

which Mikszáth's novels are filled. The reader cannot but be convinced by Scheer that Mikszáth's ability to weave his material into incredibly complex yet integral plots in gently humorous fashion makes him a first-rate writer by any standard.

If Scheer is less convincing in his critical treatment of Mikszáth he may well be forgiven. Taking a stand against both older and younger schools of Hungarian criticism, which classified Mikszáth as a Romantic and a Realist, respectively, he reaches no real conclusion, although he does not lack original observations. Yet this will hardly matter to anyone except the specialist. Mikszáth is, after all, Mikszáth, and Scheer has very ably shown that he is worth knowing about under any label, or under none. Scheer's little volume is a must for all who do not know Mikszáth's language but have an interest in Hungary or in East European literature.

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ČESKÝ SLOVNÍK VĚCNÝ A SYNONYMICKÝ. Compiled by Jiří Haller. Prague: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, 1969–77. Vol. 1: lvi, 292 pp. Kčs. 75. Vol. 2: liii, 595 pp. Kčs. 88. Vol. 3: xlvii, 711 pp. Kčs. 99.

During the past fifty years, Czech lexicographers have produced or begun work on several major monolingual dictionaries. The cornerstone of them all has been *Příruční slovník jazyka českého*, published by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences between 1935 and 1957. The quarter of a million entries on 10,827 pages of nine large-sized volumes have served as a springboard for several significant lexicographic enterprises. One of them is the four-volume *Slovník spisovného jazyka českého* with 192,908 entries on 4,644 pages, produced by the Academy's Institute for the Czech Language between 1960 and 1971. Another is the recent (1978) *Slovník spisovné češtiny pro školu a veřejnost*, a single volume prepared by the same institute, with over 50,000 entries on 800 pages. The work under review, *Český slovník věcný a synonymický* (hereafter referred to as *ČSVS*), is yet another dictionary meriting special attention. Although still incomplete, the three volumes that have appeared thus far already stand out among the world's monolingual dictionaries as an undertaking of unique comprehensiveness. The compiler of *ČSVS*, Jiří Haller, was originally entrusted with the preparation of the dictionary by the translators' section of the Union of Czechoslovak Writers. By the time of his death in 1971, Haller was able to complete volumes 1 and 3 in their entirety and a substantial part of volume 2, and to begin organizing material for the remainder of the work.

Organized according to subjects or concepts rather than alphabetically, the purpose of *ČSVS*, as stated in volume 1 (p. v), is a practical one: to aid translators, writers, and journalists by offering, within a subject-oriented framework, the widest possible selection of synonyms. It is meant to serve not only as the source of available expressions in the Czech language but also as a point of departure for discovering its as yet unrealized potentialities. The conceptual skeleton for the work has been the revised and enlarged second edition of Rudolf Hallig and Walther von Wartburg's *Begriffssystem als Grundlage für die Lexikographie: Versuch eines Ordnungsschemas* (1963).

A brief synopsis of the published volumes is as follows: Volume 1 contains entries relating to the universe and its make-up, the earth's atmosphere and surface structure, weather, minerals, flora, and fauna. Volume 2 is made up of entries pertaining to humans as physical beings—sexual and racial differentiation, the human body and its various parts and organs as well as their functions, the five senses, bodily positions and movements, sleep, health and disease, stages of human life, food and drink, sexuality, and clothing. Volume 3 comprises entries dealing with the mental aspects of humanity—intelligence, capabilities, perception, consciousness, memory, imagination, thought processes, emotions, will, morality, and other nonmaterial traits. An alpha-

betized index to the three volumes is in press at the time of this writing. The remaining fourth volume, the scope of which unfortunately is to be somewhat reduced, will contain entries having to do with the social attributes of humans and with a priori concepts such as existence, size, form, space, time, causality, and so forth. The preparation of volume 4, which will be furnished with a separate alphabetic index, is in the hands of J. V. Bečka, Haller's friend.

For students, scholars, and the educated public interested in or fascinated by the labyrinth of the Czech lexicon, *ČSVS* offers a sumptuous feast. Single-unit entries (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) as well as complex lexical entries are developed in unprecedented detail: lesser known words or technical terms are defined; synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words are listed exhaustively; significant epithets are noted for nouns; syntactic constructions containing entry words and the stylistic nuances they assume in different contexts are illustrated; Latin binomials are appended to plant and animal species names; and cross references are given. Moreover, *ČSVS* makes generous use of relevant grammatical labels (perfective, iterative, animate, indeclinable, and the like) and usage or status labels—temporal (archaic, obsolete), regional (dialectal, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak), or stylistic (poetic, bookish, euphemistic, diminutive, hypocoristic, augmentative, pejorative, vulgar, humorous, figurative, technical, colloquial, and others).

Take, for example, the verb *jíti* in the sense of "moving on one's feet from one place to another": *ČSVS*'s coverage of this single lexeme occupies some twenty pages of the one hundred twenty-nine sizable double-column pages devoted to the general concept of movement of humans in one place or from one place to another. Then there are such delightful nests of lexical gems as the words for the varieties of apples (one hundred thirteen lines), the phases of the mountain cock's mating call (thirty-nine lines), and the movements and sounds made by animals of every sort. Birdcall words alone run into the hundreds.

Whether or not one is given to word watching with the unrestrained pleasure of this reviewer, the fact remains that none of the world's languages can boast a thesaurus so inclusive and detailed as that available to the barely ten million speakers of Czech.

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SCHLESISCHES SCHRIFTTUM DER ROMANTIK UND POPULARROMANTIK. By Arno Lubos. Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1978. 195 pp. DM 32, paper.

Arno Lubos, Germanist, literary historian, and keen observer of German intellectual affairs, has produced a detailed examination of literary activity in Silesia during the first half of the nineteenth century. It would be unfair to the author to regard his work as merely an excellent study of the major Silesian Romantic writers. His larger aim is to relate German literature to Silesian regionalism and to show this distinctive literary tradition, in turn, as the product of German-Slavic synthesis. In his zeal to present a comprehensive view of the totality of Silesian intellectual life during this period, he leans, perhaps too heavily, toward underscoring the unique character of Silesia, its rich literary tradition, and the peaceful coexistence of the German and Slavic populations in the province as seen in much of the regional literature. Through his detailed analysis of the cultural and literary milieu of this province, Lubos provides us with a scholarly, informative, and valuable work.

The author convinces us that Silesian regional literature was far more than just an appendage of the "Heidelberg Romantic movement." Indeed, he describes it as the logical outgrowth of the Silesian regional character, which was the product of Germans, Poles, Czechs, and Sorbs living together in the same geographic area. Fully con-