

VERBAL CHARMS AND NARRATIVE GENRES

A three-day international conference
8–10 December 2017, Friday–Sunday

Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Research Centre for the Humanities
1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán u.4.



Photo: György Takács, 2005, Ghimeș-Făget, jud. Bacău, Romania

Organized by:

International Society for Folk Narrative Research – *Committee on Charms,
Charmers and Charming and Belief Narrative Network Committee*

“*East–West*” Research Group – Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of Ethnology

FRIDAY, 8th DECEMBER

9:00–10:00 **Registration**

10:00 **Opening of the conference:** **Balázs Balogh**, Director, Institute of Ethnology RCH HAS

Mirjam Mencej, President of the ISFNR BNN

Éva Pócs, PI of the „East-West” research group

SESSION 1

Chair: Mirjam Mencej

10:30-11:00 **Willem de Blécourt** (East Sussex): Flying Charms. A charm compiler and a folklorist compared

Coffee break

11:30-12:00 **Andrey Toporkov** (Moscow): Wondrous dressing with celestial bodies in Russian charms and lyrical poetry

12:00-12:30 **Éva Pócs** (Budapest): Variants of the other world in belief narratives and verbal charms

Lunch

SESSION 2/A Verbal charms - text types, text motives

Chair: Éva Pócs

13:30-14:00 **Jonathan Roper** (Tartu): Charms editions: principles and practice

14:00-14:30 **Mare Kõiva** (Tartu): The colour gamma of incantations

14:30-15:00 **Katherine Leach** (Cambridge MA): Narrative healing charms in medieval and early modern Wales

15:00-15:30 **Saša Babič** (Tartu): Charms and localities: how are locations in charms described

Coffee break

Chair: Jonathan Roper

16:00-16:30 **Lea T. Olsan** (Cambridge): The Worms in the Worm Charms

16:30-17:00 **Nicholas Wolf** (New York): Native and nonnative saints in nineteenth-century Irish-language charm historiola

17:00-17:30 **Svetlana Tsonkova** (Bucharest): Power genre – the dialogues in Bulgarian verbal magic

SESSION 2/B Mythical beings in various folklore genres

Chair: Mare Kõiva

13:30-14:00 **Radvilė Racėnaitė** (Vilnius): Mythical beings of fate, illness, and death in Lithuanian folk-belief legends

14:00-14:30 **Nemanja Radulović** (Belgrade): Dreifrauensagen in Serbian folk tradition

14:30-15:00 **Petr Janeček** (Prague): Social functions of Czech legends about child-stealing demons: from informative "Warnesagen" to educational "Kinderschreck"

15:00-15:30 **Vita Džekčiorūtė-Medeišienė** (Vilnius): Child-threatening mythical creatures in the traditional Lithuanian culture: Between real and constructed threats of the mythical world

Coffee break

Chair: Haralampos Passalis

16:00-16:30 **Ioan Pop-Curșeu** (Cluj-Napoca): Witches, children and demons: baby theft horror movies

16:30-17:00 **Edina Dallos** (Szeged): *Albasty*. A female demon of the Turkic peoples

17:00-17:30 **Hrefna S. Bjartmarsdóttir** (Reykjavík): The relationship between trolls (giants) and humans in Icelandic folklore: How humans are being charmed by the trolls

SATURDAY, 9th DECEMBER

SESSION 3 Verbal charms and belief narratives – comparative aspect 1

Chair: Andrey Toporkov

9:00-9:30 **Haralampos Passalis** (Amsterdam): Etiology of a disorder (dis-ease) and restoration of order (therapy). A case of a Greek belief narrative connected with charms against abdominal diseases

9:30-10:00 **Danijela Popović Nikolić** (Niš): Man against the demon: interconnections between incantations and belief narratives

10:00-10:30 **Toms Ķencis** (Riga): The cosmic theft

10:30-11:00 **Aigars Lielbārdis** (Riga): The Devil in Latvian charms and related genres

Coffee break

Chair: Ines Maria Palleiro

11:30-12:00 **Jacqueline Borsje** (Amsterdam): Saints, narratives, and powerful texts

12:00-12:30 **Emanuela Timotin** (Bucharest): The apocryphal legend of St Sisinnios in the oral tradition of Romanian charms

12:30-13:00 **Ekaterina Gusarova** (St Petersburg): The St Sisinnios legend in Ethiopian charms: Interconnection with his life

13:00-13:30 **Anna Judit Tóth** (Budapest): St Sisinnios and other rider saints and gods in Late Antiquity

Lunch

SESSION 4 Verbal charms and belief narratives – comparative aspect 2

Chair: Lea Olsan

14:30-15:00 **Bela Mosia** (Zugdidi): Petrified serpent legends and charms of petrification in Georgia

15:00-15:30 **Davor Nikolić** (Zagreb): A curse is dislodged by a curse: Triangulation of charm, curse and legends about saints

15:30-16:00 **Evelina Rudan** (Zagreb): The narrative productivity of belief narratives about *mora* and the practice of charming against *mora*

Coffee break

SESSION 5 The function of charms, prayers, curses 1

Chair: Emanuela Timotin

16:30-17:00 **Laura Jiga Iliescu** (Bucharest): St Elijah and the fairies

17:00-17:30 **Valer Simion Cosma** (Cluj-Napoca): The use of Saint Basil's Prayer in the final decades of nineteenth-century Transylvania. A case study

18:30–22:00 *Dinner for the conference participants at the Krúdy-hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1051 Budapest, Széchenyi István tér 9.*

SUNDAY, 10th December

SESSION 6 Verbal charms in the context of narrative genres

Chair: Jacqueline Borsje

9:00-9:30 **Ines Maria Palleiro** (Buenos Aires): Charms and wands in 'John the Lazy': performative charms in the Argentinean folk narrative

9:30-10:00 **Aleksi Moine** (Reykjavík): Word power and questions of performance in *Skirnismál*: The incorporation of a verbal charm in a narrative poem

10:00-10:30 **Katherine Hindley** (Singapore): Three Good Brothers at *The Siege of Jerusalem*: A charm in literary context

10:30-11:00 **Ilektra Stampoulou** (Athens): The mundane magic of "The Lazy Spinner"

Coffee break

Chair: Bela Mosia

11:30-12:00 **Zsuzsa Kerekes** (Tokyo): Verbal charms and charmers in the Japanese origin myth

12:00-12:30 **Kinga Markus Takeshita** (Sagamihara): Charms and magic objects in the Iranian national epic

12:30-13:00 **Anna Solovyeva** (Reykjavík): Fear, superstition, and bargaining: Two Old Norse curses which were never fulfilled

13:00-13:30 **Irina Rusinova – Iuliia Shkuratok** (Perm): The story motifs of learning verbal charms in Russian belief narratives of Perm Krai

Lunch

SESSION 7 The function of charms, prayers, curses 2

Chair: Willem de Blécourt

14:30-15:00 **Karel Fraaije** (London): *Contra elphos hoc in plumbo scribe*: Elf amulets and exorcisms from medieval Germanic Europe

15:00-15:30 **Ritika Khanna** (Delhi): Epistles and charms

Coffee break

16:00-16:30 **Annabel Marie Macpherson** (Melbourne): A new perspective on the English witch-hunts, demonology and the 'cunning folk'

16:30-17:00 **Emese Ilyefalvi** (Budapest): Discourses and practices of verbal magic in Hungarian early modern witch trials

Closing of the conference

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MONDAY, 11th December

9:00–20:00 **EXCURSION**

Pannonian cities, villages and religious monuments (Pannonhalma, Győr, Majk)

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Supported by:

„East-West”. *Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions* (ERC project № 324214)

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