

REVIEWS

Ernst Eichler (leader), Edgar Hoffmann, Peter Kunze, Horst Schmidt, Gerhart Schröter, and Wilhelm Zeil, eds. *Slawistik in Deutschland von den Anfängen bis 1945. Ein biographisches Lexikon.* Bautzen: Domowina-Verlag, 1993, 520 pp. ISBN 3-7420-1538-9.

For better or for worse, relations between the Slavs and the Germans have always been very close, and the German contribution to Slavonic studies is thus the unique product of centuries of proximity and familiarity. The scale of German interest in the Slavs is demonstrated by the four hundred or so biographies that make up this book. However, the criterion for inclusion is territorial, not national. This is a dictionary not merely of German Slavists, but of persons engaged in Slavonic studies in Germany, whatever their nationality, and the territorial limits of Germany have fluctuated a good deal during the four centuries the authors have chosen to cover. They could, of course, have started much earlier. For example, Bishop Thietmar of Merseburg's *Chronicle*, describing the Slavs of his diocese in the early eleventh century, might well be thought to be part of Slavonic studies in Germany. But for the purposes of this book the subject has its beginnings in the sixteenth century.

Chronologically, the first place is taken by Albert Krantz (or Grantz), who was born in Hamburg in the first half of the fifteenth century and died there on 7 December 1517. He is the author of *Wandalica* (Cologne, 1519) and *Saxonia* (Cologne, 1520), both of which contain valuable information on the westernmost Slavs (Sorbs and Polabians). At the same time the Germans were busy establishing a presence in Russia. In 1517 and 1526 the Emperor sent embassies to the Grand Duchy of Muscovy, both led by Sigmund Freiherr von Herberstein (1486-1566), whose entry in the *Lexikon* naturally focuses less on his diplomatic career than on his work as a Slavist. His two visits to Muscovy enabled him to study many aspects of Russian life and to write his *Rerum*

Moscoviticarum commentarii, which became a sixteenth-century best seller and remains a unique historical source. This, as the entry on Herberstein says, was the birth of the European study of Russia. The Russian language came easily to Herberstein, for he had been born in Vipava in Inner Carniola and had thus known Slovene from childhood. In fact, he later recalled having resisted pressure to abandon his Slovene and having eventually found it of great use. Consequently, his remarks on the Russian language, occasionally including etymologies based on comparative observation, are to be taken seriously. In Herberstein's time, of course, there were no dictionaries or grammars of either Russian or Slovene, but eighteen years after his death the first Slovene grammar, Adam Bohorič's *Arcticae Horulae Succisivae*, was published in Wittenberg. For some unknown reason Bohorič has not been given a place in the *Lexikon*, but Hieronymus Megiser (c. 1550-1616) is here. His *Dictionarium quatuor linguarum* (German, Latin, Italian, and Slovene) was published in Graz in 1592 (mistakenly given in the *Lexikon* as 1572).

On the question of territorial criteria, the editors say in their preface that they were confronted by numerous borderline cases which they approached in a spirit of compromise, but they do not say what the territorial criteria were. In particular, it is not clear at what stage the Habsburg Empire is regarded as having ceased to be part of Germany. On the other hand, the German University in Prague is given a separate section of its own. The distinction between Germany and Austria may account for the fact that there are few entries of specific interest to Slovenists. Simon Pirchegger (1889-1946), author of *Die slavischen Ortsnamen im Mürzgebiet* (Leipzig, 1927), *Untersuchungen über die altslovenischen Freisinger Denkmäler* (Leipzig, 1931), and *Die Siedlungsgeschichte der deutschen Ostalpenländer im Lichte der Ortsnamenforschung* (Bonn, 1940), probably owes his entry to having held a chair in Bonn. Matija Murko (1861-1952), the distinguished philologist, folklorist, and literary historian, who studied under Miklosich in Vienna and later held chairs in Leipzig and Prague, is here, possibly thanks to the Leipzig connection, but Dobrovský, Kopitar, Šafarík, Miklosich, Oblak, Valvasor, Vondrák, and Gebauer are not. The editors in their preface acknowledge that there are many omissions. At the other end of the scale they have certainly exalted the humble and meek (some of whom are very humble indeed) and for this they must be praised. After all, the least famous are sometimes the most interesting. Many of the entries relate to individuals who could not really be called Slavists and yet were involved in Slavonic studies. Particularly striking is the large number of entries devoted to Sorbian scholarship and to individual Sorbs (presumably this has something to do with the fact that the book is published by the Domowina-Verlag). There

are also several entries under names that are certainly well known, but not normally found in the context of Slavonic studies. These include Rosa Luxemburg, Clara Zetkin, Stanisław Przybyszewski, T. G. Herder, and Thomas Mann.

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Katja Sturm-Schnabl. *Der Briefwechsel Franz Miklosich's mit den Südslaven / Korespondenca Frana Miklošiča z južnimi Slovani.* Maribor: Obzorja, 1991. Hardcover. 855 pages. ISBN: 86-377-0565-0

In 1853 Ban Josip Jelačić wrote to Miklošič congratulating him on his election as rector of the University of Vienna. "With your scholarliness and your published works," wrote the Ban, "you will present our language to Europe in an entirely new light... All Slavs delight in your good fortune and hereby offer you their heartiest best wishes." Reflected in this citation from Sturm-Schnabl's book is recognition of the enormous success and positive energy that Miklošič brought to his scholarly career. This excellent selection of his letters, however, is far more than simply a paean to the achievements of this great Slovene linguist and professor; it is also a first-rate sourcebook for the study of the development of South Slavic philology itself.

Sturm-Schnabl's collection presents 634 letters to or from Miklošič. The letters date from the years 1833 to 1891. This lengthy period stretches from Miklošič's time as a student in Graz right up to the last days of his life. Each letter is reproduced in the language in which it was written. Cyrillic texts have been given in Latin transliteration; other non-Latin characters and words have been reproduced by hand. Although the letters thus appear in Slovene, Serbo-Croatian, German, Bulgarian, French, Italian, and Latin, each is preceded by a summary (in German) of its contents and followed by explanatory notes on persons and events referred to in the text.

The book is very well designed. Simply put, it is made to be used. The material is rendered quite accessible and the editor was unflaggingly industrious in putting people and facts into perspective. First of all, a set of introductory essays by Zoran Konstantinovič, Stane Granda, and the editor herself delineate the major themes of Miklošič's life, times, and work. Then, at the end of the