talizing glimpses of promising subjects, such as Hermann Bausinger's lucid discussion of the influence of America on Europe reflected in folklore and Michael Owen Jones' idealistic view that all human activities may assume forms that give them aesthetic values. More conservative fare is offered in Tillhagen's comparative study of birds in myths and legends, as well as in a number of studies dealing with particular personalities, repertoires, and types of legends.

As for the physical aspects of the volume, a fair number of typographical errors and the very small print of quotations and footnotes are a nuisance. It is a paperback edition that one fears may not well withstand the ravages of time (judging by my admittedly well-travelled copy), but on the other hand this format suggests a price range within a student's budget.

Overall, there is something for just about everyone in this Festschrift and many of the contributions make stimulating, important reading. It is a rare combination of international folklorists that acquaints the reader with major contemporary trends in international folklore research. Additionally the selected bibliography of articles, essays, and books by Linda Dégh which concludes the volume is particularly welcome as a key to her accomplishments as a scholar.


Reviewed by W. K. McNeil

Every few years, there is a flurry of interest in Ingrian laments. O. E. D. Europaeus called attention to the topic in 1853 and was largely responsible for the Finnish Literature Society drawing up a program for the collecting of "lamenting songs." Important works on the subject were published by Volmari Porkka in 1883, by J. Lukkarinen in 1909, by Martti Haavio in 1937, and by Lauri Honko in 1974. The latest evidence of interest in this much studied but still little-known folklore genre is pro-
vided by Aili Nenola-Kallio's *Studies in Ingrian Laments*. This book had its beginnings in 1970 when Nenola-Kallio served as Lauri Honko's assistant on a project to form a systematic text collection of Ingrian laments from archives and printed sources. The initial task has yet to be completed although the six hundred texts gathered for this purpose form the basis of the present collection of analytical articles.

The bulk of this book deals with wedding laments, not surprising since most texts gathered in Ingria are wedding laments. The five parts of the book consist of separate studies that are closely related in theme but the connection between them sometimes seems vague. Thus, it is possible to profitably read the section on shoeing laments without reference to the 180 pages preceding it. Such an approach has both advantages and disadvantages: Some material is repeated that might have been eliminated, but on the other hand when such repetition is done the author does, as she claims, generally increase the perspective. Nevertheless, the book would profit from a bit better unification.

By far the greatest number of pages are allotted to discussions of women's poetry and language and wedding laments. Special attention is given to the various contexts and functions of the wedding laments and one brief section offers a structural analysis of seventeen shoeing laments. This currently fashionable research technique has heretofore been used mainly in analyzing folk tales but, if it has any validity, it should be equally applicable to other genres. Nenola-Kallio certainly demonstrates that structural analysis does have its value but she reads far too much into her results. Such analysis does not, as the author claims, reveal what the shoeing lament was thought to mean. Most likely, as with any aspect of cultural tradition, many meanings are possible but structural analysis seems to suggest that items always have the same meaning. Structural methodology has basically the same flaws as the historic-geographic approach, the chief one being that it is a mechanical technique that ignores the human element.

One of the pleasing features of this volume is that the author avoids the jargon that is found in many studies by pro-structuralists. Moreover, her remarks concerning the structural analysis of shoeing laments notwithstanding,
she rarely overstates her case. She also provides a good discussion of the various forces bringing about change in the Ingrin lament tradition. In addition she points out some valuable directions future research on this subject might take, even bravely calling attention to certain failures and omissions in her own work. Finally, Nenola-Kallio does not succumb to what lesser scholars might find an irresistible temptation—namely, to make the study of this aspect of women's folklore a feminist diatribe. Certainly, from a contemporary liberal perspective there is much in the lament tradition that one might find objectionable but a scholarly monograph is not the proper channel for such remarks. In avoiding such folly, Nenola-Kallio does a great service for scholarship.


Reviewed by Janet C. Gilmore

More than merely representing one waterman's occupational experience, Barcat Skipper illustrates the way of life on Chesapeake Bay, specifically on Tangier Island near the eastern shore, at a time when fishing, fowl-hunting, and transportation and commerce by water were integral parts of daily existence. The nineteen stories presented, based mostly on the personal experience of waterman Elmer Crockett, span the first half of this century, and progress from Crockett's childhood fishing with his father, through his early manhood working alone and with his brothers, into his later years when he fished with his son. Roughly half of the stories are what one might call true fisherman's tales, detailing, as they do, experiences of fishing under exceptionally bad weather conditions, out-of-the-ordinary catches, the use of new or different kinds of fishing gear, a near brush with the law over illegal fishing, and a confrontation with a crabpot poacher. In these stories, Crockett additionally relates a wealth of information about daily and seasonal routines, proper fishing etiquette, and the use of a variety of fishing gear. He names and describes local sail-, oar-, and motor-powered fishing boat