

Traditional Youth Communities and Initiation

Vasyl G. Balushok

(Summary)

Boys and girls from preindustrial Ukrainian villages united in self-governing youth associations divided into boys' and girls' communities. The main goals of these associations were: organizing the youth entertainment, preparing the young people for a marriage, holding ceremonial events. Members of the youth associations had a special social status, "mis-behaviour" was common in their entertainment in the meaning of breaking the norms of behaviour. In order to become a member a person had to pass through an initiation ritual accompanied by different types of probation. In Galychyna there was a special type of initiation – initiation into the haymaker's association.