

broader framework, one must also take into consideration other factors, such as the peculiar organization of the Catholic Church in the United States, the moral qualification of priests who came to America, the animosities within the various ethnic groups, and the democratic (and hence different) political system in the United States.

Because of the above complexities one wonders if some of the unpublished letters might not be important enough to be published in order to provide a better understanding of these related issues, even if at first glance these letters seem to describe petty quarrels among individual priests. Finally, before publication, a manuscript should be read and carefully compared with the originals by a qualified editor, to avoid so many printing errors and omissions, especially in letters written in Latin, German and English. A typical example is the letter of March 21, 1921 (p. 75). Without the reproduction of the original on the same page, some sentences would make no sense and no one would know of the omission at the letter's conclusion.

Despite these criticisms, one has to congratulate Friš for entering a new and, until recently, forbidden field. With deeper research and the study of ideological and political trends, Friš's understanding and judgement will mature. He already possesses the qualities and enthusiasm needed to become a serious, recognized scholar.

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Janja Žitnik. *Louis Adamič in Sodobniki: 1948-1951.* Slovenska Akademija znanosti in umetnosti. Razred za filološke in literarne vede. Ljubljana, 1992. (ISBN 86-7131-066-3).

This monograph is part of a 1992 doctoral dissertation completed at the University of Ljubljana. The dissertation is scheduled for publication at a later date. The study describes the contacts of seventeen individuals with Adamic during the four years between 1948 and 1951, the year of Adamic's death. Six are Slovene Americans: Janko N. Rogelj, Vatro J. Grill, John A. Blatnik, Ana Praček Krasna, Ivan Molek, and Andrej Kobal; thirteen are Slovenes: Edvard Kardelj, Joža and Maria Vilfan, Josip Vidmar, Tine Kurent, Stane Valentinčič, Stefan Urbanc, Mira Mihelič, Slavko and Nada Zore, Aleš and Vera Bebler, and Jože Smole; and one is a non-Slovene, Vladimir Dedijer. The time parameter would explain why some of his close associates were

not included: Boris Kidrič, Sava Kosanovich, Svetozar Pribicevich, Kazimir Zakrajšek, Juš Kozak.

During the period under review, Adamic was mostly involved in promoting greater US political and economic support for Yugoslavia in the aftermath of the Yugoslav-Soviet split. In 1949, one year thereafter, he went to Yugoslavia for an extended visit. Received as a distinguished guest, he was able to establish close contacts with leading personalities of the new 'Yugoslavia.' He planned to write a book on Tito. *The Eagle and the Roots*, published in 1952, one year after his unexplained death, is not quite what was originally planned.

Each person is introduced with bibliographical data, extracted from general information sources, followed by a summary of Adamic's contacts with them, which are not limited to the period under review. The sources of the data are published autobiographies (Grill, Krasna, Kobal, Rogejl, Molek, Bebler), archival sources (Rogel, Kardelj, Vilfan, Mihelič) and recorded interviews, some conducted in Slovenia, others recorded by Meta Vajgl in the United States. Most of the interviewees, while alive at the time of the compilation, have since passed away.

Why this selection? Some of the people (Valentičič, Urbanc) had minimal contacts with Adamic and add little to our understanding of his life and work. The fact that Juš Kozak and Boris Kidrič are not included (footnotes refer to extensive contacts between Kozak and Adamic) is less understandable than the absence of his adversaries. Andrej Kobal is included because he wrote three books in which he makes reference to Adamic, although he and Adamic had no direct contacts in the four years covered in the monograph.

The author used the material available in Slovenia. This severely limited the thoroughness of presentation and analysis. In some instances it leads to errors of omission and commission. The major holding of Adamic archives in Princeton, at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, at Chicago Historical Society, at the Immigration History Research Center in Minnesota, at the Library of Congress, to name just the most important ones, have not been utilized. Even the archival material in Yugoslavia was not fully exploited: the Yugoslav National Archives, the various Yugoslav archives in Zagreb and Belgrade (Franc Snoj, Izidor Cankar, Sava Kasanović...), not to mention the restricted holdings of various party documentation centers (still in existence at the time of writing). For these reasons numerous puzzles indicated in the book have been or could be resolved.

Documented historical analysis uses autobiographies with great caution: they are selective in their presentation and interpretation of historical events and are not necessarily supported by objective documentation. The autobiographies of Grill, Krasna,

Kobal and Molek are extremely valuable for the insights they provide, but they cannot be used as objective documents. Adamic himself was a master of taking an event or a document and making a story out of it. He was not and did not pretend to be an historian.

Let me illustrate with one example: Congressman John A. Blatnik. The congressman died on December 18, 1991. He and Adamic maintained contacts from 1933 to Adamic's death. In summer of 1945 Blatnik visited Adamic's relatives in Slovenia and wrote a long letter to Adamic from Caserta in August 1945. The letter is in Rogel's archives in Cleveland. Blatnik declined to become Alfred Bowman's assistant in Trieste in 1945 although he accompanied Bowman when visiting Opatija. Adamic and Blatnik met frequently during the period described while Blatnik served in the US Congress. Blatnik later refused to talk about his role as member of the American mission to the partisans. The most memorable, however, was Blatnik's talk at the Adamic Symposium in Minnesota in 1981. He speculated on the cause of Adamic's death and was inclined to accept suicide as the most probable explanation. Blatnik allegedly indicated that most of his archives were lost during his many moves, though they are more likely to be included in his archives in the Library of Congress and would deserve further exploration.

Similar to the above is the description of Adamic's relationship with Andrej Kobal. They became acquainted in the late twenties, but by World War II had almost nothing in common. Kobal entered government service, joined the OSS and later FBI, and wrote a book about his experience. In his books, he commented on Adamic and also describes the activities of Matthew Cvetic. Cvetic was directed to infiltrate leftist organizations and in 1950 testified at the Committee on Un-American Activities. He accused Adamic of close association with American communist party leaders. To be clear: this side of Adamic and the available documentation still awaits a thorough investigation.

Žitnik's study is a valuable addition to the literature on Adamic. It requires critical reading because it combines significant data with trivia, gives too much weight to the ideosyncracies of Adamic and his contemporaries, and elevates secondary and rather insignificant personalities into somewhat heroic positions, mostly because of their official status in the 'new Yugoslavia.' Her brief essays lack the critical assessment that is customary in analytical studies of major personalities and their associates. In fact, this remains one of the major problems in the "Adamiciana" even today. Interpretations are more frequent than documented analyses. The present study remains therefore much less than had been hoped. Except for a few glimpses of Adamic's

relationship with the Vilfans, there is very little that is new and not previously published. It confirms the pomposity of Josip Vidmar, the dedication of Janko Rogelj, the marginality of Ana Krasna, and the ambitions of Jože Smole. Adamic's portrait of the last few years of his life is sharpened, but not altered: a man of enormous energy and drive, who during the period under review almost abandoned his American connections and concentrated on Slovene-Yugoslav ties, frustrated by not being able to influence either American or Yugoslav policy in which he considered himself the primary actor. Undoubtedly, he derived enormous satisfaction by being treated as influential intermediary.³

A brief summary in English (pp. 207-210) and selected bibliography (pp. 211-214) are useful guides to those who intend to familiarize themselves with Adamic. It is regrettable that most writing on Adamic is not in English, though he himself wrote almost exclusively in English. The two worlds in which he operated remain hitherto separated, and those researchers who are not able to bridge the Atlantic and the language barrier in *Adamiciana*, are severely handicapped.

The study was completed before the recent political transformation of Slovenia. It reflects the atmosphere of selectivity and politically colored interpretations. We will be waiting anxiously for the appearance of the complete dissertation.

Various issues related to Adamic remain unresolved: Adamic's relationship with *Glas Naroda* and with Sakser; Adamic's contacts with members of the American Communist Party; Adamic and Yaddo; financial assistance provided to Adamic by the Yugoslav government in exile; Adamic's contacts with the State Department (most likely Adamic received rather than provided information to this body); the financial support Adamic received from post-war Yugoslavia; Adamic's relationship with Stella; the cooling-off of relations with American writers; Adamič's relations with other 'hyphenated Americans.' These issues are an indication that the study of the 'Adamic phenomenon' is not yet exhausted.

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³ The Princeton archives contain a transcript, with Tito's handwritten notation, of the August 1949 Brioni meeting between Tito and a delegation of Wallace's progressive party. Adamic served as interpreter. (Box 98, Folder 18).