

which the congress based the reform was orthodox in terms of Marxist philosophy: Rumanian law, outmoded by social and economic changes, needed to be brought in line with social reality.

The reform resulted in a more precise determination of the powers of the government and stronger guarantees of civil rights and liberties. Central in the new legal regime is the Constitution of August 21, 1965, which declares as fundamental to Rumanian legal order several principles virtually unknown in the Soviet type of constitutionalism—such as the supremacy of the parliament and its legislation and the unity of the legal system. The principle of the rule of law is declared to reside in the government, the social organization, and individual citizens. The Constitution and administrative law have also returned to traditional Rumanian wording, removing from the legal terminology a number of words of Soviet origin (chap. 1).

The Criminal Code, rewritten in an effort to return to the traditional principles of Rumanian law, was made more humane, and the system of penalties was modernized—reaffirming the principle of *nulla poena sine lege* and the prohibition of the *ex post facto* legislation. Criminal procedure was also reshaped, with an important extension (contrary to the Soviet pattern) of the right to legal counsel during the entire criminal procedure, including the pretrial investigation (chap. 2). A new law was enacted to regulate the execution of penalties, as part of an elaborate system for rehabilitating prisoners by training them in trades and skills they can use after their release (chap. 3).

The court system was reformed and the principle of electing judges for all judicial positions was extended from the lowest to the highest levels of administration (chap. 4). New laws also dealt with establishing arbitration commissions to mediate the internal conflicts in enterprises, institutions, and labor organizations (chap. 5). Chapters 6–8 deal with new legislation regarding the *procuratura*, the legal profession, and military courts. The author also analyzes the law of economic contracts (December 29, 1969), which provides a new legal framework for contracts that implement the provisions of the economic plan (chap. 9). The enactment of this law reflects the tendency to do away with the fiction of the uniform civil code, and is in line with the legislation enacted in other socialist countries (e.g., Czechoslovakia). In an interesting appendix the author deals with the measures to promote population growth (which has been steadily falling in Rumania), including legislation on family authority, abortion, divorce, and related problems.

Rumania has a remarkable tradition of legal education and jurisprudential activity—largely influenced by France and Italy. The present work is a worthy continuation of that tradition.

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HRVATSKA KNJIŽEVNOST PREMA EVROPSKIM KNJIŽEVNOSTIMA  
OD NARODNOG PREPORODA K NAŠIM DANIMA. Edited by *Aleksandar Flaker* and *Krunoslav Pranjić*. Zagreb: Liber, 1970. 582 pp.

Because of its geopolitical position, Croatia for centuries was exposed to various cultural influences coming mainly from the West: at first from Italy, then from Germany, Bohemia, Russia, and Poland, next (at the turn of this century and thereafter) from France, and finally in this postwar period from the English-

speaking world. Without strong political and cultural centers, many Croats in the past studied abroad (until their own university in Zagreb opened in 1874), and returned home after assimilating foreign cultures to such a degree that their writings, though often original in concept and setting, nevertheless betrayed their debt to their masters. Some of those students remained abroad (mainly in the service of the Vatican) and of necessity wrote in foreign languages, especially Latin.

A Croatian poet was also a translator. He thought it his duty to read foreign poets and thus enrich his own poetic diction, and by translating them into his mother tongue he could render a service to his less privileged countrymen and prove that he was able to express himself equally well. Translations were not left to amateurs. Thus it is today a great pleasure to leaf through the anthology of world lyric poetry (*Antologija svjetske lirike*, ed. Slavko Ježić, Zagreb, 1956), which contains translations prepared by the most distinguished Croatian poets and scholars.

Those who studied the Croatian literary past were often equally concerned with the cultural achievements of neighboring countries. They did not consider their homeland an isolated island, for they knew that various winds were blowing toward its shores. To study the national heritage meant to be aware of what was going on elsewhere. Comparative study, therefore, was always highly respected by Croatian literary historians. It was launched by Vatroslav Jagić, and was continued by such able men as Mihovil Kombol, Petar Skok, Mirko Deanović, Josip Badalić, Josip Torbarina, and Veljko Gortan. It has now reached international recognition through the works of Zdenko Škreb, Aleksandar Flaker, Ivo Frangeš, Radoslav Katičić, and some of their younger colleagues, most of whom have broadened their horizons by including literature from the American continent, which had been terra incognita to their forerunners.

The work under consideration examines the Croatian literary output in its European context during the last one hundred and fifty years. However, after a brilliant introduction in which Flaker summarizes and explains the contributions of others, and before the discussion by Mira Gavrin and Jan Wierzbicki of the Illyrian movement and its connection with German preromantics or Slavic visionaries, there is an essay by Ivan Slamnig in which he attempts to present the older Croatian (pre-Illyrian) literature as an organic part of past European cultural trends. As in his other writings, Slamnig is interesting, stimulating, and at times offers original interpretations, but his basic approach is impressionistic. He does not pay enough attention to those who have written on the same problems before him, and chooses not to deal with authors who do not fit his particular taste or vision. The same could be said about his article on Miroslav Krleža's *Legends*; he treats Strindberg as a possible source, but others have correctly pointed to Wilde, Nietzsche, and particularly the German expressionists.

The other contributors are professionals who have devoted years of study to their topics. Though one respects their knowledge and seriousness, some of them are rather heavy and hard to read: they either quote too much, get lost in details, or have enough material for an entire book and try to include it all. Although Slamnig might learn from them how painful a labor is research, he could perhaps teach some of them that literary criticism should also strive to be creative.

Several studies are both informative and enjoyable, for example, those by Wierzbicki, Škreb, Flaker (when discussing Ante Kovačić's novel *U registraturi*), and Sonja Bašić. But my preference goes to Nevenka Košutić-Brozović, who gives a superb history of the Croatian Moderna and surveys all countries whose writers

influenced various Croatian authors. She knows her subject well, and is able to keep the reader's attention.

This collection of various studies is mostly concerned with Germany and France, and greatly neglects the impact of Italy, Great Britain, and the United States. With the exception of a solid paper by Sonja Bašić on Antun Matoš and E. A. Poe, British and American literatures are not examined. In *Forum*, the best Croatian literary magazine, several good analyses of literary activity in America have appeared in recent years, and perhaps some of them should have been included. An excellent essay by Antun Nizeteo on "Whitman in Croatia" (in *Journal of Croatian Studies*, vol. 11–12, 1970–71) has proved that the Croatian writers valued Whitman highly even before he was superbly rendered into Croatian by Tin Ujević (1951). If there was a reason for excluding living authors, at least some of the older writers should have been studied.

Notwithstanding these remarks and suggestions, I recommend this valuable miscellany to all those who are interested in Croatian literature in its European framework, and I eagerly await the next volume, which probably will be more in touch with present-day reality. Even a small Croatia is looking beyond strictly European horizons.

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A SLOVENIAN VILLAGE: ŽEROVNICA. By *Irene Winner*. Providence: Brown University Press, 1971. xiv, 267 pp. \$14.00.

This book is the first professional ethnographic account of a Slovenian community (in the English language) and fills a serious gap in the literature. It is also a beautifully produced book, with good photographs, charming drawings, and scarcely a typographical error, to all of which its price is testimony.

Most of the book is about peasant economics and the relationship between social organization, everyday interaction, and economic factors. It is particularly helpful in its emphasis on the internal stratification of a peasant community. A clear picture emerges of the peasant's struggle for survival under more than one regime, of his adaptability and pragmatism, his love for the land. Family structure is treated in detail and in historical depth; historical demographers will find this information quite useful. In general, the weight of the book is historical, almost half of it devoted to developments leading up to the present day, with great reliance placed on local sources.

The articulation of the village with the larger economy and even the importance of migration to and return from America are stressed to a degree absent in many monographs on peasant life, which often view the peasant in isolation. The importance of factory employment in modern peasant life is noted, as is the attraction of such work for the young and the increasing burden on the old to maintain traditional ways. The relationships of uncollectivized peasants to the socialist state and to the neighboring agricultural commune are clearly laid out, as are the effects of shifting governmental policy and the more conservative trend of recent agricultural and economic policy.

In all of this concentration the book excels, although the view that emerges is clearly the peasants', not too critically presented. What the book lacks is adequate material on other important aspects of social organization and on nonmaterial cul-