

BOOK REVIEWS

Franc Kos, *Izbrano delo*, ed. by Bogo Grafenauer. Ljubljana: Slovenska matica, 1982. 372 pp.

Franc Kos (1853-1924) is the most renowned among a small group of the first professional historians who began, a hundred years ago, the struggle against the romantic presentation of Slovene history where fictitious fables and outright fabrications were mixed with true historical events. Instead, professional historians began to write Slovene history which was based on the written sources and a critical analysis of past events. Hence, early in his scientific career Kos realized that professional historians would be successful against the romantic dilettanti only if the written sources were available to them. This is also why he dedicated most of his professional work to the collection of medieval sources. During his lifetime Kos published four volumes of sources entitled *Gradivo za zgodovino Slovencev v srednjem veku* (Materials for the History of Slovenes in the Middle Ages), between 1902 and 1920. The fifth volume was edited by his son Milko Kos who also prepared the indexes for the last volume. The sources in *Gradivo* covering the period from 501 until 1246 are Franc Kos's most important contribution to Slovene history.

In addition, the research and the articles of Franc Kos encompass many other subjects which can be divided into three major fields: early Slovene history; the history of Škofja-Loka and its environments—the place where he was born; and the history of the city of Gorica (Görz)—where he spent most of his professional career. The present book, Franc Kos, *Izbrano delo* represents a selection of Kos's most important articles from the above three fields. The selection was made by Bogo Grafenauer, the best qualified Slovene historian for this task. As the publishing company limited the number of pages, Grafenauer tried to include such works as would best illustrate the evolution of Kos's research and his historical achievements. The result, *Izbrano delo*, is divided into three parts: the first deals with Slovene history until 900, the second part contains a selection from the other two fields with some addenda, the last includes three book reviews.

The first part is the longest and takes up two-thirds of the book. It contains the articles Grafenauer selected from the material that Kos had prepared for his book "History of Slovenes Until 900" and which should have been published by Slovenska matica before World War I. After Kos had submitted parts of his manuscript, the Matica turned it down on the grounds that the work had been too scientifically written for its readers. In his introduction Grafenauer observes that Slovenska matica is now repaying its moral debt to Franc Kos by publishing his *Izbrano delo*. The selected articles from this material dealing with early Slovene history cover the period from the rule of the Ostrogoths in the beginning of the sixth century to the death of Emperor Arnulf in 899, and give special attention to the territory of Eastern Alps. In the framework of this period the following topics are discussed: the activities of the bishops of Oglej (Aquileia) and Gradež (Grado) in the beginning of the Middle Ages; when the Slovenes came to the Eastern Alps; when the sources mention Slovenes for the first time; the struggle between the Christian and pagan Slovenes in the eighth century; Slovenes during the reign of Charlemagne; the Slovene-Croat uprising under the

leadership of Ljudevit; the division of Slovene lands by the Frankish rulers during the ninth century and how the power struggle among the Franks, Bulgars, Byzantium, the Papacy and the Patriarchs of Aquileia influenced the Slovene lands; and the rule of Pribina and Kocelj in Lower Pannonia and the mission of St. Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius in Lower Pannonia in the second part of the ninth century. The last article of this first part describes the importance of King and later Emperor Arnulf for Carantania and its inhabitants, with which he had close ties.

The second part of *Izbrano delo* includes a selection from different articles published by Kos. They encompass the coming of the Magyars into the present-day homeland; historical notes about Carniola; the personal names of the ancient Slovenes; the meaning of the terms "mansus" and "hoba"; the Lutheran Reformation among the Slovenes; the historical notes about the district of Škofja-Loka; the excerpts from the state archives in Vienna regarding the city of Celje and the Counts of Celje; and the excerpts from the same state archives regarding the city of Gorica (Görz) and its castle. The last part of the book includes two book reviews (S. Rutar *Zgodovina Tolminskega*; and J. Ciperle, *Kulturne slike s Kranjskega*) and a report about a Slovene matrimonial contract concluded in Čedad (Cividale) in 1288.

At the end of *Izbrano delo* Grafenauer as the editor describes in a concise form the entire environment of Slovene historiography as in existence prior to the 1880's so that the importance of the first professional historians, and specifically the work of Franc Kos, can be better understood. He also points out that under romantic influences the enthusiastic dilettanti tried to depict a glorious past for the Slovenes which did not correspond with the truth, and because of it they created many false myths. The first true historians had to struggle hard to destroy these fictitious facts. One such misconception was, for example, the dilettanti's assertion that the Slovenes were the autochthonous inhabitants of their present homeland. With his article "When the Slovenes Came to the Present-day Homeland" Kos turned against the above myth and proved it false with the use of written sources. Although Kos was very careful in his research he nevertheless made some mistakes. Some of them Kos corrected himself, others were corrected by his followers. In the first case Kos, for example, stated earlier that the Lombards came to Pannonia in 527, but later corrected himself and gave the right year as 546 in his *Gradivo* (vol. I, p.30). The example for the second case has to do with the question of when the Slovenes came to the present-day homeland. Kos calculated a time between 568 and 595. 568 was the year the Lombards moved from Pannonia to Italy, and 595 the year the sources for the first time mentioned Slovenes on the occasion when the Bavarian Duke Tassilo attacked the Slavic province (*Sclaborum provinciam*) in the upper Drava valley. Later L. Hauptmann and B. Grafenauer corrected Kos's calculation by pointing out that the first Slavs came to the Eastern Alps from the north—and not from the southeast— by crossing the Danube River about 500 and then, during the following three decades, expanded along the Mura (Mur) and Murica (Mürz) rivers into the interior of the Eastern Alps. Grafenauer also ascertained that the "Mosaburg" was not Kos's Blatograd in Carinthia but rather Blatenski Kastelj (Keszthely) on the western shores of the Lake Balaton (Blatno jezero) in Hungary. All similar corrections are noted in separate "Remarks" at the end of the book by Grafenauer, where he refers the reader to the pertinent studies. A short explanation, rather than bibliographical data would have benefited the general reader as well as the historian, the more so as some of the cited literature is very difficult to

obtain. Also, an index would without doubt have enhanced the book. But evidently all these were omitted to keep the number of pages down.

Franc Kos's *Izbrano delo* is an important contribution not only for the specialists but also for the uninitiated lover of Slovene history. It best illustrates how the first Slovene historians built—stone by stone, fact by fact—the structure of Slovene history as we know it today. It was a work of love which brought no monetary gain to Franc Kos or to any other pioneer historian, but instead was a monetary burden for them. As there were no public libraries or archives available they had to buy for themselves almost all the printed sources and secondary literature. One would only wish that the historians in Slovenia would be granted enough money so they could also reprint Kos's most important work, the five volumes of the *Gradivo za zgodovino Slovencev v srednjem veku* which are today a great rarity but still an important tool for any historian of Slovene medieval history.

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Aleksander Jeločnik and Peter Kos, *Zakladna najdba Čentur-C. Foliki Maksencija in tetrarhije*. (The Čentur-C Hoard. Folles of Maxentius and of the Tetrarchy.) (*Situla* 23.) Ljubljana, 1983. 93 pp, 18 plates. \$6.00

In 1938 a huge hoard of early fourth century folles was discovered in the vicinity of Čentur, near Koper, Yugoslavia. Published properly and well illustrated, this so-called Čentur-C hoard complements the Čentur-A hoard of 5032 folles of Maxentius and the Tetrarchy published a decade ago (A. Jeločnik, *Čenturska zakladna najdba folisov Maksencija in tetrarhije* (*Situla* 12, Ljubljana, 1973). Because of the magnitude of the hoards and their time of deposit, they furnish valuable insight into both the history and political machinations of the period as well as the working of the *officinae* and the distribution of their coinage.

The Čentur-C hoard currently consists of 2276 folles (an unknown number and type were dispersed shortly after being found). It contains only folles after Diocletian's monetary reform of A.D. 294. As would be expected, coins of Maxentius' mints predominate (85.35% of the total), with those of Aquileia, the mint nearest to the place of discovery, accounting for the largest share (55.31% of the entire hoard). In contrast, the Čentur-A hoard percentages were 97.08% and 64.36% respectively, indicating the two hoards are indeed to be treated separately.

These hoards are important for many reasons and deserve to be better known. From a geo-historical perspective, their location is indicative of the importance of the Čentur plateau for control of the Istrian peninsula and hence the Pola and Parentium seaports. With the movement of Licinius' army through Hrušica (Ad Pirum) toward Aquileia on his route to Italy, holding the seaports would have been essential for the success of the military operations. Conversely, failure to occupy the ports would have allowed the ruler of Italy to ferry his forces by way of these ports and come up the backside of the army of the conqueror of northern Italy.