

REVIEWS

Leopoldina Plut-Pregelj and Carole Rogel. *Historical Dictionary of Slovenia*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 1996. xxvii + 345 pp., \$67 (cloth)

For anyone interested in Slovenia who does not know Slovene, and even for many of those who do, this *Historical Dictionary of Slovenia* is an indispensable reference work. Furthermore, it should be in every college and university library, as well as in the major public libraries. In the English-speaking world Slovenia has often been confused with Slavonia and Slovakia. Even those who specialized in the Habsburg empire and Southeastern Europe at best paid slight attention to the Slovenes and their domains. More regrettable is the fact that many of those who concentrated on the former Yugoslavia usually dealt with Slovenia only when it involved Serbian and Croatian relations. Today, however, Slovenia is an independent state, the most successful of the states that have emerged from the former Yugoslavia. Moreover, its success in politics, economics, and culture perhaps surpasses that of any of the former so-called People's Democracies. Hence we all should be grateful to the two well-known scholars—Leopoldina Plut-Pregelj, a specialist in education, and Carole Rogel, a historian—who have produced this excellent volume. It begins with a guide to Slovene pronunciation, followed by five pages of abbreviations and acronyms, a chronology of Slovene history, six historic maps, and a brief concise historical introduction to Slovenia that serves as a point of reference for the contributions in the *Dictionary*. At the end of the volume there is an excellent 36-page bibliography, primarily in Slovene and English,

divided into seven subject headings: general, cultural, economic, historical, juridical, political, and social. The *Dictionary* has about 400 entries, ranging from a few sentences to three pages in length, and approximately seventy-five items that are cross-listed. The first entry is Academia Operosorum (1693–1725), the first society of intellectuals in Ljubljana, the last is Oton Župančič (1878–1949), one of the most important representatives of the Slovene *moderna*. In between one finds entries on history, geography, politics, economy, culture, population, and political developments. Given the fact that Slovenia became independent only in 1991, it is understandable that the bulk of the entries would deal with the twentieth century—that is, the Yugoslav movement, interwar Yugoslavia, the Tito era, and finally the dynamic events that led to Slovenia's independence. In no way, however, does this imply that Slovene history has been slighted. Entries provide us with information on the settlement of the Slovenes in their current homeland and the adoption of Christianity, with its subsequent influence on all aspects of Slovene life and culture. The long association with the Habsburg empire is amply documented. Slovene intellectual activity in the early modern period (1500–1800), especially the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, which served as the prelude to nineteenth-century nationalism, is well represented. The Slovenes' spirited defense of their language, which perhaps did most to preserve their national identity, can be found in linguistic, literary, and political entries. The contributions on Slovenia's experiences first in interwar Yugoslavia and then under Tito's national communism help one understand how the Slovenes skillfully exploited the political unrest of the eighties and the emergence of pluralism to achieve their independence. There is enough information in this excellent historical dictionary to serve as a source for a sound, short history of modern Slovenia, something we desperately need in our field.

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Károly Gadányi. *The Evolution of Vocabulary in Literary Slovene.* Melbourne: Melbourne Academia Press, 1996. vi + 322 pp. (cloth).

Hungarian Slavists bring a unique perspective to the study of the Slavic standard languages of East Central Europe. While they remain outside