

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FOLKLORE AND FOLKLORISTICS

### REFERENCE WORKS

*Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, Legend.* Harper: San Francisco, [1972].

*See particularly the entries on "Slavic Folklore" by Svatava Pírková Jakobson; "Slavic Mythology" by Roman Jakobson; and "Lithuanian Mythology" by Jonas Balys; as well as articles on genre. A standard for the field. Always start here.*

Lindahl, Carl; John McNamara; John Lindow, eds. *Medieval Folklore. A Guide to Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Pickering, David. *The Cassell Dictionary of Folklore.* London: Cassell, 1999.

Dixon-Kennedy, Mike. *Encyclopedia of Russian & Slavic Myth and Legend.* Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1998.

*(WARNING! This is a weak resource with many egregious errors, and I include it only so that you may be aware that it is a very poor source.)*

### EARLY AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Barford, P. M. *The Early Slavs; Culture and Society in Early Medieval Eastern Europe.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, [2001].

*Straightforward, useful, and factual.*

Gimbutas, Marija. *The Slavs.* New York: Praeger, [1971].

*A standard in the field.*

Wilson, Stephen. *The Magical Universe: Everyday Ritual and Magic in Pre-Modern Europe.* London: Hambledon & London, 2000.

*This important study shows connections between beliefs of Slavs and other Europeans; it explains the nature and basis of agricultural, health, life-cycle, and divination rituals. An important work.*

### FOLKLORISTICS

Bendix, Regina. *In Search of Authenticity: The Formation of Folklore Studies.* Madison, 1997.

Bogatyrev, Petr, and Jakobson, Roman. "Folklore as a Special Form of Creativity." In: Peter Steiner, editor. *The Prague School: Selected Writings 1926-1946.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982. pp. 32-46.

Clifford, James, and George Marcus, editors. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986.

Dorson, Richard, editor. *Folklore and Folklife*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.  
*The best introduction we have to how to think about folklore and how to conceptualize its genres.*

Dundes, Alan, editor. *Folklore: Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies*. Four volumes. London and New York: Routledge, 2005.  
*This is a major contribution to the field and will soon become the standard. It is a compilation of primary essays and articles about folkloristics that trace the history of the discipline, discuss the pioneers of folkloristics, identify major genres, theories, and concepts in the field.*

Dundes, Alan. *International Folkloristics*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999.

Dundes, Alan. *Interpreting Folklore*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1980.  
*A good "how-to" book.*

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York: Basic Books, 1993.

Propp, Vladimir. *Theory and History of Folklore*. Translated by Ariadna Y. Martin and Richard P. Martin. Edited, with Introduction and Notes by Anatoly Liberman. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984. (Series: Theory and History of Literature, 5).

#### **RUSSIAN FOLKLORE**

Conrad, Joseph L. "Russian Ritual Incantations: Tradition, Diversity, and Continuity." *Slavic and East European Journal* 33 (1989): 422-444.

Haney, Jack. *An Introduction to the Russian Folk Tale*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999.

Hilton, Alison. *Russian Folk Art*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1989.

Hubbs, Joanna. *Mother Russia. The Feminine Myth in Russian Culture*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Ivanits, Linda. *Russian Folk Belief*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1989.

Miller, Frank. Folklore for Stalin. *Russian Folklore and Pseudofolklore of the Stalin Era*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1990.

Oinas, Felix J. *Essays on Russian Folklore and Mythology*. Columbus, Ohio : Slavica Publishers, 1985, c1984.

Oinas, Felix J. and Stephen Soudakoff, editors and translators. *The Study of Russian folklore*. The Hague : Mouton, 1975.

Perkowski, Jan. *Vampires of the Slavs*. Cambridge, MA: Slavica, 1976.

Ralston, W.E.S. *The Songs of the Russian People, as Illustrative of Slavonic Mythology and Russian Social Life*. London: Ellis and Green, 1872.

*Although somewhat dated, Ralston's book is still very useful and provides an interesting general view of Russian folklore. This work is also available on line: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/srp/srp00.htm>*

Ryan, W.F. *The Bathhouse at Midnight. An Historical Survey of Magic and Divination in Russia*. University Park: Pennsylvania University Press, 1999.

Sokolov, Iurii Matveevich. *Russian folklore*. Translated by Catherine Ruth Smith. Introd. and bibliography by Felix J. Oinas. Detroit: Folklore Associates, 1971 [c1950].

*This volume remains the single most comprehensive survey of the Russian folk tradition.*

Johns, Andreas. *Baba Yaga. The Ambiguous Mother and Witch of the Russian Folktale*. Peter Lang: 2004. (International Folkloristics, 3)

*More than you wanted to know about this fascinating witch.*

### FOLK TALES

*More has been written about folk tales than any other single genre of folklore. This is far from an exhaustive list, but it represents a good place to start.*

Aarne, Antti (1867-1925). *The Types of the Folktale: A Classification and Bibliography [Verzeichnis der Märchentypen]*. Transl. from the Finnish by Stith Thompson. 2nd revised edition. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia, 1961. (Series: Folklore Fellows Communications, No. 3)

Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment; The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. New York: Vintage, 1976 [1989].

*A Freudian interpretation of classic Grimm tales. You will learn what your passion for shoes really means!*

Bottigheimer, Ruth, editor. *Fairy Tales and Society: Illusion, Allusion, and Paradigm*.

Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1987.

Lüthi, Max. *Once Upon a Time: On the Nature of Fairy Tales*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1970.

Propp, Vladimir. *Morphology of the Folktale*. 2nd edition. Translated by Laurence Scott. Revised and edited with preface by Louis A. Wagner. New Introduction by Alan Dundes. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1968.

*This book is the gold standard for the understanding of the structure and functions of the folk tale.*

Tatar, Maria. *The Hard Facts of the Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Exp. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

*A very entertaining and eye-opening read about ancient remnants in folk tales and how to understand them in both an historical context and in our own.*

Thompson, Stith. *The Folktale*. New York: Dryden Press, 1945.  
*A classic.*

Thompson, Stith. *Motif-Index of Folk Literature*. Rev. ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1955-1958.  
*This is a reference work that indexes most of the world's folk tales by motif and function.*

Warner, Marina. *From the Beast to the Blonde. On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1994.

Zipes, Jack. *Breaking the Magic Spell. Radical Theories of Folk and Fairy Tales*. Rev. and exp. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, [2002, c1979].  
*A very ideological but stimulating read.*

### THE HEROIC EPIC

Lord, Albert Bates. *The Singer of Tales*. 2nd edition. Stephen Mitchell and Gregory Nagy, editors. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000. Original publication: 1960.

### VAMPIRES

Barber, Paul. *Vampires, Burial, and Death: Folklore and Reality*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

McClelland, Bruce. *Slayers and Their Vampires: A Cultural History of Killing the Dead*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2006.  
*Although the title does not indicate so, this volume deals with the Slavic vampire tradition, tracing it from its earliest roots into contemporary culture.*

### WEB SITES

Take a cruise around the detailed and extensive site "Foamy Custard" (Folklore, Mythology, Cultural Studies, and Related Disciplines) at:

**<http://www.indigogroup.co.uk/foamycustard/intros.htm>**

A more complete bibliography on general folklore is available from Indiana University's Folklore Institute:

**[http://www.indiana.edu/~folklore/Menu\\_Readings.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~folklore/Menu_Readings.html)**

Find other Slavic folklore sites by visiting the site of the Slavic and East European Folklore Association. You can also link to the associations journal, *Folklorica*, from their site. Find links to other interesting Slavic folklore sites at:

**<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/SEEFA/FOLKLINKS.HTM>**