

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Papers on Slovene Topics

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference, Boston MA, November 20-24, 1987.

Thomas M. Barker (State University of New York at Albany), "Social Revolutionaries and Secret Agents: The Carinthian Slovene Partisans and Britain's Special Operations Executive."

The first part of the paper dealt with sources, both secondary and primary, and stressed the availability of much new documentary evidence in Britain's Public Record Office. The author then sketched the proletarian social character and psycholinguistic dynamics of the partisan movement. He also discussed the relative efficacy of the Nazi counterinsurgency effort and the partisans' geographic liabilities. The Slovene high command, for its part, regarded Carinthia as a kind of sideshow until the last month of the war. To the extent that they were successful, the partisans were dependent upon the material assistance of Britain's supersecret Special Operations Executive which vainly hoped to use Carinthia as a springboard for fomenting subversion in both Austria and all of East Central Europe. However, the conflict between British strategic objectives and the socio-political and annexationist aims of the Communist-dominated Slovene guerrillas was irreconcilable and foreshadowed the hostility of the immediate post-war period. The speaker also noted the failure of the Yugoslav military lunge at the end of the war and the fact that the only major engagement between the partisans and their foes, at Ferlach-Borovlje on May 11-12, 1945, occurred after the armistice and resulted in a partisan defeat. The fighting, which represented only a modest contribution to the Allied effort, was a manifestation of three kinds of armed conflict: civil, revolutionary, and international.

Olga Nedeljković (University of Illinois at Chicago), "Genetic, Structural and Cultural Typology of the South Slavic Languages."

The author's intention is to show that not only the South Slavic standard languages, but the total multiplicity of languages, has to be analyzed by non-genetic methods. The non-linguistic domains of culture and ideology have shaped the formation of the South Slavic idioms into their modern standard forms. The structures of the South Slavic languages have been compared from the synchronic point of view without regard to historical implications. Such an analysis is rather arbitrary; that is, it will lead to different results depending on the criteria utilized and the usefulness of comparing two genetically related languages, especially if the structural features under investigation occurred in historically independent instances and cannot convey any concrete connections between the two languages being compared. One finds, for example, the supine and dual forms in Slovene and tries to compare them with the same forms in Old Church Slavonic with which Slovene was not directly connected. However, the supine and dual forms in Slovene may be fully explained by a synchronic approach which attempts to give historic meaning to various linguistic phenomena. This synchronic approach with ultimate diachronic motivation requires the inclusion of the cultural-historical interpretation of linguistic facts and represents a definite gain in the analytic penetration of any linguistic structure. The latter is a complex construction which combines linguistic and extralinguistic elements. The cultural typology only can ensure a correct interpretation and explanation of similar or differing linguistic structures within a broader ideological-historical context.

Carole Rogel (Ohio State University), "The Making of a Yugoslav Marxist: Edvard Kardelj."

A prominent statesman in Socialist Yugoslavia, Edvard Kardelj (1910-79) was probably the leading ideologist of Tito's regime. This paper deals with Kardelj's youth as an apprentice Marxist, during years he spent largely in Slovenia (1926-34) and before the Yugoslav Communist Party sent him to Moscow for training at the Marxist-Leninist School. Kardelj as a sixteen year old was activated by liberal left students, among them other Slovenes who would figure prominently among the leadership of the post-World War II government. In the early 1930s Kardelj, in and out of prison, wrote with revolutionary conviction, about events in Europe and about the problems of "Slovenism" so intently debated at the time by the literati of Ljubljana. This paper follows Kardelj's development as a Marxist intellectual as it appears in his publications in *Književnost*, *Sodobnost*, *Proleter*, and in the children's book he wrote featuring the Marxist view of history. The paper highlights, in particular, the well-known confrontation between Kardelj and Josip Vidmar, liberal spokesman for Slovene cultural integrity. It contends that Kardelj by the age of twenty-four had learned his Marxism well, largely at home, by sparring with the Slovene intelligentsia.