

## 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.

This volume presents the life and work – woven carpets and poems, autobiography and other handwritten contents of her notebooks – of a peasant woman from Mezőség region (Transylvanian Plain).

Julianna Lakatos (married Nagy) was born on May 8, 1943 in the small village Mezőköbölkút (Fântânița), Beszterce-Naszód (Bistrița-Năsăud) county. She graduated primary school between 1949–1953. Her parents were considered *kulaks* (wealthy peasants). They have earned a living from agriculture and they hadn't supported their daughter's aspirations to pursue higher education, which marked her whole life. She had her grandfather as a model, who was a lettered man and wrote the history of the village.

At thirteen years, following a fatal event, she started to write her ideas. She started writing to order, she wrote occasional poems, autobiography and other stories. Originally writing meant for her a refuge, a consolation, and later she dedicated her talent to the community. She intended to record the events found in the memory of the local community and to document the events of the past. Without supporters she continued her career in other areas: at the age of forty-two under the guidance of artisan and professor Dezső Bandi she engaged in industrial art movement in Transylvania. She learned figurative carpet weaving technique. In the last two decades her carpets were exposed in large cities of Transylvania so that she gained recognition and popularity.

Part I. of the book includes the autobiography of Julianna Nagy which is followed by an autobiographical interview.

Part II. of the book contains a selection of her huge amounts of manuscripts, chosen texts from the self-educated woman's oeuvre. In the work entitled *Kis falum eredete* (*The Origin of My Small Village*) the author describes the history of the village from the beginnings until the time of collectivization. With the title *A halálra ítélt feleség* (*The Wife Sentenced to Death*) the author presents fragments of the baronial family's history living in the village. The manuscript of this story contains 746 pages.

Finally we are publishing some of her poems. The whole handwritten work of Julianna Nagy is attached in scanned form on the CD annexed to the book. The volume contains a list of the mentioned localities, a glossary of regionalisms and a collection of photographs representing Julianna Nagy's life.

The afterword of the book written by Imola Ozsváth presents the habits and the techniques of creation of Julianna Nagy. Here are presented two aspects of her creative activity. On the one hand the representative moments and motivations of the folk artist's career are analyzed, and on the other hand the motivations which urged the creation of a vast written work.

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This book was published – in addition to fulfil Julianna Nagy’s desire to see in printed form her manuscripts – in order to as many readers as possible have access to this naive, mysterious world of Mezőség (Transylvanian Plain).

Imola Ozsváth is an ethnologist, doctor of philology, graduate of the Hungarian Department of Ethnography and Anthropology at Babeş–Bolyai University. In a large-scale research project she studied the life and work of teachers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Transylvania.

She published the following books: *Egy naiv festő élettörténetének motívumai*. In: Keszeg Vilmos (szerk.): *Specialisták. Életpályák és élettörténetek I*. Scientia Kiadó, Kolozsvár, 2005, 31–118.; *Lámpások voltunk... Udvarhelyszéki pedagógusok élettörténete*. Mentor Kiadó, Marosvásárhely, 2009.; *Néptanítók. Életpályák és élettörténetek* (szerk.). Scientia Kiadó, Kolozsvár, 2008.; *A pedagógusok gyűjtőmunkájának helye a romániai magyar néprajzkutatás történetében*. In: Czégényi Dóra – Keszeg Vilmos – Pozsony Ferenc (szerk.): *Oktatás, kutatás, intézmények Kolozsvárt. KJNT Évkönyve 18*. KJNT–BBTE, Kolozsvár, 2011, 289–326.