

BOOK REVIEWS

Slovensko ljudsko izročilo. Pregled etnologije Slovencev.
Prepared by Angelos Baš. Ljubljana: Cankarjeva
založba, 1980. 281 pp., Introduction, Biblio-
graphic Notes, Index.

Printed on high quality paper and containing many superb photographs, this large-format volume presents an overview of traditional aspects of Slovene life. The subtitle, "A Survey of Slovene Ethnology," reflects the understanding of ethnology (or ethnography) as the term is used in Yugoslavia, i.e., it includes most of those subjects which are encompassed by the English "folklore." Intended not for the specialist but for the educated public, this book examines a large number of topics: agriculture, animal husbandry, beekeeping, costumes, customs and rituals, dance, dwellings, music, theater, and several others. Each section treats its subject in compact, yet informative prose accompanied by photographs and drawings illustrating different types of ploughs, yokes, looms, masks, methods of sewing, harvesting and transporting grain crops, raising livestock, wine-making, customs at birth, marriage and death, songs and dances, etc.

Among the contributors to this volume are many of the most respected folklore scholars in Slovenia, including besides the editor, Zmaga Kumer, Niko Kuret, Vilko Novak, Helena Ložar-Podlogar, Mirko Ramovš, and Marija Stanonik. Finally, though it might seem that such a book would be of relatively little interest to the scholar, the quality of the photographs, the succinctness of the presentations, and the references provided for each section make it a valuable handbook for a teacher of Slavic folklore. Furthermore, it should be said that many of the forms of traditional Slovene culture discussed and illustrated here are similar to aspects of life in other parts of Yugoslavia, and especially inland Croatia. The printing was set at 10,000 copies, and it should be possible for libraries and interested specialists in Yugoslav folklore to obtain a copy for their collections.

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