

SUMMARY

Animal farming. The universalities and peculiarities of local cultures

/MUSNINKAI. KERNAVE. ČIOBIŠKIS

By Irena Regina Merkienė

Lithuanian History Institute

The problem in what shapes local farming culture reveals its identity and universality is viewed on the basis of archive materials and ethnographical field investigations. The 18th–20th cent.-s Musninkai valsčius village and manor material culture, farming knowledge and farming economy levels are tackled.

Musninkai valsčius local culture universality was associated with old agricultural culture stratum. The integrated manor and village animal care experience analogies under serfdom farming conditions in the course of several centuries revealed themselves through the drawing force used for agriculture – the predominating work with oxen until World War I, later – with horses, also through the closed and open plan structure sheds, stables, pigsties, cots, etc., through their linkage with other various purpose premises typological areals in Lithuania and through the traditional building materials – timber for walls and straw for roofs. The universality in a narrower – village culture level revealed itself through the horned cattle and swine's, pigs communal pasturage organization supported by juvenile work, through male work – pasturing the horses for the night and animal feeding with hay and grain cultures waste experience. Most of the customs associated with animal diseases treatment and prophylaxis were in one or another way linked with catholic religion holidays: ritual food eating and its distribution to shepherds and animals, usage of blessed sacramental during the holidays, with prayers and offerings in order to get God's favour. After World War I a newly spread farming experience and cultural innovations began to destroy traditional farming heritage, essentially through the shed, stable plans, building materials, kinds of fodder, forage and provender, pasturage and veterinary care became more modern only at the collectivized village when, farming conditions and farming economy having been changed industrial goods began penetrating widely.

Local cultural identity until the 20th cent. belonged on the local unit settlements farming structure, their geographical dislocation and mutual relations peculiarities that revealed themselves through manor, village and other population farming relations in their economic opposition. In the 18th–20th cent.-s it was determined by local farming conditions, society groups and separate individual possibilities and the necessity to overtake a new farming information and technical novelties, the apprehension of individual identical cultural realities and the need to apply them in individual animal rearing practice, the local unit geographical situation influencing traditional farming culture elements in its own way in a certain period and horizontally moving one factor areal shift.