

## **Evaluation of collaboration with Mgr. Dagmar Váňová**

I selected Mgr. Dagmar Váňová in 2004 for scholarly collaboration on a grant project entitled “*Sacrum et profanum*” in the culture of traditional holidays (GAČR 404/05/0182, 2005-2007), initially for her specialized knowledge of languages. Thanks to her linguistic erudition, original research work and forthright communicative personality, the collaboration developed systematically and on a remarkably high level. Her contribution has been in the areas of: 1) translation, and 2) heuristics and interpretation.

Mgr. Dagmar Váňová translates specialized texts from Lithuanian, English and Hungarian, in all cases original scientific material in the field of ethnology – primary sources as well as theoretical works. The difficulty of the translations is attested on the one hand by the specific realia in the area of traditional cultures, and on the other by the frequent occurrence of archaisms and dialectisms in the foreign language texts. D. Váňová handles these issues actively through historical and etymological analyses as well as comparisons. Váňová’s translations of folkloric texts constitute a special contribution, respecting the semantic content as well as the structure and poetics of the original texts. She made use of this laborious method, for example, in her translations of Lithuanian carols into Czech, which can be considered the first and only of their kind in the Czech Republic.

Our collaboration thus far has demonstrated that Mgr. Dagmar Váňová is an extremely talented individual with not only a broad linguistic education, but also the skill of communication across disciplines. As an extraordinarily diligent and creative person, Mgr. Dagmar Váňová has strong prospects for collaborative scientific work as well as original independent authorship.

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(PhDr. Věra Frolcová, CSc.)  
Institute of Ethnology, Academy of Sciences of the  
Czech Republic