

Veneta Yankova

CUMAN RELICS IN CONTEMPORARY HUNGARY. ETHNOLOGICAL NOTES

*This paper specifies the problem of past and its part in building identities according to the case study from Hungarian Middle Ages history and its reflection on the present. It is well known that the today's inhabitants of the Greater Cumania/Nagykunság and Little Cumania/Kiskunság regions in Hungary are related by their origin and tradition to the cumans – vanished nomadic people. I trace two lineages: the first – the collective memory for the nomadic past, preserved within regional culture and the second – the memory carried in words. Particular attention is paid to the processes of interaction between group memory and historical memory, “longue durée” and historicity as well as – to the inventing nature of tradition.*