

arguments and make the poet's achievements stand out in the reader's mind. Cooper utilizes the secondary sources copiously, integrating them well into the body of his study. The selected bibliography and index complete the overall picture of the poet.

The result of all these efforts is a skillfully written and expertly analyzed portrait of the greatest Slovene bard that is a pleasure to read. Cooper presents him without gushing idolation yet giving him his due as a poet "of great refinement and keen insight," finding his appeal primarily in the sounds of Slovene, in the purity, simplicity, and elegance of his vocabulary, and in the delicate but driving rhythm of his poems. At the same time, the author emphasizes time and again that Prešeren is unjustly little known abroad, a neglect that reveals him as both "the champion and victim of his language." The fact that he comes from a "small" literature should not relegate him to perpetual oblivion, however. With more expertly, and better publicized, translations and with critical studies such as this, Prešeren should eventually take the place he has at home—as a national bard comparable to Shakespeare, Goethe, Pushkin, Mickiewicz or Njegoš.

The only shortcoming I could find in this study is its brevity, but given the nature of the Twayne series that could not be avoided. And perhaps it is better that way because one should learn to crawl before walking. I could not think of a better introduction to Prešeren than this brief study. Both the author and the publisher should be commended for this highly satisfactory endeavor.

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Jože Toporišič and Velemir Gjurin, editors. *Slovenska zvrstna besedila*. Ljubljana: Seminar slovenskega jezika, literature in kulture, Katedre za slovenski jezik in književnost, Filozofska fakulteta, Univerza Edvarda Kardelja, 1981. 637 pp.

Instructors of graduate classes in Slovene take note: you now have a complete (perhaps, even, a perfect) collection of Slovene textual materials of all kinds. Whatever approach to exemplifying the language you wish to take, this book will provide you with what you need.

The first half of the book (9-321, "Funkcijskozvrstna besedila,") has four subdivisions: 1. "Praktičnosporazumevalna besedila," with examples of conversations, correspondence, advertisements, T.V. and radio schedules, recipes, etc.; 2. "Strokovna besedila,"—extracts from



specialized texts on e.g. ornithology, plumbing, geography, law, computer language, physics, literature, art, linguistics, medicine; 3. "Publicisticna besedila,"—all kinds of journalistic writing; and 4. "Umetnostna besedila,"—prose extracts from 21 authors (Levstik, 1858 to Rožanc, 1980), drama extracts from 14 authors (Cankar, 1910 to Jesih, 1978), 9 folksongs, and more than 80 poems (Prešeren, 1831 to Svetina, 1977).

The second section covers sociolinguistic and geographical variation ("Socialnozvrstna besedila," 323-384). The literary standard, 'General Conversational Slovene,' variants of 'Conversational Slovene' from Ljubljana, Maribor, etc., and 33 dialects are all represented. These are followed by several examples of "sleng" (e.g., "Ajmsori, draga, mam en strejndž občutek, da te motm. . ."), "žargon," and "argo" (including three examples of play-languages).

The third section ("Časozvrstna besedila," 385-566), takes care of the chronological axis of variation from the Freising Fragments through Cankar. This section features photo-reproductions of each original, with transliterations and transcriptions provided for all the pre-sixteenth-century texts, and, in some cases, later ones also: more transliterations would have been helpful, since some of the mss. as reproduced (e.g., Hipolit's Dictionary of 1711, Kumerdej's of 1787-98) are far from easy to read.

The title of the last section (567-623) is "Stilizirana besedila." This is a grab-bag of stylistic oddments and linguistic eccentricities: satires, parodies, macronics, glossomania, and so on. Much is far from serious: the compilers have, apparently, along with Holofernes and Sir Nathaniel in *Love's Labour's Lost*, "been at a great feast of languages and stolen the scraps." Some, however, is valuable, and all is entertaining.

It is clearly difficult to fault Toporišič and Gjurin on grounds of omission: there can be few styles or varieties of Slovene that are not represented here. Whether their categorization of the various varieties is always judicious, is another matter; but languages vary on so many different (intersecting) dimensions, and each continuum of variation can be segmented in so many ways, that satisfaction with respect to classification can never be guaranteed. The compilers are to be congratulated on bringing together so many examples, not just of Slovene, but of "Slovene," in one (rather heavy) volume.

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