

Ashe, the tutor and life-long friend of Jonathan Swift. Ashe wrote, "I have begun a Correspondence with the Baron Valvasor, who is a fellow of the Society and formerly communicated the Description of the Lake of Czirnicitz, which is printed in the Transactions, he Complains that having writt Several Letters three or four Years agoe to Dr. Gale and others he could procure no Answer." By this time, of course, *Die Ehre des Herzogtums Krain* had been published, a fact of which Ashe notified the Society in the same letter.

A growing interest in Valvasor's exploits coincided with the two-hundredth anniversary of his death and led to the appearance of Peter von Radics's comprehensive biography *Johann Weikhard Freiherr von Valvasor (geb. 1641, gest. 1693)* (Laibach/Ljubljana, 1910). This was recently complemented by Branko Reisp's *Kranjski polihistor Janez Vajkard Valvasor* (Ljubljana, 1983); and now Professor Reisp has further illuminated Valvasor's life by publishing this correspondence in the series *Korespondence pomembnih Slovencev*. It is surprising that Reisp feels it necessary to adduce special grounds for including Valvasor in the series (p. 17). This arises from his opinion that "Valvasor was not Slovene by birth" (p. 15). The criteria, it is true, are uncertain, but there are surely grounds for saying that Valvasor *was* Slovene, not just "in the figurative sense" (*ibid.*). He was born in Ljubljana and there is ample evidence that he spoke Slovene (mainly in *Die Ehre des Herzogtums Krain*, but also in these letters now published.) He often uses the phrase "in patria mea" with reference to Carniola or, even more specifically, "in patria mea, scilicet in Carniola." Reisp himself draws attention to the following sentence in the description of Lake Cerknica: "Hic lacus antiquis erat authoribus Lugea palus, modernis Lacus Lugeus, hodiernis vero Latinis lacus est Cirknicensis, Germanis vero Zircknizer See, et nobis Carniolis est Zirknisko<sup>1</sup> jeser" ["To the ancient authors this lake was Lugea palus, to recent authors it was Lacus Lugeus, but to Latinists today it is Lacus Cirknicensis, to the German Zircknizer See, and to us Carniolans it is Cerknško jezero"]. Even more persuasive is the following from the letter dated 5 March 1686: "Habemus animalia certa, quae vocantur germanice bilch et in lingua nostra carniolica pouche . . ." ["We have certain animals which in German are called Bilch and in our Carniolan language polhi . . ."], i.e., dormice. Finally, Valvasor's Latin is capable of betraying his Slovene thoughts, as in "qui mihi solus narravit" ["who told me himself": "who alone told me" would not make sense] in his letter of 15 April 1686. A German-speaker, unless influenced by a Slavic language (where the morpheme *sam* has both meanings), would not confuse Latin *solus* and *ipse*, as he would not confuse *alein* and *selbst* in his German.

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#### NOTE

1. *Zirknisko* is spelled with a "long s" in the original.

Slodnjak, Anton & Janko Kos. *Pisma Matija Čopa. I - II*. Ljubljana: Slovenska Akademija Znanosti in Umetnosti, 1986. [= SAZU, Razred za filološke in literarne vede, Korespondence pomembnih Slovencev 6/I, 6/II]. (Volume I = *Pisma Matija Čopa*; Volume II = *Literatura Slovencev*. Ed. and transl. Anton Slodnjak; introduction and annotations by Janko Kos). Pp. 364 + 181.

Matija Čop (1797-1835), a close friend and aesthetic mentor to Francè Prešeren (1800-49), has finally received his due from Slovene literary historians: a model edition of his complete letters, prepared by two authorities specializing in Prešeren, his poetry and his



time: Anton Slodnjak and Janko Kos. These two volumes present, in the original and in translation, the inclusive collection of Čop's letters, and a translation of one of the two manuscripts of his "Literatur der Winden [The literature of the Slovenes]". They comprise the major part of Čop's writings: there are only two others of his original texts that were not included here, having been published earlier: *Nuovo Discacciamento di lettere inutili*, "Das ist: Slowenischer ABC-Krieg. Eine Beilage zum Illyr. Blatt (Laibach 1833), and the manuscript of unpublished reviews of John Bowring, *Wybor Poezyi Polskiej, Specimens of the Polish Poets; with notes and observations of the literature of Poland* (1827) and Feliński, *Chefs-d'oeuvre du Théâtre Polonais* (1823).

The cultural prestige and influence that Čop possessed and radiated into Slovene society of his time are of course incommensurable with the modest bundle of notes and letters left to us after his premature death (at age 38 he drowned, presumably from a stroke, while swimming in the Sava). Educated in Ljubljana and the University of Vienna, where he studied classical philology, he was for a few years a high school teacher at a Gymnasium in Reka/Rijeka/Fiume; from 1822 to 1827 he was a lecturer at a Gymnasium and the University in Lwów/L'viv/Lemberg; and after 1827 he lived in Ljubljana, where he also worked as librarian in the Lyceum. He was an aesthete, highly sensitive to the art and beauty of contemporary romanticism; a student and a connoisseur of Dante and Petrarch and of the Italian, Spanish and Portuguese renaissance and baroque literature; and an adherent of the Schlegel brothers' teaching on the role of language in the evolution of societies, a believer in the poetic prestige of literary languages in which the romantic age saw the highest dignity of a language belonging to a cultivated society. This was the essence and substance of his influence on Prešeren; this must have been the atmosphere of his conversations with his associates and friends in Ljubljana; this is the subject of his correspondence with his colleagues and acquaintances, friends and adversaries.

There are 71 letters written by Čop, preserved in the original and in drafts, included in the first of these volumes. As Kos argues in his introduction, and as could be inferred from a concordance of the letters, this is no more than *half*, or even less, of what we would expect to find in his total correspondence. Among them are several exchanges that are relevant for understanding the development of the resolution of the language question of Modern Slovene at the beginning of the 19th century. The correspondence includes: 10 letters to Jernej Kopitar (1778-1844); 12 to Pavel Jozef Šafárik (1795-1861);\* 13 letters and two drafts of letters to his friend Franz Leopold Savio (1801-47) in Gorica/Gorizia and Venice; two to Prešeren; one to Stanko Vraz (1810-51); one to František Čelakovský (1799-1852); one to František Palacký (1789-1876); 6 to January B. Skarżyński, Čop's student in Lwów; and, last but not least, 5 fragments and drafts of his letters of Moses Mossington, son of the English timber merchant in Reka in whose family Čop tutored the children French and German, and brother of the Mary Mossington whose hand, at some point before his departure for Lwów, Čop asked in marriage. By far the most important part of Čop's published correspondence are his letters to Savio and to Skarżyński. This correspondence—which is mostly from 1828-35, the period when he was intensively engaged in the discussion of Slovene literary and cultural problems and in the preparation of his *Slowenischer ABC-Krieg*, for a final confrontation with Jernej Kopitar—is a unique documentation of his literary horizon, his experience in and knowledge of the German, Italian, English, French, and also the Polish and Russian classicists and romantics of his time.

The second of these volumes offers a translation into Slovene of one of the copies of "Literatur der Winden," a manuscript that he sent to Šafárik with a letter in June 1831. As



is well known, he prepared this text at Šafárik's request, for a second edition of the latter's *Geschichte der slawischen Sprache und Literatur in allen Mundarten* which had appeared in Buda in 1826; the text, edited by Šafárik, appeared only after his death, in Josef Jireček's *Geschichte der südslawischen Literatur. Aus dessen handschriftlichen Nachlasse herausgegeben. . . I. Slowenisches und glagolitisches Schrifthum* (Prague: Tempsky, 1864). The Slodnjak-Kos edition of the translated text is based on this copy of Čop's manuscript, preserved in Prague, which also contains remarks and notes made by Jernej Kopitar. There also exists a second copy of the manuscript, a kind of "working copy," which Čop used after 1831 for his own additions and corrections; this is now in the Lenigrad State University Library. It is unfortunate that Slodnjak, in his preparation of this volume, was not able to collate both versions of the manuscript.

The two volume set reviewed here, which (as we are told in the preface) was conceived, compiled, edited and translated by the late Anton Slodnjak, was finally brought to completion by Janko Kos, his successor at the University of Ljubljana; Kos also wrote the introduction to both volumes, and the annotations to individual letters. The commentaries, and the bibliographic references to names, places and events are accurate and thorough; this reviewer only found one missing set of birth-and-death dates, those of January Skarżyński's. Both volumes are furnished with an index of personal names, and with a summary in English; Volume I also contains a synoptic summary of Čop's correspondence and of the references to authors and their works in the annotations; but there is no "Bibliographic references" section, and no list of the abbreviations used in the annotations. Also, there is no scholarly apparatus for the second volume, i.e., the text of the "Literatur der Winden;" this is a pity.

These minor quibbles do not however in the least detract from the importance of the publication of these two volumes. Their appearance is a remarkable tribute to Čop, to Prešeren, and to Slovene letters; and it is a valuable archival contribution to a better understanding of a most critical point in the history of the Slovene nation.

*Post scriptum:* it is regrettable that the annotations to six of Čop's English letters in this collection (numbers 6, 7, 11, 13 and 16, to Moses Mossington; 10, to Charles Hill), each with the phrase "Še neobjavljeno," seem to suggest that they are now being published for the first time. Only ten years ago Gerald Stone of Oxford University published the entire correspondence between Čop and his English friends: Mossington to Čop (8 letters) and Čop to Mossington (drafts of 4 letters); Hill to Čop (3 letters) and Čop to Hill (draft of one letter); Edward Smallwood to Čop (one letter); and the text of the certificate of Čop's proficiency in English, signed by John Leard, His Britannic Majesty's Consul in Fiume, — all, excepting the certificate, part of MS 489 in the Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica in Ljubljana. See Gerald C. Stone, "Matija Čop's correspondence with English friends," 24-55 in R.L. Lencek, ed., *Papers in Slovene Studies 1976* (New York NY: Society for Slovene Studies, 1977); and cf. Janez Stanonik, "Ameriška slovenistika," *Slavistična revija* 27 (1979) 296-98.

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#### NOTE:

- \* Pavel Josef Šafárik signed himself "Paul Joseph Schaffarik" and also "Šafařík;" we use the form accepted today in international bibliography, Šafárik.