

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Slovenian Heritage*. Volume I. Edited by Edward Gobetz, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Kent State University, with the assistance of Milena Gobetz and Ruth Lakner. Willoughby Hills, OH, 1980. 642 pp.

This book represents the result of twenty years of gathering data on Slovenes and persons of Slovene descent throughout the world by the "Slovenian Research Center of America, Inc.", and one of the very few works, published in English, on this subject.

The volume consists of five parts: I. Basic Facts About Slovenia and Slovenes; II. Selected Slovenian Contributions; III. Slovenian Language and Literature; IV. These Our People: Selected Reminiscences and Portraits; and V. A Photographic Panorama. Part One contains three articles by E. Gobetz and one by B. Novak; Part Two: three articles by E. Gobetz, one by Edward and Milena Gobetz, one by S. Putnam; Part Three: besides six reprinted items, one article by Milena Gobetz, one by E. Gobetz and A. Zupancic, and one by Viola Malakar; and Part Four: six portraits of known and successful Slovenes in the world, a missionary, a miner, a musician, an American Marine, a businessman, and a sculptor, written by a number of contributors. Part Five, pp. 471-617, contains 146 pages of black-and-white photographic material on Slovenia and Slovenian Americans, selected and captioned by Edward Gobetz.

In general, the individual textual contributions in *Slovenian Heritage* I, are of widely disparate and unequal value. From a scholarly point of view, the texts range from the well researched and carefully documented chapter on Slovenes in Italy by Bogdan Novak, and the broadly popularizing fragment of an essay on language by the late Anthony J. Klančar and Joža Glonar, to a number of rather loosely written chapters on "Slovenia and Slovenians," and lists of "Slovenian Americans," and "Slovenian Contributions," by Edward Gobetz. From a historian's point of view the superficial and incomplete information on the history of Slovenia and the Slovenes immediately before and after World War II, the absence of any information about the resistance movement among Carinthian Slovenes during World War II, and the conspicuous dearth of information about Slovene American organizations such as Fraternal Benefit Societies in America, are objectionable; the events of World War II in Slovenia in one paragraph are insufficiently described, to say the least. The chapter on "Slovenian Americans" is interesting but distant

from any scholarly methodology or a modern sociological treatment of socio-ethnic groups in modern multiethnic societies. The author of these chapters certainly does not deal with Slovene Americans as a sociologist. His approach is such as it was in the fifties, i.e., he emphasizes great individuals but does not analyze Slovene Americans as a group. From a sociologist we would surely expect an analysis of statistical data on geographic distribution and its changes within the past 70 years, as well as an analysis of available demographic and occupational data. The chapter on "Slovenian Americans" is deficient also in its lack of any scholarly apparatus for the data presented in discussion, as well as for the materials reprinted in the volume.

There is quite a lot of information on individuals of Slovene background who have succeeded in American life. According to the author, the first Slovene immigrants to the United States were two Jesuit missionaries, Baron Ivan Ratkay (of Slovene-Croatian origin?) and Mark Anton Kappus who came to the New World in 17th century. Bishop Baraga and his successors in the Great Lakes Region are described in great detail. Much more interesting new material, now published for the first time from the archives of the "Slovenian Research Center of America, Inc.," is represented in long rosters of individuals of Slovene extraction in America who have excelled in one or the other professions of modern life—at least five admirals in the U.S. Navy, at least five American generals (among them we miss George Kraigher, however), hundreds of inventors, industrialists, aviators and scientists, winners of beauty contests, athletes and coaches. Particularly interesting is E. Gobetz's treatment of two "Men at the Top" in "Selected Slovenian Contributions" (Part Two in the volume), the German and Austrian chancellors Georg Leo von Caprivi (1831-1899) and Dr. Kurt von Schuschnig (1897-1977). The argument used in the discussion of these two cases—as in many other cases of Slovene ancestry—is, of course, genealogical and linguistic-etymological. In the opinion of this writer, however, it is of no importance and consequence whatsoever whether Caprivi, who was German chancellor from 1890 to 1894, and Schuschnig, who was the last chancellor of the first Austrian republic, might have been of very, very distant "Slovenian" descent. Even if so, what then? Can we treat hundreds and hundreds of such cases still as a part of a "Slovenian heritage"? This seems to be the question with which we are left after turning the last page of this interesting and thought provoking publication.

An additional note: The original materials on Slovene emigration have been deposited at the "Slovenian Research Center of America, Inc.," situated at the author's home in Willoughby Hills, OH. These materials were given to the editor by numerous Slovene immigrants to the USA and elsewhere. We do hope that these archival materials will

also be available to other researchers and not only to close friends, which would also be in accordance with the understanding of those who donated them to the Center. This would, of course, make the task of research on the history of American Slovenes much easier and would contribute greatly to the interests of researchers from Slovenia as well as the United States.

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Mirko Javornik. *Pero in čas II*. Trieste, Washington, Buenos Aires: Založba Tabor, 2nd printing, 1981. 529 pp. \$17.00.

Readers of *Slovene Studies* and others interested in Slovene literature and culture will enjoy this book by Mirko Javornik. *Pero in čas* represents a collection of the author's writings spanning a period of fifty years, from 1927 to 1977. Mr. Javornik is a man of broad experiences and education. Born in Slovenia in 1909, he obtained his schooling there. At an early age he took up the profession of free-lance writer, travelling widely throughout Europe and the Near East and writing fiction and non-fiction alike. After the war he lived and worked in Italy, finally settling in the USA in 1960, where he worked, *inter alia*, as a translator and interpreter.

*Pero in čas II* is drawn from Mr. Javornik's extensive experiences. The book is divided into seven parts. Part I deals with the relationship between writer and art and contains, among others, an interesting article on the twentieth anniversary of the death of Ivan Cankar. In Part II the author recalls his youth in Slovenia, reflecting on the land and its people. Part II contains a number of stories from the writer's travels around the world, touching on places as far distant as Jerusalem and Cape Canaveral. The core of Mirko Javornik's volume lies in Part IV, a collection of his stories, one play and a translation from Rilke. The next two sections are journalistic in nature and range over a broad number of topics from Spain to André Gide, from Francè Prešeren to the Slovene language. Finally, Part VII consists of reviews, commentaries, a poem and the author's bibliography.

*Pero in čas II* has something for everyone. The writer has a style which ranges from serious to humorus, often sardonic, and his Slovene language is always a pleasure to read.

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