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### **Address to the European Centre for Traditional Culture, 1995**

Approaching the year 2000 isn't it a contradiction, to open a folklore center, to collect information and data on folklore and traditional activities? What can be the reason and at the same time, what can be the purpose of such an enterprise? We all know that we live in the age of globalization, when - via highly developed communication systems - some single event on a certain spot of our globe can be followed by almost the whole mankind simultaneously.

Yet if we could see those people watching that event, we would be astonished by the incredible variety of ways these people actually do the same act. Some would sit alone in a home for the elderly with children and grandchildren thousand kilometers away, while others would share the room with a three-generation family; some would sit on chairs, while some would kneel on rugs. Even in the age of ever-growing uniformity we live in various ways influenced or sometimes even determined by our traditions. And there is also a rather understandable tendency, that individuals and communities living the modern way of life wish to regain and revive certain traditions, can be considered as a nation *pro* improve their somewhat emptied command of life. Traditional customs and their knowledge contribute to the integrity of the personality and furthermore, to the integrity of the community. Folk tunes, dances, artistic patterns and images of different folklore traditions tell the ethnographer and folklorist about the exact region and geographical place of their origin, just as a good botanist would know the name and the habitat of a tree from a single leaf. But as that leaf to its mother tree did not mean only a designator, but rather its most essential part of existence, and renewal the same way those folk tunes, dances and artistic images attributed to the survival of committees and even nations for a long-long time.

By establishing a European Centre for Traditional Culture and by contributing to its activity in a modest way we wish to express our commitment to the preservation and understanding of folklore traditions as being highly appreciated and living part of our cultural heritage.