

## CENTER DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Janja Žitnik and Helga Glušič, eds. *Slovenska izseljenska književnost: 1. Evropa, Avstralija, Azija; 2. Severna Amerika; 3. Južna Amerika*. Ljubljana: Znanstvenoraziskovalni center SAZU, 1999. 1691 pp. [400+484+407].

This three-volume scholarly survey, prepared and published by the Institute for Slovene Emigration (Inštitut za slovensko izseljenstvo [ISI]) of the Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti V Ljubljani, represents a project organized by a team of eleven Slovene literary historians: Helga Glušič, Mirko Jurak, Taras Kermavner, Mihael Kuzmić, Igor Maver, Jerneja Petrič, Janez Stanonik, Barbara Suša, and art historian Irena Mislej,—all from Ljubljana—in cooperation with the writer and literary historian Lev Detela (Vienna), Martin Jevnikar and Zora Tavčar (Trieste), Avgušтина Budja (Landskrone, Sweden), and the project's architect and lead editor, Janja Žitnik, a literary historian of the ISI in Ljubljana.

Žitnik's introduction to volume one (9–25) consists of the following parts: "Predgovor," "Uvod," and an essay "Dosedanje študije o slovenski izseljenski književnosti" (9–25), followed by three solid scholarly sections: "Evropa," by Drnovšek, Detela, Žitnik, and Budja (27–257); "Avstralija, Azija," by Maver, Suša, and Detela (259–333), and a "Biographical-Bibliographical Survey," by Detela, Žitnik, Budja, Suša, and Maver (335–75); and Kazala (indexes): Osebe (persons) and periodika (periodicals) (377–400).

Volume 2 of the series, devoted to North America, includes the sections: "USA": "The Literary Influences in the USA before 1891," by Stanonik (15–88); "The Literature of Slovene Emigrants and Their Descendants in the USA after 1891," by Petrič (89–263); "The Literary Activity of the Slovenes of Prekmurje in USA," by Kuzmić (265–88); "The Literature of New Slovene Emigrants to the USA after 1945," by Glušič (289–304); "Literary Creativity of Slovenes in Canada," by Jurak (305–83); and a collective "Survey of Biographies and



and Bibliographies," by Petrič, Stanonik, Glušič, Jurak, Kuzmić, and Žitnik (385–456).

Volume 3 of *Slovenska izseljenska književnost*, edited by Martin Jevnikar and Irena Mislej, is devoted to Slovenes in South America. Its main sections deal with South American Slovenes' literature before WW II: their "Prose," by Mislej, their "Poetry," by Tavčar, "Povojna slovenska književnost v Južni Ameriki" and "Proza," by Jevnikar, "Poezija," by Glušič, "Dramatika," by Kermavner and Alenka Goljevšček, and a survey, "Biografije in bibliografije" of South American Slovene literati, by Jevnikar, Glušič, Žitnik, and Mislej (323–55). The concluding essay in the volume, "Slovene Emigrant Literature: A Summary," by Žitnik and Glušič (361–70), is followed by Žitnik's "Izbrana bibliografija (selected Bibliography)" (371–93).

On the whole, Žitnik and Glušič's three-volume survey and evaluation of creative writing in the Slovene literary language is representative of Slovene émigré communities and is "a first attempt at a complete presentation of the forgotten, ignored and suppressed literature of Slovenes abroad, which may succeed in uniting the most distant branches and fruits of their creativity with the mainstream of Slovene national culture" (vol. 3, 370). Its editors should be congratulated.

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