

Article received on 28th September 2015
Article accepted on 15th October 2015
UDC: 793.31(497.113)(0.034.2)(049.32)
COBISS.SR-ID 223355404

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**ДВД Селене Ракочевић
Традиционални плесови Срба у
Банату. Антологија.
Етнокоролошки теренски
видео-снимци.**

**Selena Rakočević's DVD:
*Traditional Dances of the Banat
Serbs. Antology. Ethnochoreological
Field Footage.* Belgrade: Center for
the Research and Preservation of
Traditional Dances of Serbia
(CIOTIS), 2014**

Selena Rakočević, who is an ethnochoreologist and has published two books about traditional dances of the Banat Serbs: *Interweaving Dance Structures. Traditional Dance and Dance Music of the Banat Serbs in the Light of Their Mutual Relationships* (2011) and *Traditional Dances of the Banat Serbs* (2012), has once again enriched the existing published material on ethnochoreology with her latest remarkable work – DVD: *Traditional Dances of the Banat Serbs. Antology. Ethnochoreological Field*

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Footage (2014). This DVD is the first published video material in Serbia that contains archived ethnochoreological field footage of traditional dances.

The ethnochoreological field footage that this DVD consists of represents a selection of representative traditional dances of the Banat Serbs and illustrates their great richness and diversity. The footage, which dates from the period between 1988 and 2014, was filmed in order to be used for ethnomusicological and ethnochoreological scientific research. Most of the footage was filmed by the author herself; the rest of the footage consists of videos that the author's colleagues, university professors and enthusiasts who also do research on traditional dances permitted her to use so that she could, in the best possible way, reconstruct the dance practice of the Banat Serbs in the 20th century.

The dances on the DVD are systematically grouped according to their genre: different types of the autochthonous circle dance (*kolo*) of Banat (*veliko kolo*, *malo kolo*, *gajdaško kolo*, etc.), town-craft circle dances (*Vidino kolo*, *krecavi ketuš*), kolos from Šumadija (*Žikino kolo*, *užičko kolo*, etc.), dances in twos or in threes (*mađarac*, *ficko*, *sirotica*, *logovac*, etc), while the dances which were once a part of traditional customs and ceremonies like weddings and Carnival (*oro baba*) form a separate group. According to Selena Rakočević, the concept of genre as a comprehensive structural-semantic category allows us to merge the choreological and contextual criteria when grouping traditional dances and makes it possible for us to perceive them diachronically; it also allows us to consider their convergent points. The footage on the DVD is accompanied with a text in Serbian

and English, in electronic form, which gives the explanation about each genre, making this publication even more concise and easy to follow. The concept of the DVD is as follows: each explanation about a certain dance genre is followed by video examples of this genre of traditional dance. There are twenty videos in total and they show ten examples of autochthonous circle dances, two examples of town-guild circle dances, eight examples of Serbian circle dances, eight examples of dances in twos and threes and two examples of dances which were danced at Carnival or at weddings.

Some photographs which accompany this publication were obtained from the Legacy of Ljubica and Danica Janković at the National Library of Serbia, and some belong to the author of the DVD. The text also contains a map of Banat, which shows the places where the footage was filmed.

The footage is based on the memories of the narrators and it was filmed for later use in the reconstruction of dances danced in the past, more precisely, of dances danced in the 20th century, but there are also videos made in the contemporary dance context. The footage showing dance events in the contemporary context provides an insight into the current dance practice and transformation of the performing style, which is one of the reasons why it was incorporated into the DVD.

Although the footage is of uneven quality (because at the time the research was done there weren't sufficient financial means for it and the equipment used for filming was consequently of limited capacity), a fact which the author is fully aware of, it doesn't diminish the significance of the publication as a whole. On the contrary,

such footage should also be made in future because we need it for further ethnochoreological research in the form of comparative research, goal of which is not only to reveal the different and similar characteristics of traditional dances, but also their universal characteristics. This DVD is part of a project entitled *Music and Dance Tradition of Multiethnic and Multicultural Serbia* (No. 177024); the project is being run at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade, under the patronage of the Ministry of Science and Technological Development, and its goal is to make a practical contribution and give the general public important and valuable information about traditional forms of the music and dance culture of ethnic communities on the territory of Serbia. The dances shown in the videos selected for and presented on Selena Rakočević's DVD are indicators of the distinctive characteristics of the traditional dance practice of the Banat Serbs in the 19th and 20th century. The presented dance practice played an important role in the development of the ethnic and cultural identity of the Serbs in the multiethnic and multicultural region of Banat.

The DVD: *Traditional Dances of the Banat Serbs. Antology. Ethnocoreological Field Footage* is an example which all current and future ethnochoreologists should follow; they should strive to present as many dances as possible to the general public because, as the author says herself, the published footage of traditional dances has not only enormous value as a historical record of a certain time period, but also great importance as educational material that can be used for teaching children, and great importance in the domain of performance on stage.