

# *Charms, Charmers and Charming*

A three-day international conference  
at the Pécs Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pécs, Hungary  
(Magyar Tudományos Akadémia PAB Székház, 7624 Pécs, Jurisics u. 44.)  
Friday 15th–Sunday 17th May, 2015

Organized by:

*International Society for Folk Narrative Research – Committee on Charms,  
Charmers and Charming  
Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Pécs,  
Hungary*



Photo: György Takács, Gyimesbükk/Ghimeş-Făget, Romania, 2005

Supported by:

ERC project *Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western  
Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions (№ 324214)*

# PROGRAM

## THURSDAY, MAY 14

19:00–21:00 Registration

19:00–21:00 Dinner

## FRIDAY, MAY 15

9:00–10:00 Registration, coffee

10:00–10:30 Opening of the conference

**10:30–13:00 Session 1 Charms as a genre A** (Chair: Jacqueline Borsje)

Toporkov, Andrey (Moscow): Russian verbal charms: Between magic, folklore and literature

Ilomäki, Henni (Helsinki): Oral charms, literal notes

Solovyeva, Alevtina (Moscow): The mythological world of Mongolian ritual poetry

Eliferova, Maria (Moscow) Charms within non-charm texts: shifts in pragmatics

13:00–14:00 Lunch

**14:00–16:00 Session 2 Charms as a genre B** (Chair: Andrey Toporkov)

Hunter, Erica (London): Syriac amulets from Turfan

Fröhlich, Ida (Budapest): The blessing and the curse

Cianci, Eleonora (Pescara-Chieti): Medieval German love charms

Roper, Jonathan (Tartu): Charming in Newfoundland: Recent and contemporary evidence

Coffee break

**16:30–19:00 Session 3 Charms as a genre C** (Chair: Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart)

Veselova, Inna (St Petersburg): Magic in ritual speech. North-Russian *Vinogradje* as a collective charming genre

Wamelink, Nanouschka (Amsterdam): “As long as there is life in my body I shall not...”  
Vows of abstinence as binding spells in the Life of Saint Catharine of Siena

Vukelić, Deniver (Zagreb): Micro-analysis of *uroci* (evil charms and spells) in Croatian tradition.

Vujnović, Tatjana (Novi Sad): Traces of charms in Serbian folk lullabies

19:00 Dinner

## SATURDAY, MAY 16

### **9:00–11:00 Session 4 The function of charming A** (Chair: Emanuela Timotin)

Závoti, Zsuzsa (Budapest): „...And swore that he may never harm the sick or anyone that can sing this charm”: Response to mental disorder in Anglo-Saxon England in the context of medical charms

Lea, Deborah (Manchester): Sieves, shears & a swallow

Adonyeva, Svetlana (St Petersburg): Magical forces and the symbolic resources of motherhood: Russian rural tradition (20<sup>th</sup> Century)

Rudan, Evelina – Tomašić, Josipa (Zagreb): How to die more easily or charms and charming devices on a person's deathbed

Coffee break

### **11:30–13:00 Session 5 The function of charming B** (Chair: Vilmos Voigt)

Ķencis, Toms (Riga): Fighting fire with fire: Latvian witchcraft against witches

Milne, Louise S. (Edinburgh): The terrors of the night: charms against the nightmare and the mythology of dreams

Spät, Eszter (Bohum): From sacred earth to Qoranic text: Changing techniques of making Yezidi amulets in Iraq

13:00–14:00 Lunch

### **14:00–16:00 Session 6 The function of charming C** (Chair: Henni Ilomäki)

Khristoforova, Olga (Moscow): “You will remember me”: Witchcraft and power in a local society in Russia

Voigt, Vilmos (Budapest): Russian metal icons gazing into your eyes

Ippolitova, Aleksandra (Moscow): Charms on plant picking in Russian Herbal manuscripts from the 17-20 centuries

Cosma, Simion Valer (Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár): Curses, incantations and undoings of spells: the Romanian priest as a charmer (Transylvania, 19th century)

Coffee break

### **16:30–19:00 Session 7 Charmers and their clients** (Chair: Olga Khristoforova)

Betea, Raluca (Berlin): Condemnation and punishment: Charmers and their clients in the Bulgarian and Ukrainian iconography

Jiga Iliescu, Laura (Bucharest): I just wanted him to teach me the words... The shepherd as charmer: a Carpathian study

Mamaeva, Ekaterina (St Petersburg): Village poet as a charmer. To the question of the functional similarity of two powerful figures in Russian villages

Tsonkova, Svetlana (Budapest): Verbal charms, charmers and charming in a Banat Bulgarian village

19:30 Dinner

## SUNDAY, MAY 17

**9:00–10:30 Session 8 Charms at the religious, ethnic and linguistic borders A** (Chair: Haralampos Passalis)

Stiùbhart, Domhnall Uilleam (Sabhal Mòr Ostaig): Scottish Highland charms across Protestant and Roman Catholic boundaries

Timotin, Emanuela (Bucharest): Ancient magical practices on the border of Western and Eastern Christianity. A 16th century Romanian charm for finding hidden treasures

Pócs, Éva (Pécs): Hungarian charms between Eastern and Western Christianity

Coffee break

**11:00–12:30 Session 9 Charms at the religious, ethnic and linguistic borders B** (Chair: Jonathan Roper)

Lielbardis, Aigars (Riga): Latvian charms between Western and Eastern Christianity

Kapaló, James A. (Cork): Charming without borders: Gagauz charmers as religious, ethnic and linguistic ‘boundary-workers’

Borsje, Jacqueline (Amsterdam): Eastern roots of a medieval Irish charm

12:30–13:30 Lunch

**13:30–16:30 Session 10 Analysis of particular charm types and motives A** (Chair: Erica Hunter)

Passalis, Haralampos (Thessaloniki): Virgin Mary (Panagia, Theotokos) in Greek narrative incantations: The sacred afflicted

Smid, Mária Bernadett (Budapest): The prayer of Saint Cyprian: text and context

Fadeyeva, Liudmila (Moscow): The church of Saint Clement of Rome: the sources and the symbolics of the image in Russian charms

Coffee break

**17:00–18:30 Session 11 Analysis of particular charm types and motives B** (Chair: James A. Kapaló)

Tuomi, Ilona (Cork): Caput Christi. The written environment and the textual transmission of an Irish charm

Ilyefalvi, Emese (Budapest/Pécs): Charms and taboo words – taboo words in charms

Nikolić, Davor (Zagreb): Rational argumentation in irrational discourse: argumentative techniques of verbal charms

**18:30 Closing of the conference**

19:30 Dinner

## MONDAY, MAY 18

**7:30–14:00** Excursion in County Baranya, lunch in a village restaurant or: sightseeing in the city and visiting a museum, lunch in a Pécs restaurant

\*

Contact persons: Éva Pócs, [pocse@chello.hu](mailto:pocse@chello.hu), +36 70 4318194; Diána Arató, [arato.diana@gmail.com](mailto:arato.diana@gmail.com), +36 30 6466148