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A SYMPOSIUM ON EAST EUROPEAN ETHNOGRAPHY

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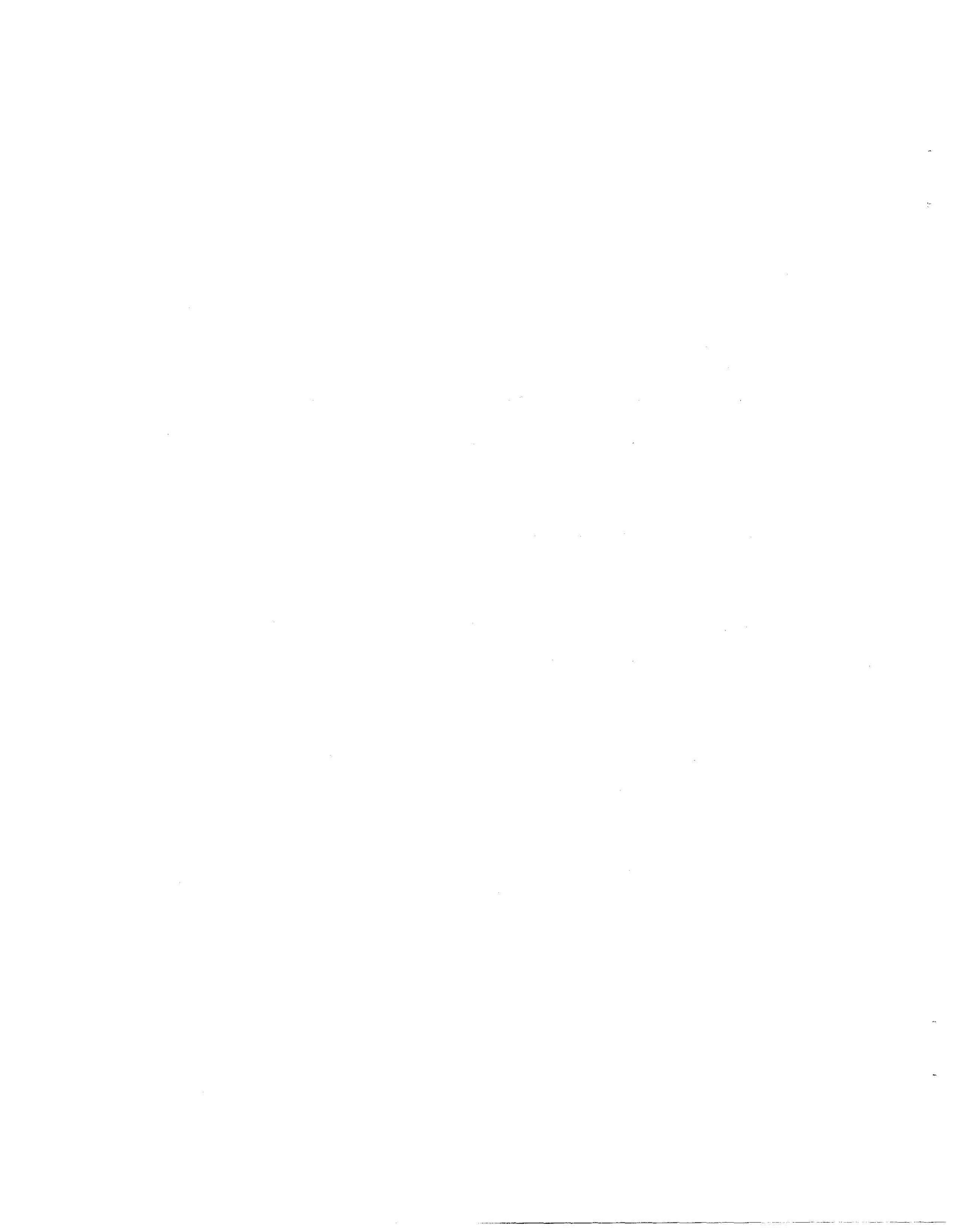
A SYMPOSIUM ON EAST EUROPEAN ETHNOGRAPHY

Edited by
Zdenek Salzmänn

University of Massachusetts
Amherst

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INTRODUCTION

Recent emphasis on the study of contemporary American society is an important and vital extension of an increasing trend for complex urban and industrial societies to be included within the anthropologist's concerns. Such concerns can take the form of two major endeavors. One is the encouragement of appropriate field work activities on the part of graduate students, and, whenever possible, the assumption of field research by the professional anthropologists themselves. The other is to keep abreast of the scholarly literature and activities of a particular geographic area or field of study and encourage discussions among interested members of the profession.

As far as Europe is concerned, the Department of Anthropology of the University of Massachusetts has begun moving vigorously in both directions. Thus, the recently created Field Program in European Studies in Anthropology, in association with the University's Atlantic Studies Institute at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg (German Federal Republic), is designed primarily to offer opportunities for graduate students to engage in ethnographic research in Germany and other European countries. The program makes provision for a field station manned on a year-round basis by one of the several members of the department whose interest is in European studies.

Further, plans are underway for our contacts with Europe to run in both directions, with distinguished European ethnographers

occasionally teaching courses at the University and, while in the United States, offering special lectures in other interested anthropology departments. The University of Massachusetts' Department of Anthropology Research Reports series may be expected to reflect in its future issues our increasing commitment to European studies.

Among other articles, the present issue contains three papers presented at the Symposium on Contemporary Cultural Anthropology in Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe, held during the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans in November 1969. The symposium was organized by Joel M. Halpern and Zdenek Salzman of the University of Massachusetts, and chaired by the latter in Halpern's absence from the United States. The three papers, by Maday, Riedl, and Skreija, deal respectively with current activities of cultural anthropologists in Hungary, German Democratic Republic, and Poland.

The excellent and highly informative paper by Demetri B. and Edith M. Shimkin, "Radiocarbon Dating in the Prehistory of the U.S.S.R.," also presented at the symposium, will be published elsewhere in order to be more readily accessible to archaeologists and prehistorians interested in data concerning the Old World.

The announced symposium paper by Joel M. Halpern and Eugene A. Hammel, "Ethnological Studies Pertaining to Yugoslavia in the Post-war Period: A Review of Yugoslav and Foreign Contributions," could not be delivered for technical reasons. In its place, Halpern is contributing to this collection a paper titled "A Brief

Survey of English Language Research on Yugoslav Cultural and Social Anthropology and Ethnology."

The symposium paper to have been presented at the New Orleans meeting by the editor of this issue, "Ethnography of Urban and Industrial Czechoslovakia," was replaced by a brief report on his recent field work in Czechoslovakia. Because of the extent of the final version of the report, it is being published separately in this series under the title A Contribution to the Study of Value Orientations Among the Czechs and Slovaks. For this issue of the Research Reports, the editor is contributing a portion of the survey on which his original symposium paper was to have been based. It is, in effect, an extensive review of two major Czech publications dealing with the ethnography of industrial regions.

With five papers devoted to contemporary ethnography in as many Eastern European countries, we hope to have at least partially fulfilled what we set out to accomplish when we first conceived the idea of the symposium.

Zdenek Salzmann
Editor

