

Charms, Charmers and Charming

A three-day international conference
at the Pécs Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pécs, Hungary
Friday 15th–Sunday 17th May, 2015

Organized by:

International Society for Folk Narrative Research – Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming
Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Pécs, Hungary

Supported by:

ERC project *Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions* (№ 324214)

Call for papers

We have the honour to invite you to our international conference on *Charms, Charmers and Charming* and would be honoured if you contributed to its success by sharing your research findings. The conference is the 8th event within the series organized by the *ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming*, in which European and American scholars met to exchange ideas from an interdisciplinary perspective.

“The ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming aims to encourage the study of verbal charms (known in other languages as *Segen*, *scongiuri*, *zagovory*, *loitsut*, etc.); the practice of charming, and the practitioners of charms and their clients.”¹ Conferences are organized by the Committee regularly (the first conference was held in London, 2003, and was followed by conferences in London 2005, Pécs 2007, Tartu 2008, Athens 2009, Bucharest 2010 and Vilnius 2013). The University of Pécs and the Academic Board of Pécs are pleased to host the 8th conference. As Pécs is situated close to the centre of the continent, we hope that the time and place we have chosen will be suitable for researchers from both East and West. We would be very happy to meet folklorists, anthropologists, medievalists, literary historians and historians of religion, researchers working in the fields of ethnopsychiatry and the history of medicine, as well as representatives from scholars working in Germanic, Slavic, Baltic, Byzantine, Balkan etc. studies. Through collaboration we would like to conduct a parallel examination of Eastern and Western European folklore from the Middle Ages to the present, and also to examine phenomena from Christian and non-Christian, elite and popular, literary and oral traditions.

We welcome proposals in the following areas:

- 1) Comparative and historical approaches to verbal charms at the boundaries of Eastern and Western Christianities
- 2) Charms as a genre: the genre's characteristics and borders; charms and related forms – prayers, divinations, curses, etc.
- 3) Micro-analysis of a particular charm-type
- 4) Charmers as workers at (and over) boundaries – ethnic, religious, linguistic, etc.

¹www.isfnr.org/files/committeecharms.html

Similarly to the conference in 2007, the conference will be held at the Pécs Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (PAB), over a period of three days; which means that the maximum number of the participants is about 40. In the event of our receiving more than 40 applications for oral presentation, we will have to select from the applications submitted. We also reserve the right to reject papers for thematic discrepancy or other reasons. At the same time there is no limit on the number of people who wish to attend the conference.

The language of the conference is English, although some papers may be given in French or German. The length of each paper must not exceed 20 minutes. We will ask you to send your full papers by April 30th at latest. If we get the papers, we shall send copies of the abstracts and lectures by e-mail for all participants before the conference; for the conference we will prepare paper copies of all papers.

Papers delivered at the conference will be published, according to plan, in a series, which has already proved successful: four volumes have been published already with the proceedings of the previous conferences.²

In the frame of our ERC project, we will be able to provide participants with food, while travel and accommodation costs will have to be covered individually. Accommodation for 3-4 nights will be around €100-150. We will be able to reimburse the travel costs and pay for the accommodation of 4-5 persons (committee members have priority).

If you wish to attend the conference, please submit your your abstract (200–500 words) together with details of your name, institution, position, address, phone and email to pocse@chello.hu by 30th October.

In our second circular in November, we will inform all applicants whether their application has been accepted or, possibly, rejected (for this decision we need an abstract of sufficient detail). At the same time, we will also be sending you information about travel, accommodation and other practical details.

Best regards,

Éva Pócs
professor emeritus
University of Pécs
Dept. of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology
H-7624 Pécs
Rókus u. 2.
Hungary

² Roper, J. (ed.): *Charms and Charming in Europe*. Hampshire–New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004; Roper, J. (ed.): *Charm, Charmers and Charming: International Research on Verbal Magic*. Hampshire–New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009; Mikhailova, T. – Roper, J. – Toporkov, A. L. – Nikolayev, D. S. (eds.): *Oral Chamrs in Structural and Comparative Light. Proceedings of the Conference of the ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming 27–29th October 2011, Moscow*. Moscow: Russian State University for the Humanities, 2012; Kapaló, J. A. – Pócs, É. – Ryan, W. (eds.): *The Power of Words. Studies on Charms and Charming in Europe*. Budapest: CEU Press, 2013.