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**Key words:** symbol, message, vegetal, green bough, magical stick

### **The Green Bough – Symbolic Values Abstract**

**This study is an attempt to re-visit the role of the symbol at the level of the receiving of messages that the world around us is sending. We started from the idea according to which the symbol has the power to maintain the relation between the horizontal and the vertical levels. Through symbol, the visible and the invisible, the perceptible and the imperceptible are reunited.**

**All elements around us have a symbolic load, starting from vestments, jewelry that women wear, objects made of ceramics, dance, baptizing children, anniversaries, the wedding, the funeral, the path to the eternal life. The most important thing, though, for the understanding of the particular way in which the traditional man sees himself within the surrounding reality, and what's more, the reality that he perceives as just existent, is to see that a symbol can never work on its own, the role of the context, seen as a structure, is powerful, and the relations between symbols themselves have a special value.**

**We will bring to your attention two rituals that are still very often to be met with in Maramures, and that use as a very powerful symbol the symbol of the green bough. We are speaking about the ritual known under the name of Armindeni, and the custom which demands the placing of an ornamented green bough on top of the house when the roof is finished. These two rituals, as researchers know, are part of a long series of rituals that are alike: St. George's Day, The Palm Sunday, The Pentecost, St. John the Baptist's Day, and Sorcova (New Year caroling).**

**The green bough that appears in the two ritualistic contexts is full of meaning and value, especially because it plays a mediating role between man and nature, between man and Cosmos. Therefore, it is not only a mere object, it becomes a means of communications between the two worlds. We come to analyze a ritualistic object that bears an important symbolic mark.**