

SUMMARY

The Roma people of Seredžius

/SEREDŽIUS

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It is intended in the paper on the basis of the Roma's life stories to disclose Seredžius and the region Roma's history and the most important for them as well events having survived in their collective memory from the 20th cent., to discuss some Roma's traditional life way and common law features that become vivid in some of their stories.

It is stated in the paper that some of their life stories told us by them contradict the image of the Roma as of low origin—leading a nomadic closed way of life people. The Roma's culture being influenced by a local regional culture and associating with it acquires some local culture elements, e. g. horse harnessing way, the local Lithuanian language dialect used by them while communicating with the Lithuanians (they speak the Romani language among themselves), etc. The author is of the opinion that it was conditioned by their previous between-wars constant nomadic tribal territories with which they associated their origin site and native country. Most in Seredžius interviewed Roma have originated from Suvalkija (the South–West Lithuania), between the wars their parents used to move with their camps along the river Nemunas and in the former East Prussia border regions.

The life histories presented by the informants and discussed in the paper are divided into several groups by their themes: the between-wars period, the post-war period and the life after the 1956 USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree to begin and put into practise the forced Roma sedentarization. The present Seredžius Roma settlement is described, the Roma life conditions are characterized in short, their houses interior elements are visually presented.