalism, migration, diaspora, language, as well as the transformations that affected the urban society, such as the birth of the new social classes to which the promoters of this song belong, who have been giving shape to musical expressions of their own. This focus also allows us to outline the particular circuits and movements that led to the diffusion, popularization, and emplacement of this musical genre.

Marco Sottilotta

*Buganda's Royal Burials. Disinterest and Preservation  
in Uganda's Heritage Politics*

The author uses the expression "official disinterest" to describe the kingdom of Buganda's attitude of indifference towards most of the temples that preserve the relics of past kings. Even though the kingdom promoted projects that have led to the inclusion, in 2010, of the Kasubi Tombs in the Unesco's World Heritage List, it shows no interest in more ancient sites, many of which lie in a state of neglect. The lack of interest shown by the kingdom's representatives is discussed here both in the light of the postcolonial heritage-making policies implemented by the Government of Uganda, and in that of Buganda's own "tradition". This allows the author to call the concept of "cultural heritage" into question and to problematize the relationship between *Ganda* culture and its past.

Irene Salerno

*Divinatory Possession Cults and Shamanic Practices in the Kulu Valley:  
Research Perspectives between Tradition and Innovation*

This paper focuses on the study of divinatory possession cults observed in the Himachal Pradesh State (north-western India), with particular reference to the Hima-

layan valleys of the Kulu district. It explores the relationship between tradition and innovation in the practice of such cults, which are performed in a context characterized by the fast and ongoing socio-cultural changes generated by the remarkable economic growth that has been affecting the entire State of Himachal Pradesh in the last few years. Furthermore, the paper explores the links between these divinatory possession cults and shamanic practices. To investigate the connections between the religious and ritual domain and socio-economic changes on the one hand, and the link between divinatory possession cults and shamanism on the other, can bring significant contributions to a field of research that has been given very little attention so far, especially by Italian scholars.

Gian Luigi Bruzzone

*Arrigo Ballardoro and Raffaele Corso (Correspondence 1912-1923)*

This essay explores the friendly relationship between Count Arrigo Ballardoro (1872-1927) and Raffaele Corso (1885-1965), who were both anthropologists and ethnographers: a university scholar the latter, an amateur the former. Among other things, it tackles a folklore studies topic that was not taken into consideration by the major scholars of the time, such as Pitrè or Salomone Marino, i.e. that of sexual life and related customs. Friedrich Salomon Krauss in Germany and Corso in Italy contributed substantially to the study of such topic.

Josemary Omena Passos Ferrare, Vita Santoro

*Sentidos da pesca*

The *Sequenze* section offers a photographic and written contribution to the study of artisanal fishing in Alagoas (Northeastern Brazil). The text, which is based on archival research, summarizes its past, starting from the Portuguese discovery of Brazil, the seizure of its lands and the construction of harbor offices meant to organize and control ocean, river, and lake fishing. It then describes the techniques, the tools, and the main kinds of vessels that fishermen currently employ. Finally, it discusses the contemporary fishing trends of Alagoas' capital, Maceiò, with special attention to the social value of fishing in the Pontal da Barra neighborhood. The photographs that are published here have been shot in 2015 and they join the text in bearing witness to the current vitality of fishing in Alagoas' coastal areas. Such trade is a tenacious cultural and symbolic element and, together with a recently developed industry of tourism, also a persistent means for the living of a significant portion of the region's population.

Giovanni Fornaro

*The Future in Signs, Signs of Future: The Modes and Manifestations of a Formula for Divination Used in Lucania and the Vicinities of Taranto and Studied by Ernesto de Martino*

The author compares different variants of a traditional ritual that is performed in Basilicata, Puglia, and other regions of southern Italy. The formula is addressed to an angel or to Santa Monica as a means to predict the future of a relative or a loved one. A version of the formula was documented by Ernesto de Martino in Lucania (September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1952), and the author discusses its differences and similarities with the versions witnessed in Taranto (Puglia) in the Thirties and the Forties by collector and amateur ethnologist Alfredo Majorano, who also used them in two of his comedies.

Omerita Ranalli

*“A Strange World”: Popular Devotion as Cultural Resistance  
in an Interview with Alfonso Di Nola*

The author presents the transcript of an interview with Alfonso Di Nola recorded by Giovanna Marini (Rome, December, 1989) and currently available in Circolo Gianni Bosio’s sound Archive “Franco Coggiola” (Collection Giovanna Marini). During the interview, the anthropologist quite informally discusses some of the most important topics that he has tackled: the role of the sacred and religion in post-industrial society (which he strongly affirmed, thus opposing the sociological School’s “eclipse of the sacred” concept), the relevance of fieldwork and, lastly, the analysis of some examples of popular religious events in Central Italy (the pilgrimage to the Santissima Trinità sanctuary of Vallepietra, the rituals for San Domenico in Cocullo and for Sant’Antonio in Marsica) and in Southern Italy (the Settimana Santa rituals in Nocera Terinese and the septennial rituals of Guardia Sanframondi).

Amelio Pezzetta

*Past and Present of Traditions, Devotion, and the Feast  
for Sant’Antonio da Padova in Lama dei Peligni*

Sant’Antonio da Padova is one of the Catholic world’s most popular saints, and has a high number of devotees. In this essay, the author analyses all the expressions of the cult and the devotion to the famous saint in Lama dei Peligni, a small town lying at the foot of the Majella mountain range, in the vicinities of Chieti, Abruzzo. To this end, he gives account of the results of his review of relevant publications and archival inquiries (including reports of pastoral visits, notary deeds, and other historical documents), but also of his own first-hand onsite experience and interviews with locals who have documented the existence of beliefs, legends, anecdotes, alleged miracles, proverbs and various worship practices including festivals, songs, prayers, and pilgrimages. In conclusion, the author provides an overall analysis and discussion of the data, and sheds light on local functions and meanings and their possible transformations through time.