

Five New Publications concerning Problems
of Slovene Literature

- (1) France Kidrič, *Izbrani spisi* (Darko Dolinar, editor), Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 1978 (Razred za filološke in literarne vede, dela 35/I-III; Inštitut za slovensko literaturo in literarne vede, 8/I-III); 3 volumes, 332 + 276 + 368 pp.
- (2) France Bernik, *Problemi slovenske književnosti*, Ljubljana: Državna založba Slovenije, 1980; 592 pp.
- (3) *Obdobje razsvetljenstva v slovenskem jeziku, književnosti in kulturi: Tipološka problematika ob jugoslovanskem in širšem evropskem kontekstu* (Boris Paternu, with Breda Pogorelec [language] and Jože Koruza [literature and culture], editors), Ljubljana: Znanstveni inštitut Filozofske fakultete, Univerza Edvarda Kardelja, 1980 (Obdobja, 1); 454 pp.
- (4) *Starejše slovensko slovstvo: Od brižinskih spomenikov do Linhartovega Matička* (Jože Pogačnik, editor), Maribor: Založba Obzorja, 1980 (Iz slovenske kulturne zakladnice, 22); 528 pp.
- (5) *Na zeleni strehi vetra/Auf dem grünen Dach des Windes: Sodobna slovenska lirika/Slowenische Lyrik der Gegenwart* (Boris Paternu [selection and introduction]; Rudolf Neuhäuser, Klaus Detlef Olof, Boris Paternu [editors]), Klagenfurt: Verlag Johannes Heyn, 1980; 254 pp.

The compact and fertile field which is the study of Slovene literature has been, like a beloved garden, carefully tended by generations of literary scholars. The fruits of their long-standing attention are to be found in the anthologies, compilations, annotated editions, translations, articles and monographs which assist each new reader in appreciating more fully what he has in hand. Very much in this tradition are the five works dealt with below: they comprise the most recent addition to the Slovene critical corpus, and should prove invaluable to the student of Slovene letters.

(1) For those seeking factual information about Slovene literary history from Primož Trubar to Francè Prešeren, no more useful collection could have been produced than the Selected Writings of France Kidrič (1880-1950). In three large volumes the editor Darko Dolinar has assembled fifty of Kidrič's less accessible but still extremely useful articles on the history of Slovene letters arranged by period (volume 1: The Reformation and Counter-Reformation; volume 2: The National Renaissance, first and second parts; volume 3: Prešeren), as well as nineteen pieces of critical, polemical or general literary interest (in the second half of volume 3). These have been furnished not only with Kidrič's original annotations, standardized here from the various formats he used, but also expanded thanks to the editor's own extensive notes. Each volume is also equipped with a name index; the first volume has a five-page introduction on Kidrič's place in the history of Slovene literary criticism; and the third contains a bibliography of Kidrič's publications (p. 344 "Books," pp. 344-51 "Publications in Journals and Collections," p. 351 "Contributions to Lexicons and Encyclopaedias," and pp. 351-2 "The Slovene Biographical Lexicon"). Though some criticize him for his "positivism" and "factography," nonetheless in the area in which he worked, that is, the history of literature, his articles often give the feel and texture of an era, which are the essential concomitants to any further critical appreciation of a writer and his work. For that reason especially Kidrič's many contributions will always be fresh, a fact to which these three volumes bear weighty witness.

(2) An elegant book indeed, Problems of Slovene Literature is a collection of thirty articles by France Bernik, twenty-seven concerning thematic issues in writers from Prešeren to Alojz Gradnik and later, and three on the theory of literature. First, the volume, which contains pieces published in the late 1960's and throughout the 1970's, is elegant in its format, one of those rare books it is a pleasure to hold in one's hand and read. Second, it is elegant in its style: the dust jacket calls Bernik's language komunikativen but it is far more than that. Bernik writes a lucid Slovene which keeps clear even his most complex ideas. But the greatest elegance resides in the ideas themselves, which derive from Bernik's close examination of the literary text as both a linguistic and artistic document. This approach, which opens new vistas

for Slovene literary criticism beyond the sociological, philosophical or merely rhetorical, into a sophisticated but not extreme structuralism, promises much for the future. In Bernik's well produced, well written volume it offers us riches already.

(3) The first of what one hopes will be a long series of volumes (the second has just appeared), Obdobja 1 contains a total of twenty-three articles on res slovenicae (and two on res serbocroaticae) from the period of the Enlightenment (approximately the late 1760's to the late 1820's): nine are on literary topics, eleven on linguistic and five on "cultural" (music, art, ethnology, history and pedagogy). The proceedings of a symposium on the Slovene Enlightenment organized by Ljubljana University Professor Boris Paternu with the assistance of his colleagues Professors Breda Pogorelec and Jože Koruza, which took place on June 28-30, 1979, the volume is in the "camera-ready copy" format, but very clearly produced. Each article is preceded by a short (ca. ten line) summary in English and followed by a longer résumé. This is in Slovene if the article is not: nineteen are, however, the rest being in Serbo-Croatian--4, German--1 and Polish--1.

The symposium's subtitle, as well as the plan for all future symposiums, according to Paternu's brief afterward, points to a uniform approach for all the contributions: they deal not only with a specific period in Slovene cultural history, but focus on "typological issues" (tipološka problematika), as well, in the Yugoslav and broader European context. Specifically typological in the volume at hand are the first three papers, which serve as an introduction to the volume: Koruza's "Konstituiranje slovenske posvetne književnosti in njenih žanrov," Janko Kos, "Tipološke značilnosti slovenskega razsvetljenstva v evropskem kontekstu," and Paternu's "Problemi literarnostilne diferenciacije v slovenski književnosti razsvetljenstva." Also typological is the interesting contrast elaborated by Maria Bobrownicka of Cracow between the Enlightenment in Slovenia and Poland. The linguistic contributions, on the other hand and with one or two exceptions (notably Hanna Orzechowska's "Typologiczny aspekt postulatów slawizacyjnych B. Kopitara"), offer more heterogeneous treatments of Slovene enlightenment phenomena, particularly in the fields of versification (Tone Pretnar, "Oblikovanje verzne norme v

slovenskem razsvetljenstvu," Miroslav Kravar, "Klasična metrika u slovenskom pjesništvu, I: Kvantitativni pokušaji") and stylistic norms (Martina Orožen, "Uradovalna slovenščina v drugi polovici 18. stoletja" with reproductions of old texts; Janez Dular, "O jeziku prvega slovenskega časnika"). The contributions in the general field of culture, all beyond my competence to judge, also seem somewhat eclectic in approach. This is not to criticize them, but rather to indicate that under the umbrella term "typological" a rich and varied body of material has been assembled. These contributions are worth the attention of those interested in the Enlightenment in Slovenia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. Professor Paternu and his colleagues are to be heartily congratulated for their excellent project so well begun.

(4) Jože Pogačnik's anthology of Older Slovene Literature (from the Freising Fragments of the tenth century to Anton Tomaž Linhart at the end of the eighteenth) is divided into a very long (pp. 9-90) and detailed introduction on early literary creativity in the Slovene speech area from the arrival of the Slavs on, and the texts themselves. These are in three major groupings: literary texts (subdivided into poetry, prose and drama); folk literature (poetry and prose); and, a most valuable but often neglected category, foreign language literature (Latin, German, Italian and Hungarian) originating in the Slovene lands. These last are translated into modern Slovene. All the original texts are, on the other hand, linguistically and stylistically in their ancient form, except that certain modern spelling features have been introduced to facilitate reading (diacritics for the old digraphs, punctuation). Notes are added at the end of the book, giving the sources of the texts and explaining obscure words. Last but not least, for they are a nice touch, a number of colored plates has been included in the volume, depicting scenes from old Slovene churches. Though the author claims no literary-critical "pretensions" for his work, but rather directs it to the general reader who does not have academic needs, it strikes me that any literary scholar would be well served by this volume, for it presents clearly and in one place all the high points of early Slovene literature, excellently introduced and sensibly arranged. Other books may have more details (and Pogačnik cites these in his afterword), but none has the range or synthesis that Older Slovene Literature offers.

(5) The fruit of happy collaboration between one University of Ljubljana professor, Boris Paternu, and two professors from the University of Klagenfurt, Rudolf Neuhäuser and Klaus Detlef Olof, On the Green Roof of the Wind is an anthology of postwar Slovene lyric poetry. The Slovene texts on the even-numbered pages are faced with accurate, inventive German translations on the odd-numbered pages. At the end of the volume are: a bilingual essay by Paternu on the modern Slovene lyric, bilingual biographies of all the poets represented in the volume, and a bibliography of their works and translations into various languages, not only German. The volume, which was handsomely produced in Klagenfurt, promises to be the first of a series of bilingual publications of Slovene literature.

The selection of poets, by Paternu, seems to include the most important names (they total twenty-four). The number of texts per poet ranges from one to half-a-dozen; again the selection seems to have focused on the most outstanding works (though sometimes just an excerpt of these works). Happily those Slovenes living in Austria and Italy were not forgotten; several selections demonstrate clearly that they are an integral part of the central tradition and in no way émigré writers. Finally the essay on contemporary Slovene poetry, also Paternu's, focuses on the history and role of poetry in postwar Slovene society; grouping poets together by generations, Paternu discusses the characteristics of their works with insight and grace. For those who seek a clear, balanced and complete picture of the state of the poetic art in Slovenia, this book will certainly suit them admirably.

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R. G. A. de Bray, *Guide to the South Slavonic Languages*
 (= *Guide to the Slavonic Languages, Third Edition,*
Revised and Expanded, Part I). Columbus, OH:
 Slavica Publishers, 1980. \$24.95

O. De Bray's Guide is now 29 years old. When I reviewed the second edition (Priestly 1973), I regretfully concluded that "our 'old friend' has now tried to turn over