

## Summary of doctoral thesis

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Sebastian Flizak – ethnographer and ethnologist set against the background of his epoch. An anthropological biography.

Thesis supervisor: Prof. dr hab. Jan Świąch, 9.11.2017

The subject of this paper is the anthropological biography of Sebastian Flizak (1881-1972) – an ethnographer and folklorist from Mszana Dolna (Limanowski province), presented in a wide historical, social and cultural context. This paper takes into account the history of Polish ethnology, cultural anthropology, and the local history of Zagorzanie Highlanders from whom derived S. Flizak, as well as the history of the milieu within which he used to operate (folklorists, teachers, and deportees to Siberia).

The basis for this study derives primarily from archives sourced from 24 museums and archival institutions in Poland, Russia, Austria and Ukraine, as well as from private persons. The source materials from the collection of The Polish Ethnological Society, from the National Archive in Krakow, from Ossolinski National Institute in Wroclaw and from the Archive of Jagiellonian University proved to be particularly valuable. The paper is also based on materials obtained during field research conducted by the author in 2007-2008 and 2014-2017, and also on the academic and popular science literature concerning the issues in question. The author has referred to studies from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, interwar period, as well as from contemporary papers published after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

This piece of work contains an extensive introduction and four chapters. The introduction elaborates on theoretical matters such as: the anthropological biography as a method of describing the history of anthropology as analysed through the angle of an individual (chapter 1); the outcome of preliminary surveys and the research conducted by the author (chapter 2); as well as the history of ethnographical and folklorist research conducted in the Polish sub-Tatra region and in Western Beskids during the period preceding the activities of S. Flizak in this region and during his contemporary times. The three subsequent chapters have been devoted to a detailed presentation of the fate of S. Flizak with taking into account the wide historical and cultural context which accompanied him. Diachronic and synchronic method of description allowed for the elaboration on the youth and the development of S. Flizak's career (chapter 4), his activity on the front of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and during the Siberian deportation, his academic and didactic activity during the interwar period as well as the participation of this researcher in the secret teaching during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and the course of his clandestine field research conducted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War (chapter 5). The continuation of this dissertation is the analysis of the post-war professional, scientific and research activity of S. Flizak within The Polish Ethnological Society, The Polish Academy of Learning and in Stanislaw Orkan Museum in Rabka, as well as his rich academic achievements (chapter 6). A seminal feature of this paper is also the analysis of the reception of Flizak's research activity and his significance for the local community.

The outcome of these dissertations was, among others, the validation of the assumption about the significance of folkloristic work of S. Flizak for highland culture, especially for Zagorzanie Highlanders, which has been positively verified in archive materials and sources referred to during the field research. The aim has also been achieved which was the reconstruction of the biography of S. Flizak with a broad historic background and his restoration for Polish science.

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