

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Papers Presented at SSS Panels

"Topics in Slovene Literature," The American Association for the advancement of Slavic Studies, October 13, 1978, Columbus, OH.

Chair: Helen M. Lencek, Reed College.

Rado L. Lencek, *Columbia University*, "The Language Revolution in Slovene Romantic Poetry"

The narrower topic of Professor Lencek's paper was the Kopitar-Čop-Prešeren controversy on the language question. Discussing both aspects of the linguistic revolution in the history of Slovene society in the beginning of the 19th century--the formation of a written Slovene landsmaal, and the creation of its refined poetic language--the speaker in particular stressed the function of the latter in the incipient evolution of urban society in the Slovene lands.

Professor Lencek approached this subject from the vantage point of modern sociolinguistics. He discussed first the inherent functions, communicative and poetic, of a literary standard; and, second, its social roles, viz., the unifying, the separatist, and the prestige functions which a literary standard performs in a society. These last, essentially symbolic functions, must have been activated and, as the speaker argued, were in fact acting already in the essentially non-urban society of the Slovene lands at the time.

The Kopitar-Čop-Prešeren controversy on the language question involved the problem of the communicative and poetic functions of a grammatically normalized Slovene (J. Kopitar), and the full range of existential sociolinguistic problems a written idiom faces at the moment it begins to evolve into a tool of communication for an urban culture. The particular and the specific in this discussion was Čop-Prešeren's concern with the prestige function of a poetic language, in which the Romantic age saw the highest dignity of a language belonging to a cultivated society. It is this action which a pragmatic, practical-minded Kopitar was unable to comprehend.

Henry R. Cooper, Jr., Northwestern University, "Prešeren's Erotic Poetry"

Before examining the erotic elements in the poetry of Francè Prešeren, Professor Cooper reviewed the erotic biography of the poet, in an attempt to understand what role the erotic played in his life. While making note of the numerous erotic interests Prešeren evinced in women, Cooper pointed out that the poet seemed to have experienced actually very little erotic contact (as far as it is known), that what there was gave him more grief than pleasure, and that an early childhood experience may have had a greater impact on his adult erotic life than has heretofore been suspected.

As for Prešeren's erotic poetry per se, it is limited to those genres--the lyric songs, ballads, and romances--which are structurally simpler than his sonnets and ghasels. Despite the fact that these latter genres in other poets usually contain highly erotic material, in Prešeren their motifs are chaste and restrained. Only in ballads like Povodni mož and Ribič is more overt erotic expression to be found. Moreover, wherever Prešeren does write on erotic themes, his works depict eroticism in a consistent way: that it involves excess and can be deadly to the lovers. He also often manages to insert an oblique reference to himself in these poems. Cooper concluded that, while Prešeren's erotic poetry is perhaps too delicate to bear the weight of too many interpretations, it nonetheless hints at an erotic outlook in the poet that was both unsure of itself and deeply troubled.

Marija A. I. Ozbalt, McGill University, "Ivan Cankar and Morley Callaghan: A Study in Contrastive Parallelism"

Dr. Ozbalt's paper explored a novel kind of literary parallelism, between two writers who, separated in space, time, and linguistic environment, and completely unknown to one another, display some striking similarities in biography as well as literary activity. The first half of her paper was devoted to an exposition of the biographical parallels between Callaghan and Cankar in terms of family, home life, career, attitudes toward women, literary output and style, religious beliefs, political views, and Weltanschauung.

In the second half, Ozbalt moved to an analysis of the ten types of "social misfits" she has identified in both

writers' works: weak fathers, suffering mothers, unfulfilled wives, prostitutes, nuns, lesbians, priests, migrants, "seekers after justice," and "criminal-saints." Working from two quite similar passages depicting the procession of these misfits from this imperfect world to a better one, she concluded that neither author has ever been able to claim great popularity in his homeland, yet that each in his own way has spoken to a similar audience, in similar terms, about the universal nature and causes of human suffering.

"The Minorities of Central Europe: The Case of Carinthia," American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Columbus, OH, October 15, 1978.

Chair: Metod M. Milac, Syracuse University.

Discussant: Stephan M. Horak, Eastern Illinois University.

Rudolf P. Cuješ, St. Francis Xavier University, "Minorities: Methodological Questions in Relation fo the Slovenes of Carinthia"

Cuješ analyzed some of the conditions under which the Slovene minority in Austria lives today, as he looked at the historical events which led to the present situation. He discussed the relationship of Carinthian Slovenes to the Austrian state, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia. He emphasized the unequal treatment accorded to the Slovene population by Austrian educational institutions and administrative organizations. He pointed out the pressures put on Slovenes in bilingual schools, public places, and public enterprises. He emphasized the Carinthian Slovenes' constant struggle to retain a positive self-image. He concluded with a caveat on the difficulty of conducting research in the problems of Slovene minorities.

Thomas M. Barker, SUNY, Albany, "The Carinthian Slovene Question in the Light of Recent German Austrian Scholarship"

Barker's paper, an adaptation of the Appendix from The Slovene Minority of Carinthia (Thomas M. Barker in collaboration with Andreas Moritsch, to be published late in 1979 by the Columbia University Press), reviewed contributions of Austro-German scholars of the past two decades to the study of the Slovenes in Austria. He surveyed the theses, thoughts, philosophies, and interpretations of such authors as Wilhelm

Neumann and Claudia Kromer, who limit their investigations to the events of 1918-1920; Theodor Veiter and his views on the legal protection of minorities and "a people's right to its native land"; and other recent publications of Hanns Haas and Karl Stuhlpfarrer, among them Österreich und seine Slowenen (Vienna, 1977). After a further brief analysis of works by Holzinger, Traar, and Reiterer, Barker concluded with a discussion of Wilfred Daim's theory of three socio-psychological modes.

Andreas Moritsch, University of Vienna, "History Teaching in Austria and Carinthia: A Slovene Perspective"

Moritsch's paper, translated for the AAASS Conference by Renate H. V. and Thomas M. Barker, was presented originally in Klagenfurt-Celovec at the Teachers' Seminar (High School for Slovenes) in May 1978. In it he indicated a number of deficiencies in the teaching of history in Austrian schools and suggested revisions which might prompt a new interest in historical studies, help develop political consciousness in students, and provide them with sound social judgment.

Aware of the special difficulties facing teachers and students in working with a prescribed history curriculum at the High School for Slovenes in Klagenfurt-Celovec, Moritsch outlined his ideas for a new History of the Slovenes for the period after 1918, emphasizing the history of Carinthian Slovenes. To achieve objectivity he suggested for the preparation of this work close cooperation between Slovene- and German-speaking Austrian scholars, as well as the students and faculty of the Institute for Contemporary History of the University of Vienna.

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Future Conferences and Meetings

May 4-6, 1979. The Midwestern American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One panel sponsored by the SSS, entitled "Topics in Slovene Poetry", is under the chairmanship of Professor Henry R. Cooper, Jr. (Northwestern University). The papers scheduled for presentation are:

Rado L. Lencek (Columbia University), "On the Poetic Tradition of a Small Nation"

Dr. Marija A. I. Ozbalt (PSC Language Training Centre, Montreal), "The Poetry of Ivan Cankar"

Tomaž Šalamun, with Anselm Hollo, "Modern Slovene Poetry"

It is also planned that Mr. Šalamun will give a reading of his own poetry at an evening session of the conference.

September 23-24, 1979. Jan Baudouin de Courtenay and Linguistic Contacts in the Eastern Alpine Area. A Conference Dedicated to the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Jan Baudouin de Courtenay (1845-1929), Prato di Resia (Val Resia, Udine, Italy). Sponsored by the Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia University in the City of New York, and the Società Filologica Friulana, Udine (Italy). Contact: Rado L. Lencek, IECE, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

October 10-13, 1979. The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies will meet in New Haven, Connecticut. On the program are three panels sponsored by the SSS and devoted to Slovene topics. They are:

SLOVENE IMMIGRATION IN THE USA

Chairperson: Bogdan C. Novak (The University of Toledo)
Papers: "Immigration of Slovenes in the State of Colorado." Joseph Velikonja (University of Washington)

"Slovenes in Pennsylvania: Some Socio-linguistic Observations." Joseph Paternost (Penn State University)

"Slovene Immigrant History 1900-1950." Mary Molek (Dover, Delaware)

Discussant: Arthur J. Vidich (New School for Social Research, NY)

TOPICS IN SLOVENE PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

Chairperson: Carole Rogel (Ohio State University)

- Papers: "Philosophical Contributions of Anton Erber (1695-1746) - a Slovene 18th Century Scholastic." Ivan Boh (Ohio State University)
- "Old Slovene Literature." Henry R. Cooper, Jr. (Northwestern University)
- "The Motif of the Unwed Mother in Slovene Literature." Irma Ozbal (PSC Language Training Centre, Montreal)
- Discussants: Rudolf P. Cujes (St. Francis Xavier University)
Frank F. Bukvic (Fairfield University)

TOPICS IN SLOVENE LINGUISTICS

- Chairperson: William Derbyshire (Rutgers University)
- Papers: "Some Peculiarities of the Verbal Aspect in Slovene." Herbert Galton (The University of Kansas)
- "Problems in the History of the Accentuation of a-Stem Nouns in Slovene." Ruth Golush (Harvard University)
- "Analogy in the History of Slovene Accentology." Lew R. Micklesen (University of Washington)
- "On the Treatment of Enclitics in Carinthian Slovene." David F. Stermole (Toronto, Canada)
- Discussant: Rado L. Lencek (Columbia University)

A slide presentation is also planned by Theodore Buila (Southern Illinois University), "An Evening in a Slovene Village."

May 1980. A conference is being organized to commemorate the two-hundredth birthday of Jernej Kopitar (1780-1844). It will be held at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago in conjunction with the University of Chicago's