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Abstract

edited by Sandra Ferracuti

Daniele Parbuono

“TrasiMemo. Trasimeno Memory Bank”: A Participated Project

“TrasiMemo. Trasimeno Memory Bank” is a complex project based on a partnership among university researchers, cultural heritage professionals, artisans, local administrators and stakeholders. It aims to enhance crafts-related knowledges and memories that are seen as specific forms of intangible cultural heritage. In the initial phase of conceptualization we shared the project plan with many local actors and then started implementing ethnographic research activities aimed to “collect memories” using audio-visual and information technology. This significant corpus of data is the foundation upon which both the physical layout of the “Bank” and the web archive were built and connected to a series of workshop activities conducted in collaboration with local artisans. The overall objective of the (ongoing) project is to use ethnographic research to “reactivate” important heritage elements in the lake Trasimeno area and to encourage the birth of new crafts-related professional enterprises that connect historically “sedimented” experiences to the contemporary working conditions.

Monica Dell’Aglia

The Neighborhood. Notes on Matera’s Street Names

This essay is based on a wider research project on Matera’s place names that started more than a year ago and aims to highlight and analyze the existing connections among the following street names: *ghetto*, *vicinato* [neighborhood], and *recinto* [precinct]. Here, the author discusses the variations in the usage of the word *vicinato*, which may generally mean ‘district’ or otherwise convey a more place-specific connotation. This discussion is based on written documents that have been acquired during research and which outline the official organization of the city’s place names from 1732 to the present day.

Francesca Castano

Folklorist and Museographer Giovanni Tancredi:

His Contribution to the 1911 Italian Ethnography Exhibition

In 1911, the 50th anniversary of Italy’s unification was celebrated in Rome with a Universal Exhibition that also included a grand Italian ethnography exhibition. Lamberto Loria was given the responsibility to design it and took this opportunity to

launch a “new science”: ethnography. This essay, based on documents that are kept at the *Museo nazionale delle Arti e Tradizioni popolari* [National Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions], is focused on the contribution given to the Italian ethnography exhibition by Giovanni Tancredi, one of the several researchers that Loria appointed throughout Italy to identify and then send to Rome material testimonies of rural life: objects related to work, festive, daily, and household activities. Tancredi was a reputed pedagogue and a scholar of local history. He was also known for his research on popular traditions in the Gargano area and he especially focused his collection activities on his hometown, Monte Sant’ Angelo, where he later founded today’s *Museo delle Arti e Tradizioni popolari del Gargano* [Museum of Gargano’s Popular Arts and Traditions]. He had a modern understanding of the use of photography as a means of documentation and of the pedagogic value of ethnography. The collection of more than 400 pieces that he acquired for the exhibition included a variety of items, including precious garments and jewelry that are today part of the collection of the *Museo nazionale*.

Maria Brandon Albini
Dialogues in the South II (edited by Sergio Torsello)

The author outlines her travel experience in Basilicata, which she visited in 1960 as part of a longer itinerary across the postwar Italian South that she took several years to carry out. As regards economics, the areas that she visited were the country’s poorest, but they were also culturally thick and rich in art and literature as well. Basilicata shows the traveller its often-sore beauty, burdened with misery and isolation. Here, she encounters with a people that faces dramas (poverty, illness) with dignity and resignation and induces her to consider her own psychological and emotional condition.

Sergio Torsello
The Taranta’s Love Bite: An Interview with Luigi Chiriatti on Tarantism

Luigi Chiriatti is one of the main investigators of folklore in the Salento peninsula (Southern Puglia, Italy). In this interview, the researcher, musician, and publisher illustrates the main themes (particularly tarantism, popular music and dance) that he has addressed throughout his extended activity. He also recalls his productive encounters with scholars and artists who have been particularly active in the field of popular culture, from Rina Durante to Annabella Miscuglio and Georges Lapassade

Amelio Pezzetta
Lama dei Peligni’s Traditions Concerning Abbot St. Dominique, Wolves, and Snakes

In the past 50 years, various changes in the socio-economic conditions of Lama dei Peligni (Chieti, Abruzzo) have occurred and were followed by the transformation of centuries-old traditions. This essay presents all beliefs and traditions connecting St. Domenico di Cocullo with wolves and snakes and it outlines the reasons why many of them have disappeared or faded into oblivion.

Paola Falteri

“Whatever the number of people out there, women made them all”.

The First Stages of the Life Cycle

Based on the recent work by Cristina Papa, *Identità di genere e maternità. Una ricerca etnografica in Umbria (Gender Identity and Motherhood. An Ethnographic Research in Umbria)*, this essay reviews forms of knowledge and practices related to motherhood in traditional peasant societies. The ‘Otherness’ of these societies’ past and its discontinuity with the present – highlighted by the elders during interviews – poses questions regarding social change and its directions and critically addresses a present that is all too often simply given for granted. The symbolic universe of correspondences underlying folk beliefs and practices, which is nowadays for the most part disaggregated, requires readings and interpretations that are not naïve but rather attentive to how the differences between male and female identities are conceptualized. Despite the profound social changes that have occurred, some persistence can still be highlighted, for instance in the domain of pregnancy food cravings and in that of practices aimed to predict the sex of yet unborn babies. The theme of motherhood also calls for a perspective based on gender that is radically different from the traditional, overwhelmingly androcentric approach to the analysis of male/female roles exemplified by the work of classical sociologists (Durkheim, Parsons) and anthropologists (Lévi-Strauss). It is no coincidence that an androcentric orientation emerges with particular clarity when issues of family, kinship, and sexualized gender roles are discussed.