SUMMARY

The ethnographical series entitled People and Contexts started in 2008 as a project of the Hungarian Department of Ethnography and Anthropology at Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca. Similarly to the former publications of documents the present volume includes a corpus of narratives recorded in the second half of the 20th century in Detrehemtelep (Triteni – Colonia). The corpus is made up of two main chapters.

Part I. of the book includes the traditional narratives of one narrator. Kocsis János (1932–2003) was born in Transylvania, in Mezőség region. He lived in a hamlet (Detrehemtelep), has been socialized in a traditional community of farmers and becoming a factory worker in the nearby town after the collectivization of agriculture. He acquired an oral archaic culture used throughout his life as a form of self-expression, of environmental interpretation and cultivation of the ritual tradition. He practiced storytelling in the family, at the collective works, during the commute and during meal breaks at work. His recorded repertoire presented in this volume is made up of 9 folk-tales, 2 ballads, 42 mythical legends, 2 religious legends and 3 Christmas carols. His repertoire is complemented with his own autobiographical story and the memoires of the family and villagers related to his personality and his habits of storytelling.

Part II. of the book includes the narratives of the same social environment, recorded narratives of Kocsis János's contemporaries and fellow villagers – 51 people. Unlike the traditional repertoire these narratives, these recorded interviews present the biographical events of the villagers, and they are interpretations of social and historical events experienced and faced by the community along the 20th century. The narratives are grouped around the following themes: village history from its founding (in 1903) to the present, the history of the 53 founding families and the history of families subsequently coming from outside, biographical narratives, narratives about the wars, deportations, minority life, religious life, collectivization of agriculture, Communist-era life, migration and travel, community life, school-life, leisure, everyday life and nature. Unlike traditional and ritual narratives, these narratives contribute to the representation of the identity of the community, of families and individuals, to the representation of everyday life, to the interpretation of historical and social events and to the socialization of the individuals.

The volume presents two different worlds and two different narrative strategies. Both repertories, both narrative strategies belong to the same society, they are actually parallel.

The study presents the paradigms and methods of narratological analysis, the paradigms and results of narratives research in Mezőség, the history of the village (Detrehemtelep), thematic and pragmatic analysis of the two corpus of texts, of the two strategies of storytelling. The keywords of the analysis are: narrative, narrative representation, narrative situation, narrative strategy, narrative act, narrative repertoire, narrative relation, narrative attitude.

The DVD attached to the present volume contains audio records, photos and the village population list.



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He published the following books: A folklór határán. A népi írásbeliség verses műfajai Aranyosszéken. Kriterion, Bukarest. 1991; Kelt levelem. Egy mezőségi parasztasszony levelezése. Debrecen. 1996; Jóslások a Mezőségen. Etnomantikai elemzés. Bon Ami, Sepsiszentgyörgy. 1997; Mezőségi hiedelmek. Mentor, Marosvásárhely. 1999; Homo narrans. Emberek, történetek és kontextusok. KOMP-PRESS, Kolozsvár. 2002; Aranyosszék népköltészete. Népi szövegek és kontextusok. I–II. Mentor, Marosvásárhely. 2004; Egy Hir Adás a' Késő Maradékhoz. 17–20. századi erdélyi toronygombiratok. Mentor, Marosvásárhely. 2006; Alfabetizáció, írásszokások, populáris írásbeliség. KJNT–BBTE, Kolozsvár; A történetmondás antropológiája. BBTE– KJNT, Kolozsvár, 2011.