

INTRODUCTION

The fifth issue of the journal *Incantatio* continues the publication of research articles on the broad scope of charms and charmers. This time the painstaking peer-review process selected five articles from the dozen submitted. The issue includes analyses of written charming tradition and investigates chromatic beliefs and the colour system of charms. The topography of investigations covers Baltic, Balto-Finnic, Finno-Ugric and Slavic traditions.

Toms Ķencis (Rīga, Latvia) introduces a rare written Latvian fever charm featuring maidens dancing on ice. The research follows the transformation of the motif which dates back to the first half of the first millennium AD and its transmission from Syria to the Western Slavonic regions and thence to Latvia.

Tatiana Agapkina (Moscow, Russia) analyses the interconnections between texts and rituals in the example of spells against worms in wounds. The article focusses on the symbolism of spells, their motives and language as formed at the intersection of a ritual, folklore imagery and speech.

Natalia Glukhova (Yoshkar-Ola, Mari) showcases the stylistic characteristics of Mari incantations known as *шӱведьме мут*. Among their expressive means and stylistic devices, Mari incantations are rich in syntactic and stylistic means and folklore tropes. The study is based on a collection of approximately 500 incantations from different sources.

Tatiana Panina (Izhevsk, Udmurtia) analyses the colour concepts and symbolism of Udmurt healing rituals and charms. The study outlines the folk classification of medical conditions based on colour characteristics.

Irina Vinokurova (Petrozavodsk, Karelia) uses 35 Vepsian incantations devoted to snakes (published sources, archival and field materials) to delineate the structure of snake words and outline the symbolic differentiation of snakes by colour.

The issue also presents some reviews of recent books and describes the charm conference organised by Eva Pocs in Hungary.

I am very grateful to all of the authors of the research articles. My thanks also go to the anonymous reviewers of the articles and to the editorial board of the journal for their support. Special thanks to Jonathan Roper for polite and patient linguistic corrections.

Mare Kõiva, Tartu

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