

Prof. Dr. Ramazan H. Bogdani

THE 'ARBERESHE' OF ITALY

The paper work of Prof. Dr. Ramazan H. Bogdani "Research at Arbereshe of Italy and their wedding ritual (1990-2003)" was read out on the second edition of cultural activity "Brotherhood 2018" in Italy. It was organized by Center for Arbëreshe Traditional Studies, "Skander"-Foglio of Casalvecchio of Puglia Region of the invitation of Arbereshe Community of Italy.

As a result of thirteen years of hard work, during 1900-2003 research took place on 27 villages on five regions of Italy, gathering valuable data on Arbereshe. Alongside filming and photographs on the terrain endless conversations took place, reaping traditional phenomenon in general and ethnographical in particular. The content is scientifically disposed at the Archive of Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Art Studies, annex of the Academy of Albanological Studies in Tirana. It has also served as bases of my scientific publication consisting on twenty volumes. In Calabria and Sicily alone were recorded and filmed 119 songs, 48 dancing units, informative conversations, 150 proverbs, some fairytales, legends, and a few puzzles. Four film cartridges and some tapes recorded were developed.

This article intends to focus on developments on Casalvecchio village of Puglia, during the cultural activity: "Brotherhood 2018" where tens of folk groups performed Arbereshe songs and dances, improvising rites and ceremonies of Arbereshe wedding. They reached new highs by exposing more original and aesthetic values of domestic ferment folklore. Popular artists performed with elegance, emotion and cultural level, conveying those rites with spectacular means. Besides, they intended to purely preserve cultural authenticity of Arbereshe.