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#### LADISLAV LENG (1930-1973)

Slovak ethnomusicology, which has developed rapidly and admirably since the Second World War, has suffered a cruel loss in 1973 with the deaths of Ladislav Leng and Miroslav Filip. (Dr. Filip’s obituary will appear later.)

Leng Studied at the Advanced Pedagogical College in Bratislava, and never ceased to contribute to teacher education thereafter. He published two small books on how to play the *fujara*, for example, in 1960 and 1970, and recent articles in the Slovak journal on music education about the geographical division of Slovak folk music. He also wrote two very useful textbooks for teachers on Slovak folk music, published in 1957 and 1961. (See selective bibliography, below.)

In 1960 he joined the research staff of the Institute of Musicology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and in the same year a joint study on Slovak folk flutes (*píšť’aly*) appeared by Filip and Leng. The culminating work of his life, though no doubt only a preliminary version of what he intended to do later, was his book on Slovak folk musical instruments of 1967. A pioneer effort, it presents the state of research at the time it

was written. Technical advances in recording and analysis, especially of instrumental ensembles, have left some aspects of the book behind, but it does give an organized and well-illustrated survey of the instruments with musical transcriptions and a phonograph record, numerous indexes, and German and Russian resumés which include brief descriptions of every instrument keyed by number to the illustrations and music examples.

Leng also took part in two interesting collective publications on the variation techniques of the lead violinists in folk ensembles of East and Central Slovakia. His latest research paper, to our knowledge, is the first-rate study of one instrumental ensemble, of the gypsy Zubaj family of Východná, in the northcentral district of Liptovský Mikuláš. Information about the musicians is followed by discussion of repertory, and how it was recorded, musical analysis, nearly fifty pages of transcription (four parts), eight pages of tables summarizing data of the whole repertory, and seven pages of German resumé.

Ladislav Leng will also be remembered as a man of rare integrity and honesty. Our sympathy is expressed to our Slovak colleagues, whose loss is shared by all of us.

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