

contributes lively narratives on dialects and folk etymology (1: 57-61), and on Slovene words for the concept 'forest' (1/2: 152-156); Milan Butina considers plasticity as a category of language and its possible role in art (1/2: 184-187); Miran Hladnik offers a definition of the *kmečka povest* (1/2: 134-146) as an example of an entry in the Club's planned literary dictionary; and Boža Krakar-Vogel reviews the connection between literary theory and the development of teaching methods and materials for the schools (1/2: 163-173).

The different fonts and systems of annotation may disturb some readers, but they are part of *Slava*'s slightly anarchic character. The contents and the redesigned cover for number 2/1 confirm this judgment. The journal has established a new place among Slovene scholarly publications, and its contributors will hopefully continue and strengthen their endeavor.

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*Slava. Debatni list. Občasni organ Debatnega krožka . . . Vukova Slava*, posebna številka [October 1987]; 2/1 (1987-88) [December 1987].

The October 1987 issue of *Slava* is devoted not only to the bicentennial of the birth of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, but also to the eighty-fifth birthday of Janko Jurančič, doyen of Slovene Slavists. All the contributions in this issue are by the instructors and students of the Slavic Department's Serbo-Croatian Division. Thus, for instance, among others Janko Rotar contributed the essay "Slovene Writers' Attitudes toward the Štokavian Dialect and the Neo-Štokavian Literary Standard;" Alojz Jembrih, "Vuk's Share in Matija Valjavec's Work and in Works by some Illyrian Grammarians" (in Serbo-Croatian); Vladimir Osolnik, "Vuk and the Slovenes;" and Vesna Požgaj-Hadži, "Vuk in Slovene Elementary and Middle School Readers, Formerly and Now" (also in Serbo-Croatian).

The December 1987 issue of *Slava* is—as the acrostic of its versified dedication spells out: "BREDA POGORELEC GRE ČAS IN SLAVA"—dedicated to Dr. Pogorelec, Professor of the Slovene Literary Language at the Filozofska Fakulteta in Ljubljana. Among the best contributions here are, in particular, essays by Janez Dular, "Two Orthographic Solos;" Alojz Jembrih, "The Love of My Mother Tongue;" Tine Kuret, "Number in Slovene Literature;" and those by Boža Krakar-Vogel, Albinca Lipovec, Marjeta Lubej, Vlado Nartnik, Božena Ostromecka-Fraczak, and Tone Pretnar.

Rado Lencek, Columbia University.

Miran Hladnik and Toussaint Hočevar, *Slovene for Travelers/Slovenščina za popotnike: Conversational Phrases, Cultural Information, Travel Tips*. Ljubljana: Center za ekonomsko in turistično propagando pri Gospodarski zbornici Slovenije, 1988. 150 pp.

This review will deal with three aspects regarding *Slovene for Travelers*: the tourist information it contains; language questions; and general matters such as appearance and durability.

As promised by the subtitle, this book provides excellent tourist and cultural information on a wide variety of topics, including: how the telephone works, modes of transportation, which Slovene wines go with which foods, specifics on what kinds of stores sell what kinds of goods, and the availability and accessibility of cultural and recreational activities. All of these areas can hold unpleasant surprises for the uninformed, novice North American traveler. The major, and many minor, sightseeing and tourist spots are covered. (No mention is made, however, of the excellent brandy of Pleterje which is bottled with a real, ripe pear inside). Addresses for obtaining further information on a variety of subjects are also provided.

As all non-native speakers (proficient or otherwise) of Slovene are aware, learning even the rudimentary essentials of the language can be a most excruciating experience. Even though Slovene is genetically related to English, there is so little surface similarity between the two that, for the average monolingual speaker of English, there might just as well be none.

The most obvious problems are with the verb and the noun, in that Slovene has three numbers, six cases and three genders. Properly formulating even a three-word sentence can be a mind-boggling experience for the beginner. The authors of this book have done an admirable job of avoiding grammatical complexity in the sentences needed by the first-time traveler in Slovenia.

There are however matters that can be troublesome and misleading. One of the worst is the confusion (in the section "Slovene Alphabet and Pronunciation," 11-12) of the sounds represented by the Slovene letter *e*: for example, the vowel /ɛ/ in Slovene *teta* is equated with that in English *fat*, when in fact it should have been matched with the vowel in English *bed*—which is already, however, mismatched with another Slovene vowel, viz., /e/. Fortunately, audio cassette tapes are available, with very clear voices and good enunciation, which recite the text in the book.

Since no effort is made to explain the declensional system, the beginning learner will undoubtedly get confused by the way vocabulary lists are presented. Most noun lists are given in the nominative (the normal case used as the entry in a dictionary). Some are however given in the accusative, especially when introduced by such English phrases as *You can order... , enjoy... , I would like... .* While these frames help the speaker produce correct grammatical forms in the given instances, the transference of this vocabulary to other situations is hindered: most feminine nouns learned in these frames, e.g., *joto, obaro, torto, kremno rezino, kavico, hrenovko* (all on p. 65), will look and sound like neuters.

The book is well laid out, with fairly representative symbols in the corners of the pages to help locate different subjects. This reviewer found, however, that after limited use in a natural tourist setting, many of the pages came loose. Also, the typography is mediocre: many of the lines of text have unsightly extra white space within them, some of the lines are not straight, the English hyphenation is frequently incorrect, and there are not proper opening English quotation marks.

All things considered, though, the book represents a good and useful first edition, which we hope will be revised and reissued soon.

David Stermole, Toronto.