

Marija Makarovič, *Strojna in Strojanci. Narodopisna podoba koroške hribovske vasi*. Ljubljana: Založba Mladinske knjige, 1982. 557 pp.

Makarovič spent the years 1976-1980 conducting field research in Strojna (near the Austro-Yugoslav border), and presents a fascinating picture of the maintenance of traditional patterns of life and their transformation since the beginning of the present century. She first gives a brief survey of previously published sources concerning the region, and then she proceeds to describe the villagers' social structure, family relationships, their dwellings, work habits, foods, personal hygiene, outlook on life, religious views and other beliefs.

Her study contains a wealth of detail, yet is quite readable. Many of her findings in Strojna parallel developments elsewhere in Slovenia; thus the book will have a broader appeal than it would if it were simply a narrow ethnographic examination of one village. For example, she treats family celebrations (engagements, weddings, births and funerals); village social life (dances, *veselice*, games, etc.); practices such as *vedeževanje* (fortune-telling); and the use of "magic" in everyday agricultural occupations.

The material presented is well-documented, and it is supplemented by numerous photographs illustrating labor, e.g., ploughing, sowing, and harvesting; architecture, with accompanying diagrams of houses and other buildings to show space utilization; and views of the landscape. There are also abundant statistics concerning the individual families, their interpersonal relationships, and their beliefs. In addition, there is a 110 item bibliography which should provide sources for those especially interested in this region and/or the continuation and alteration of traditional practices in other rural Slovenian communities. To summarize, this book is a welcome contribution to the study of both traditional and present-day Slovene life and culture in Carinthia and elsewhere.

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Rado Radešček, *Slovenske ljudske vraže*. Izdalo in založilo CZP Kmečki glas. Ljubljana 1984. Ilustracije in naslovnica: Marko Derganc. Predgovor: Ingrid Slavec. 367 pp.

Radešček, a working journalist, admits in his Introduction that he has made no attempt at a scientific treatment of Slovene popular superstition; nevertheless, he has compiled a generous portion of examples of folk belief: lucky and unlucky days of the week, the month, and the year; holidays (all the major church holidays, including saints' days); superstitions concerning human phenomena: physical sensations, pregnancy, children, marriage and funeral customs; interpretations of dreams; beliefs about animals, the "heavenly bodies," the weather, and farming; and magic divination (*vedeževanje*), village healers (*čarovnice*), effects of the evil eye (*urok*) and how to cure them by magic charming (*čaranje*), plus many more interesting tidbits. In each case, examples and discussions are fully adequate to illustrate the particular phenomenon. The organization is logical and the subject matter is entertaining, so that the book is one which is both educational and enjoyable.