

Komsala at that time. The informants were the *zurnacies* Nazir Ramadanov (probably a son of the mentioned Ramadan Aliev), Asan Asanov Kovachev and Mustafa Saliev Sharachiev, as well as the *tapancies* Ruzhe Tefikov Mustafov and Mustafa Mustafov Kubalishteliev [АИИ БАН, Папка 265/№4757].

In the early 1990s one of the old *zurnaices*, the son of Ramadan Aliev, Alish Ramadanov Aliev (born in Hadzhidimovo in the mid-1920s) was still playing with the *zurnaci* Sali Ahmedov Zurnadzheiv (the son of Ahmed Zurnadzheiv) and the *tapanci* Mustafa Kubalishtaliev. We listened to and interviewed them during our field research in 1992. In 2001 the old maestri still playing were the brothers *zurnacies* Mustafa (Michail) and Akif (Ivan) Salievi Sarachevi and the *tapancies* Mustafa Mahmud and Shukri Sejranov (Rumen Sarandev). According to young musicians a great maestro of their generation is The Bayramche, who is presently living and playing in Plovdiv. They also say that good *tapancies* of the older generation are Mustafa Nijaz (Muty) and the Rushka (Ruzhe Mustafov), who does not play anymore. They mention the names and nicknames of younger *zurnacies*: Rumen, Johnny, and Nedim and of *tapancies*: Tarikato (the Dodger) and Shocka (The Shock) who are now active.

There used to be *zurnacies* in the villages surrounding Gotse Delchev in Dabnitsa, Hadzhidimovo, Hvostyane, Debren, Garmen, Dolno Dryanovo, Kornitsa.

Today there are three *zurnacies* in the village of Dabnitsa. The oldest is Feim Eminov Demirov (The Chitak). He was born in Dolno Dryanovo and acquired the craft in Dabnitsa. His teachers used to be the *zurnacies* Salievi of Dabnitsa: the Old Aliko – “the maestro of all” and his brother Asan. They got the *zurnacilik* from their father Sali. Yusein Kovachev and Dzhamal (Gosheto) play with Feim Eminov.

There are two *zurnaci* bands in Debren – the one of Yusuf Limanov and his sons, and the one of Ibro Limanov and his sons. The more popular band is Yusuf’s one. Yusuf Bayramov Limanov does not come from a clan of musicians. He learnt the *zurnacilik* from his cousin Asan Demirov “who used to be the first musician at that time in Debren”. The other teacher of Yusuf is Feim Eminov from Dabnitsa who is his brother-in-law. Yusuf has trained his sons who are playing with him: Yusuf – a maestro, Ismail – *chirak* and Valeri and Manol – *tapancies*. Yusuf (the father) used to play with amateur folk ensembles and participated in international festivals in Belgium, Holland, Latvia and Yugoslavia.

Yusuf’s son, Yusuf Yusufov Limanov, lives in Garmen. He plays both in the family band of Debren and with Feim Eminov from Dabnitsa. He was the *zurnaci*-maestro of his family band when the folk singers Nikolina Chakardakova and Esil Djuran made the recordings of their albums. They have also played at many concerts and TV shows.

There is a recent tradition of *zurnacies* in the *Pomak* village of Tuhovitsa. Ahmed Dzhemalov (Dzheri) and Mustafa (Tseko) used to play the *pishtyalka* (a primitive pipe) and accordion. After 1989 they learnt to play the *zurna* and are now playing in a band with the *tapanci* Dzhamal serving the feasts of the Bulgarian Muslims from the villages around theirs. In 2001 they participated in the folk festival *Pirin pee* with the folk band of Tuhovishta.

### ***The region of Razlog***

The town of Razlog is the centre of Razlog Zurnaci School. There is a smaller number of *zurnacies* in the town of Belitsa and the village of Eleshnitsa.

The contemporary players remember famous maestri from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.