



Between Tradition and Modernity

A Catalogue of Selected Editions
by Slovenska matica

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Ljubljana 2022

Featured

Slovenska matica – commonly translated as Slovene/Slovenian Society, and literally meaning “Slovenian Queen Bee,” suggesting “motherly care for the colony” – is a national cultural and scientific institution that brings together top authors from the fields of art, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and medicine.

Founded in 1864 as the first Slovenian cultural and scientific society, it is the earliest Slovenian secular publishing house, continuing the work of the original society. In 2024, it will thus celebrate no less than 160 years of unbroken existence, boasting tradition that is rare even Europe-wide.

Of the Past

On the incentive of the Maribor *domoljubi* (“patriots”), Slovenska matica was founded in 1864 with donations given by intelligentsia, tradesmen and businessmen with the aim of printing ambitious books from various fields in the Slovenian language; raising levels of education and knowledge; generating Slovenian terminology for different branches of knowledge etc. Austria of that time was in favour of founding such societies, which showed in Emperor Franz Joseph’s personal contribution toward its foundation (totalling 500 guildens). Slovenska matica reached its first climax in early 20th century, when it published books in large editions, and maintained contacts with universities and academies from London to Sankt Peterburg. During World War 1, it came into conflict with the authorities over its publication of a book about dealings of Austrian troops in the annexed Bosnia, resulting in a confiscation of its possessions. Between the two wars, it went on with its work and helped establish the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In September 1941, the Culture Plenum of the Slovenian Liberation Front met illegally at Slovenska matica, while in 1944 its work was halted for the second time by an order of the German administration, again for the reason of its book editions, including the geographical monograph “Slovenia.” After World War 2, it had difficulties in establishing itself again, regarded to be too “conservative” by the new authorities, and its belongings were nationalised. However, it was finally decided that Slovenska matica should be kept and its work subsidised.

Today, Slovenska matica is a scientific and cultural institution organising scholarly conventions on very diverse problems of Slovenia's culture and society, and of its future. In addition, it is a publishing house ensuring publication of quality books by Slovenian authors and of translations of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, and engineering.

A Mission

The purpose of Slovenska matica is to:

- promote and develop cultural and scientific production in Slovenia,
- develop production of original Slovenian art, and maintain the traditions of various fields of Slovenian art
- publish original Slovenian, and translated works of fiction and of the humanities
- cultivate the Slovenian language both in Slovenia and in other lands where Slovenians live in its bordering countries or worldwide
- maintain contacts with Slovenians living abroad
- promote Slovenian artistic achievements worldwide
- publish scientific monographs and works of popular science in the fields of natural sciences, engineering, the humanities, and medicine
- maintain scientific traditions and develop Slovenian scientific and technical terminology in the fields of natural sciences and engineering, history, school system and education.

Basic Information

Location: Kongresni trg 8, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

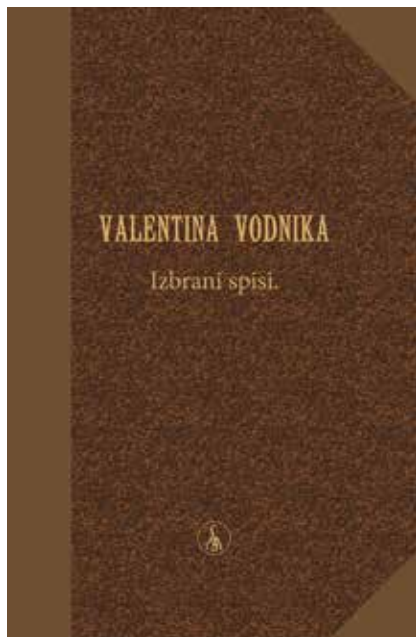
President: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleš Gabrič

Secretary-editor: Zarika Snoj Verbovšek (urednistvo@slovenska-matica.si)

Owners of foreign rights: authors (please contact Slovenska matica)

Website: www.slovenska-matica.si

Fiction and Literary Prose



Valentin Vodnik's Selected Essays

Commentary: Miklavž Komelj

Original Slovenian title: ***Valentina Vodnika Izbrani spisi***

2019 (reprint of the 1890 edition), hard-cover, 330 pp.

Genre: literary prose, a reprint

Key words: literary history, Slovenian writer, 18th–19th century, European history, everyday life, Napoleon

Slovenska matica, which published selected poems of the Slovenian Enlightenment poet Valentin Vodnik (1758–1819) back in 1869, celebrated his two hundredth death anniversary by reprinting his *Selected Essays* as edited in 1890 by the literary historian Fran Wiesthaller. The reprint is precious as it provides access to that part of Vodnik's opus that due to its being non-literary, or insufficiently literary, was left out even from his *Collected Work*. "In addition to being an exceptional document in itself, Wiesthaller's book suggests a need to start researching Vodnik's prose writings anew, perhaps also providing a new, even lengthier edition comprising a critical apparatus. This book brings precious materials for studying the past while its specific merit lies in that it enables us to experience the past as a present time; it is precisely Vodnik's prose writings that permit us, more than any other literary opuses in the Slovenian language of that time, to enter directly the life of the period; ... in addition, our temporal distance enables us to see through the transience of daily news and discern behind it a narrative of decisive events of European history," Dr. Miklavž Komelj wrote in his commentary to the book.



Ivan Cankar: *Strangers*

Commentary: Vesna Mikolič

Original Slovenian title: *Tujci*

2020, (reprint of the 1901 edition),
hardcover, 134 pp.

Genre: fiction, a novel

Key words: autobiographical elements,
artist, sculptor, Vienna, being estranged,
suicide

Strangers, the first novel by the much acclaimed Slovenian writer, playwright, poet, essayist and politician Ivan Cankar (1876–1918), is partly autobiographical, as the central story of the artist Pavle Slivar suggests Cankar's fate in Vienna. In his home environment, Slivar, a sculptor, does not have any opportunity to make a living by art, therefore he leaves for Vienna. But there, too, he is not able to find his way in life, and a feeling of being estranged haunts him, although he even falls in love and gets married and occasionally gets commissioned for work, which, however, is more craft than art so that Slivar is forced to modify, like a conformist, his artistic sense. Slivar, though, unyieldingly refuses to adapt, remaining different, strange, and therefore he finally isolates himself completely and commits suicide. The protagonist's fate, however, does not necessarily imply an artist's personal and professional flight, or defeat – as Slivar's suicide has been predominantly interpreted so far – but rather one's deep realisation of one's own situation of being, and a willing decision for the only option fitting for this situation. Thus, the novel *Strangers* is not a downright manifestation of a pessimistic fatalism but can be envisaged as a far-reaching predecessor of modern novels, which focus greatly on change of literary perspectives, in this case the different forms of strangeness, in order to make it possible for the writer – and later his readers – to enter emphatically different literary personas and contexts.



A New Life, a novel by Ivan Cankar, some of whose most prominent works were published by Slovenska matica, is rather unknown among contemporary readers. It brings the story of the artist Anton Gri-var, who is returning home from abroad, finding that longing is “the fundament of his life and the central theme, framework of the entire novel.” The hero looks for a new life in his love for his native country, for his wife and child, which remain un-realizable, deadened by pain arising from a suffocating social environment and human depravity. The only way in which the artist can attain his objective is by remembering his youthful ideal. This new edition was occasioned by Cankar’s 100th death anniversary.

Ivan Cankar: *A New Life*

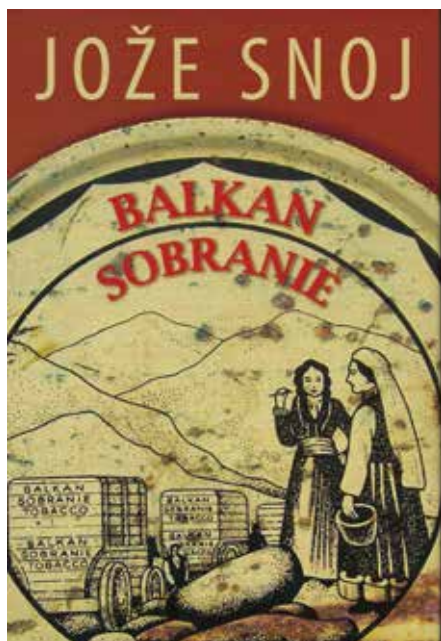
Commentaries: France Bernik, Vesna Mikolič

Original Slovenian title: *Novo življenje*

2018 (reprint of the 1908 edition), hard-cover, 115 pp.

Genre: fiction, a novel

Key words: modern art, longing, love for one’s native country, social environment



Jože Snoj: *Balkan Sobranie: a Self-Educative Novel or Once, Tito Happened to Cross Romania*

Original Slovenian title: *Balkan sobranie: samovzgojni roman ali Ide Tito preko Romanije*

2012, hardcover, 364 pp.

Genre: fiction, prose writings, a novel

Key words: autobiographical elements, socio-political circumstances, interculturality, multinational setting, 20th century, army, military service, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Yugoslav People's Army (JLA)

Themes of the novel by Jože Snoj (1934–2021), a prominent award-winning writer, are bound with the time and setting that the generation born in an independent Slovenia finds completely unknown to it. Conversely, it is very well known to the older male population that was obliged to do, at the age of eighteen or after finishing studies, a one-year military service in the former Yugoslav People's Army. The novel's hero – who has rather clear autobiographical features – is confronted with senseless military drill and ideological narrow-mindedness of a military organisation and its mechanisms. Nevertheless, he is curious and humanly open in being faced with a mixture of cultures, languages, social strata and particular characters, which come to life through interpersonal relations in barracks life. After an initial resistance and beginning uncertainty, he feels a growing cosiness in this world, taking it with a bit of humour, and finally he comes to love this spontaneous Balkan world. The novel is written in a colourful language and modernist style. As some words from the military vocabulary of the former Yugoslavia are practically impossible to translate into Slovenian, the book includes an interesting short vocabulary of the terms used.



Ivanka Hergold: *A Knife and an Apple*

Commentary: Boris Paternu

Original Slovenian title: *Nož in jabolko*

2019, hardcover, 135 pp.

Genre: fiction, a novel

Key words: diary entries, stream of consciousness, social norms, everyday obligations, loneliness

Made up of fragmentary diary entries, the novel by Ivanka Hergold (1943–2013) records in detail, hour by hour, a single day in the life of Herta Jamnik, nevertheless managing to bring forth the totality of our being in the world. With its texture of dreams and longings, it portrays unsparingly how a person is entrapped in day-to-day social norms and workplace obligations. Written in a single breath, the book testifies with vigorous passion and an unrealised eros to the author's carefully refined literary idiom. Intertwined with lyrical passages on feelings aroused by nature and a childhood nostalgia, it is in continual antagonism with how the novel's character is tragically marked in her middle age, feeling lonely, sad, and lost, and experiencing emptiness of being. The novel has been crafted with minute precision and a virtuoso mastery of language, in the manner of the best stream-of-consciousness tradition. It comprises elements of literary modernism which, however, it surpasses at the very time it was written. Ivanka Hergold is one more of those writers from the geographical periphery of Slovenian self-view whom we must keep in mind.



Drago Jančar: *Katarina, the Peacock, and the Jesuit*

Original Slovenian title: *Katarina, pav in jezuit*

2012 (reprint of the 2000 edition), paperback, 472 pp.

Genre: fiction, prose writings, a novel

Key words: history, Europe, 18th century, pilgrimage, Jesuits, religion, war, love triangle

Award: 2001 Kresnik Award

Translated into: Czech (Paseka, Litomyšl, Prague), Croatia (Profil International, Zagreb), Catalan (Pagès Editors, Lleida), Hungarian (Jelenkor, Pécs), German (Folio, Vienna, Bolzano), French (Passage du Nord-Quest, Albi; Libretto, Paris), Polish (Fundacja Pogranicze, Sejny), Russian (Limbus Press, Moscow, Saint Petersburg)

It is already for the third time that Slovenska matica printed this novel by Drago Jančar (b. 1948), one of the most prolific and well-established authors having won multiple awards both in Slovenia and abroad. The book, which already sparked strong interest among readers and reviewers when first published, depicts Slovenian pilgrims on their way to the mysterious *Kelmorajn* (i.e. Cologne on the Rhine, German *Köln am Rhein*). The pilgrims find themselves in the turmoil of both the war raging on the European continent, and of their own spiritual quests and all sorts of passions. The story of Katarina, who wants to change her life in her search for beauty, of Officer Windisch, who is looking for fame in battle fields, of the God-searching Simon Lovrenc, and of other pilgrims with their feet stuck in mud and eyes fixed on the skies, where a gold chest is travelling among the clouds above their heads, is certain to find new readers who look for a profundity in books. In addition, the novel is regarded as the author's most marked linguistic masterpiece. In the 2005/2006 season, it was made into a play and staged by the Slovenian national theatre Drama Ljubljana.



Dušan Merc: *A Black Mask. Fragments from the Life of Marij Kogoj*

Original Slovenian title: *Črna maska. Fragmenti iz življenja Marija Kogoj*

2020, hardcover, 305 pp.

Genre: fiction, a novel

Key words: biographical elements, Slovenian composer Marij Kogoj, music, opera, identity, fratricide, will to power

Short-listed for: 2021 Kresnik Award

The novel by Dušan Merc (b. 1952), a leading contemporary Slovenian writer, is based on biographical fragments of the great Slovenian composer Marij Kogoj (1892–1956). However, while based on actual, and largely controversial, circumstances of his life, it focuses on the complex occurrences in the mind of the author of *Black Masks*, i.e. an opera based on the eponymous text by the Russian playwright Leonid Andreyev. The composer's actual mental instability is intertwined with fictional inserts of anxious moods. *A Black Mask* is a book about identity and fratricide, about fragility of inner life, and about will to power, i.e. about all those elemental existential topoi that manifest themselves with a particular power at times of great disruption. "Merc's novel *A Black Mask* is a testimony to the writer's courage in having managed to examine a prominent composer with sovereignty and respect, and keep putting him, also fictitiously, into complex and tragic circumstances of a mental hospital. In this, he tried as best as he could to avoid any questionable uncovering of disturbing circumstances, or he did not but suggest them discretely," Andrej Arko writes in his review for *Radio Ars*.



The first novel by Miklavž Komelj (b. 1973), an award-winning poet, writer, translator and essayist, tells of an encounter between a growing youth and a bishop, whom the young man desires to save from death. The setting of the book is Ljubljana between 1987 and 1991, i.e. a time of great social and political change in Slovenia when, in addition, the elemental relations to the symbolic were questioned. The young man and the bishop – modelled after the personality of Bishop Stanislav Lenič – experience these changes each in his own way, while being at the edge of events into which they gaze as from another world. The work brings a carefully structured story which, in some passages, merges into poetry, and finally shines up as an unexpected spiritual experience.

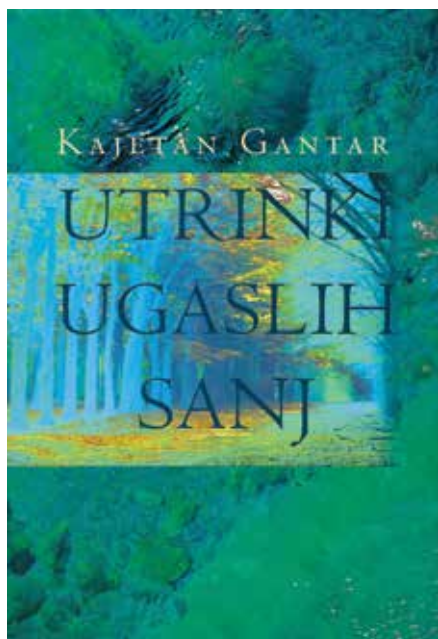
Miklavž Komelj: *Cover Me, Snow*

Original Slovenian title: *Skrij me, sneg*

2021, hardcover, 230 pp.

Genre: fiction, a novel

Key words: autobiographical elements, art history, social history, Slovenia's becoming independent, spiritual world, Bishop Stanislav Lenič



In his memoir, Kajetan Gantar (b. 1930), a classical philologist and university teacher of international acclaim, and a famous, award-winning Slovenian translator of Greek and Latin Classical texts, describes his life from birth until marriage. He first focuses on his youth spent in Celje, and then on the time of World War 2, i.e. his stay at the St. Stanislav's Institution in Ljubljana, and his life in a refugee camp in Austria in 1945 and 1946. He concludes his memories of youth by describing his return to Yugoslavia, where he then completed grammar school and decided to study classical philology.

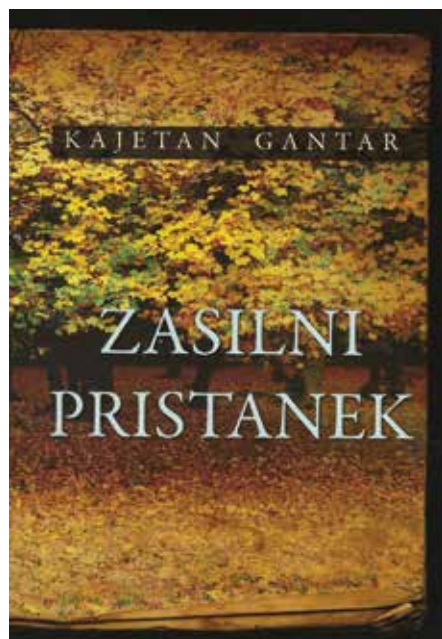
Kajetan Gantar: *Flashes of Faded Dreams. Memories of Youth*

Original Slovenian title: *Utrinki ugaslih sanj. Spomini na mladost*

2005, hardcover, 319 pp.

Genre: literary prose, a memoir

Key words: autobiography, childhood, World War 2, exile, studies, military service, Yugoslavia, worldview



In this book, the author continues his memoir that started with *Flashes of Faded Dreams*. The latter spoke to a very wide audience, who responded to his book with great enthusiasm, and it was precisely this favourable response that made the author decide to write a second part in which, as he says himself, “the tumultuous dramatic times” were followed by “years of emergency landing on hard ground.” And he continues, “Those were years when we did not measure our journey through the tunnel of history by miles or kilometres but rather were glad of every single millimetre that we thought was taking us closer to light ...” “The second part of Gantar’s memoir is an excellently written, engaging text also providing suspense at times, but what is even more vital than all this, in *Emergency Landing*, is its relevance for the present,” Blaž Zabel wrote in *Pogledi*.

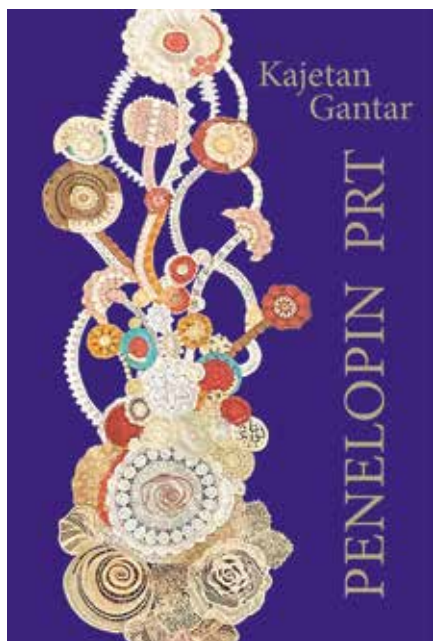
Kajetan Gantar: *Emergency Landing*

Original Slovenian title: *Zasilni pristanek*

2011, hardcover, 264 pp.

Genre: literary prose, a memoir

Key words: autobiography, classical philology, post-war time, career, translation work, employment, family life



Kajetan Gantar: *Penelope's Shroud*

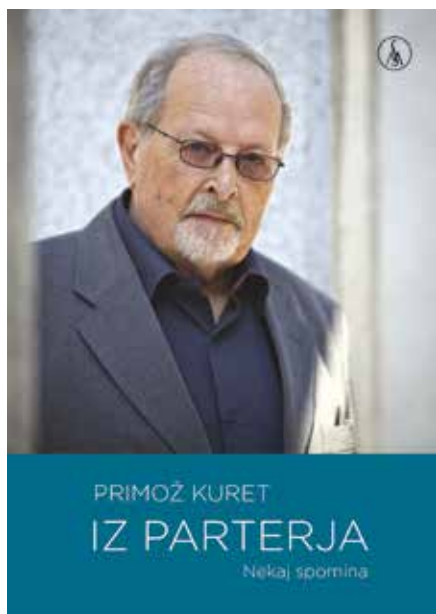
Original Slovenian title: *Penelopin prt*

2021, hardcover, 347 pp.

Genre: literary prose, a memoir

Key words: literary history, classical philology, translation work, family life, scholarly career, Slovenia's gaining independence

Penelope's Shroud is the third and final part of Kajetan Gantar's memoir, titled after the famous motif of the shroud that Odysseus's wife Penelope is weaving. The book completes and takes on the two previous memoir books, as the author strives to shed light on the progressions of his life and creation each time from another aspect neglected until then. The initial explanation of how an odyssey of the author's life came about instead of a planned new translation of *The Odyssey* is followed by six thematic sections: the first one ("Overlooked and Forgotten Details") rounds up the previous two books with new information; the second one ("Family Life") sheds light on resolving the questions of earning a livelihood and elaborates on personal hobbies; while the central section ("Scholarly Ambitions") delineates the author's progression from first publications in international reviews and presentations at congresses to guest lectures at universities in Italy, Austria, Germany and Belgium. The sections "Slovenian Spring" and "Membership of, and Responsibilities in the SAZU" describe, respectively, the decisive period when an independent Slovenian state was emerging, and the author's activities in the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In the section titled "America," Gantar is concerned with his meeting friends from his youth whom destiny had taken into the New World, while in "Final Surprises" he discloses some unexpected achievements and touching personal experiences.



Primož Kuret: *From the Audience Side of the Stage. A Bit of Memory*

Original Slovenian title: *Iz parterja. Nekaj spomina*

2020, hardcover, 201 pp.

Genre: literary prose, a memoir

Key words: autobiography, musicology, music, 20th century, Slovenia, Europe

In his first autobiography, Dr. Primož Kuret (b. 1935), a great personality of Slovenian and European musicology, sits down in a theatre hall in front of scenes of his own life in order to relive, by way of memory, both his most delightful and most bitter moments. Thus we come to know from close up the author's childhood marked by war, his great emotional accord with his father (the academician Niko Kuret), and his creative grammar school years; we stroll with him through the cosmopolitan Vienna, and look behind the scenes of intellectual frictions back in Slovenia. *From the Audience Side of the Stage* is an honest and spirited record of a life that remained dedicated to art in face of all obstacles, as well as a precious testimony to the ebullient 20th century in Slovenia and Europe. "The slim book *From the Audience Side of the Stage*, bestowed on us by Primož Kuret, is an utterly unembellished, at times almost registering report of one's own 'household management.' In it, there is no ornamenting or toning down but only a hard and harsh reality. And above all, music. However, it is also a narration of how folks in Slovenia used to go about this and that in their relations until very recently," Ddr. Igor Grdina writes in *Zvon*.



Lidija Matthews Zwitter: *Letters from London 1939-1946*

Selection and commentary: Anja Dular

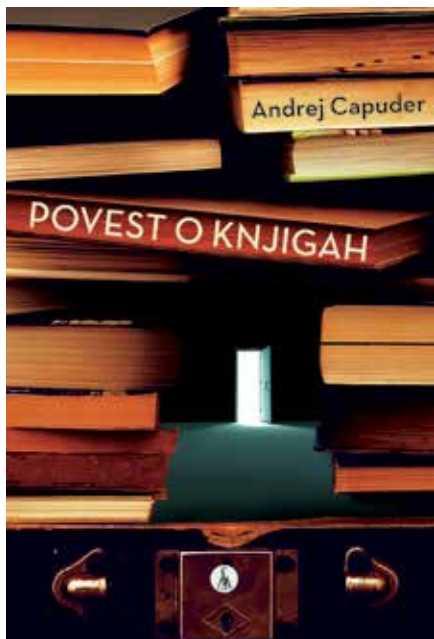
Original Slovenian title: ***Pisma iz Londona 1939-1946***

2021, hardcover, 453 pp.

Genre: literary prose, letters

Key words: Slovenian lawyer Lidija Zwitter, World War 2, living abroad, London

The book is an important contribution to knowledge of the wartime Slovenian story, as it presents it from a rather unknown perspective, thus far, of a Slovenian living abroad. Lidija Zwitter, a lawyer, lived in London since 1933. In 1939 she began to write for *Prosveta*, a paper of American Slovenians. In her *Letters from London* there is, in addition to sketches of war-time events in the British metropolis, a significant amount of memories of, and reflections on, her native localities as well as of broader consequences of war. The letters take us from her initial admiration for the King to later criticism of his luxurious life, and from supporting the Chetnik Movement to realising the importance of Partisans' fight. In the first year of her collaboration with the paper, she contributed two letters, while in 1940 that number was forty, and in the course of the next three years, she wrote more than one letter a week. In 1944 she left for Bari and returned to London after the war, when she wrote an additional 11 contributions, thus totalling 210 letters. The introduction to the story of the author's life was written by her niece, Anja Dular, who thus completed work undertaken decades priorly by her father – Lidija's brother, Slovenian historian and academician Fran Zwitter.



Andrej Capuder (1942–2018), an award-winning writer, translator, Romance linguist, university teacher, politician and diplomat, wrote an engaging autobiographical book about books that have left a mark on him, that have formed him in childhood, youth and adulthood, and to which he has often returned. Naturally, he does not write about all books he has read but nevertheless, his selection as well as the spirited and profound manner, and the engaging and fluent style in which he meditates on them is doubtlessly going to be an interesting experience for the reader. “A book is a love, too,” he writes in the introduction and continues, “it is difficult to pinpoint here who the seductor is and who the seduced, and this is the greatest magic of it. Only great authors are capable of providing it, and hence the unerring term *classic*, which the memory of humankind still knows in face of all the changes of times, fashions and tastes.”

Andrej Capuder: *A Tale of Books*

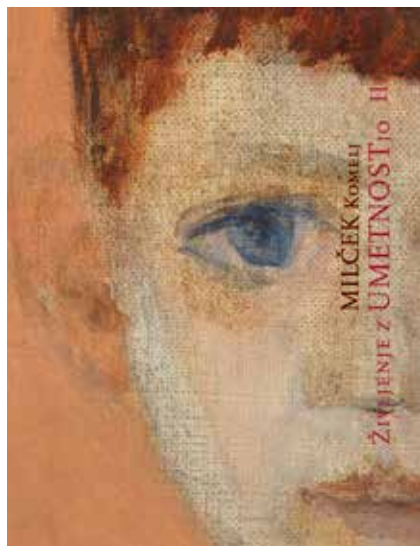
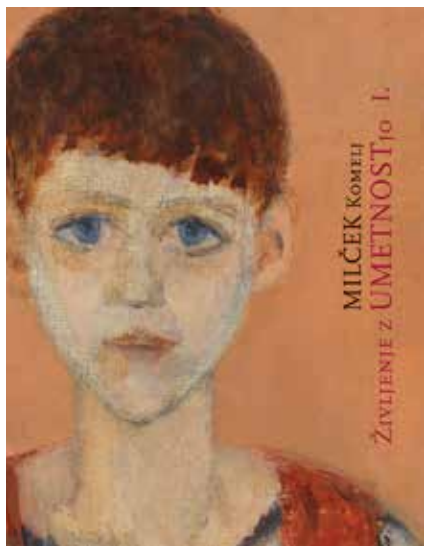
Original Slovenian title: *Povest o knjigah*

2014, hardcover, 326 pp.

Genre: literary prose, prose writings, essays

Key words: autobiographical elements, memoir, books, reading, life periods, 20th century

Award: Rožanc Award for Best Collection of Essays, 2015



Milček Komelj: *Life with Art I and II: Essays, Writings, Verses*

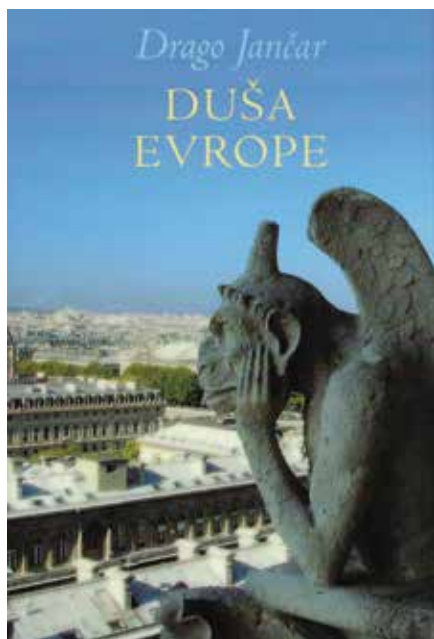
Original Slovenian title: *Življenje z umetnostjo I in II: eseji, spisi, stihi*

2018, hardcover, 2 parts: 523, 381 pp.

Genre: literary prose, essays, writings, verses

Key words: art, art history, art reviewing, autobiography, creation

The jubilee monograph on the occasion of the 70th birthday of Milček Komelj (b. 1948), an academician and doctor of philosophy in art history, is a panoramic overview of all areas of Komelj's activities, and presents the author as both an art historian and artist. It includes reprinted passages from his texts published in various reviews, collections and catalogues, while some of the texts are published for the first time. The author included essays, writings, and verses, previously unpublished photographs and, primarily, memories of his years-long work in art.



As the title suggests, the essays mainly discuss questions relating to European identity, which is increasingly torn between its cultural heritage and demands of the political and economic globalisation. The author is equally concerned with questions of Europe and the new historical situation of Slovenia in which Slovenians found themselves after the country's political integration into Europe. Jančar strives to understand this situation both in the context of Slovenia's cultural and political past, and within modern relations, when the question of the country's originality is faced with new challenges of the future.

Drago Jančar: *The Soul of Europe: Articles, Essays, Fragments*

Original Slovenian title: *Duša Evrope: članki, eseji, fragmenti*

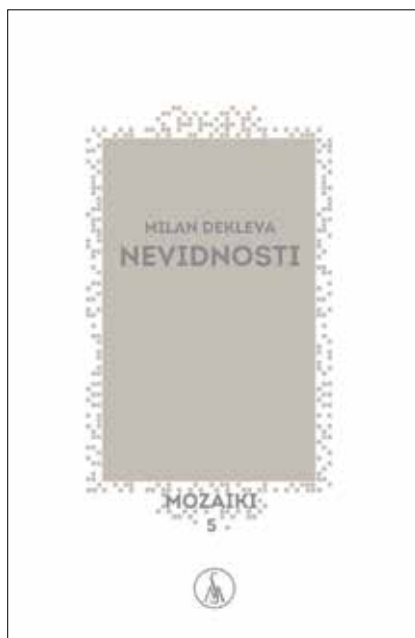
2006, hardcover, 264 pp.

Genre: literary prose, prose writings, essays

Key words: Europe, Slovenia, socio-political circumstances, European identity, cultural heritage, globalisation

Award: Rožanc Award for Best Collection of Essays, 2006

Poetry



Milan Dekleva: *Invisibilities*

Commentary: Dean Komel

Original Slovenian title: *Nevidnosti*

2021, hardcover, 119 pp.

Genre: poetry

Key words: pandemic, uncertainty, being lost, poetization of the world

The twenty-fifth, jubilee poetry collection by Milan Dekleva (b. 1946), an acclaimed poet, novelist, short story writer, playwright, essayist and translator, emerged as a very personal response to the pandemic. It was written in the latter's first wave, and is underlined by feeling uncertain, feeling that one is in control of neither the universe nor one's own life. It is precisely this being lost that becomes, in *Invisibilities*, a fundament, actually a call for poetization of the world, for producing a blaring and resounding word, which is creative due to its very fragility and transience. In fact, the invisibilities among us call for an existence, as Dean Komel writes in his commentary. They do not only call up the invisible in ourselves, i.e. that which we may be hiding within or what remains hidden from others. Rather, the invisible, of the type that awakens us, is the very question of who I am. *Invisibilities*, in their callings, thus simply teach us to be, and we learn to speak by them, and they tell us what it's like to love.



Brane Senegačnik: *Talks to No One*

Commentary: Alen Širca

Original Slovenian title: ***Pogovori z nikomer***

2019, hardcover, 127 pp.

Genre: poetry

Key words: lyrical tone, feelings, emotions, being, the transcendent, surroundings

Award: 2021 Prešeren Fund Award

Translated into: German (Mohorjeva založba/Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt/Celovec)

In his seventh collection of poems, Brane Senegačnik (b. 1966), a poet, classical philologist, translator, essayist and columnist, keeps to the stance he has been cultivating and subtly deepening ever since his first poems. It is characterised by focusing creatively on what is going on in one's mind, by which Senegačnik confronts our time mainly expecting engagement from poetry, and remains the leading lyrical poet of his generation. "Although in a vibrant contact with his surroundings, from which he takes images, words and shapes, his bedrock remains to be his own sensations, emotions, and thoughts, and he keeps coming back to those as the most elemental and real mode of being in the world which, for Senegačnik, is also where one is met with the transcendent. This double openness – i.e. into this world, inspiring the poet with tangibility of its images, and into the otherworldly ocean of silence and unspeakability – builds up a specific electricity of poetic idiom which, in *Talks to No One*, reaches astoundingly high symbolic, stylistic, and formal positions," Miljana Cunta writes in her review in *Slovenski čas*.



Neža Zajc: *Without Saying Goodbye*

Commentary: Denis Poniž

Original Slovenian title: *Brez slovesa*

2021, hardcover, 158 pp.

Genre: poetry

Key words: dying, death, saying goodbye, transience, memory

The third collection of poetry by the literary and cultural historian Neža Zajc (b. 1979) speaks of dying and death when there is neither time nor breath that would allow a goodbye to be realised. On the other hand, it testifies to the intrinsic power of creation, which must save a number of non-concluded and unrealised moments. With their precise architectonic positioning, the cycles “A Gift,” “Death Smells” and “I Finally Mouthed” suggest a tripartite structure, by which Zajc constructs an ontologically conceived totality of everyperson’s determination which, through heritage, inspiration, and self-expression, sees the curve of existence as a metaphysical continuation of earthly progression or, as Denis Poniž writes in the commentary, “In this world where for the majority of times, our perceptions are but impressions set between birth and death, the poetess struggles to find the most fitting images but not such as drug us with their mellowness but harsh and hard ones that open wide our consciousness and clear our view.”



David Bandelj: *Eleven Years and a Half of Silence*

Commentary: Igor Grdina

Original Slovenian title: *Enajst let in pol tišine*

2020, hardcover, 98 pp.

Genre: poetry

Key words: being Jew, holocaust, World War 2, death, free verse

Eleven years and a half would have passed if we kept silent for one minute for each holocaust victim, and it is this very number, as a metaphor of timelessness, where the collection of poems by David Bandelj (b. 1978) goes on. Two voices intertwine in it: the voice of history, or fate, in its indifference, disinterest, and overwhelming power, and thin voices of individuals who have themselves felt, or witnessed from close up, the brutality of evil. Whereas the former voice speaks from the chaotic and anonymous first principle of everything there is, the latter ones, when confronted with the chaos of the unnameable, communicate their here and now in all concreteness and finality. The poet enters the point where tragic historical experience is faced with poetic insight not as a distanced explorer of a conquered territory but as an involved, extremely vulnerable and compassionate seer and thinker. In his commentary, Ddr. Igor Grdina writes, among other things, “David Bandelj’s poetry collection goes about the great task ... in an utterly difficult situation, in the domain of death, where many are deprived of words and only few can speak. Therefore it is for us to open it, and to take in, and reflect on, what is written in it.”

Non-Fiction



Edvard Ravnikar: *Art and Architecture*

Collected and edited by: Aleš Vodopivec

Original Slovenian title: *Umetnost in arhitektura*

2021, paperback, 276 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, essays

Key words: Slovenian architecture, art,
20th century

This is a reprint of essays by Edvard Ravnikar (1907–1993), a central personality of modern architecture having left a strong mark on Slovenia by his buildings, projects, writings, and lectures. He was convinced that one cannot comprehend architecture if one observes it in a careless mechanical way, without a mental effort. The collection brings various kinds of writings, testifying to the exceptional width of his professional interests and undertakings that range, from architecture, to urbanism and design, to publishing and lecturing. “The essays book – edited by Professor Aleš Vodopivec, the receiver of a 1991 Prešeren Fund Award and one of the more prominent experts on Ravnikar’s opus – is the most complete overview of the architect’s creative and critical thought thus far. A value added to the essays is provided by an in-depth introduction that positions Ravnikar within time and space,” the reviewer Maja Črepinšek writes in *Bukla*.



Henrik Neubauer: *World History of Dance*

Introduction: Ignacija J. Fridl

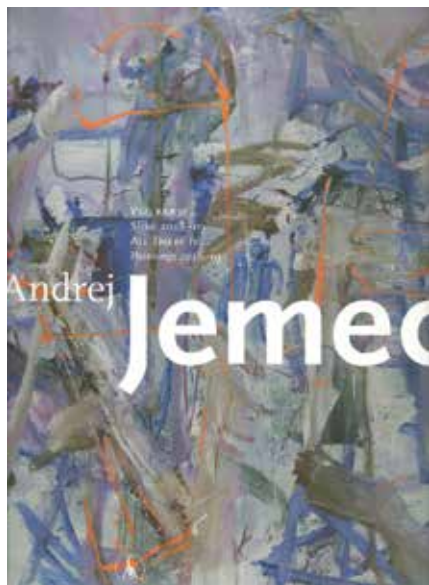
Original Slovenian title: *Svetovna zgodovina plesa*

2020, paperback, 124 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a monograph

Key words: history of dance, ballet

The book by Dr. Henrik Neubauer (b. 1929), a ballet dancer, choreographer, untiring researcher, theoretician, ballet teacher, director, and author of numerous books on the arts of ballet and opera, is a condense presentation of world history of the art of dancing. After his books outlining the history of Slovenian ballet, the author reached, this time, to a broader dance scene and touched on the development of ballet worldwide. Information such as comprised in this book seems to be available at every corner today but nevertheless, it is sometimes more practical to reach for a book containing fundamental information in a single spot. Here, the history of the art of dancing worldwide is presented from the viewpoint of a person who dedicated his life to this art and experienced it, judging from his extensive work, from a variety of perspectives. Of special interest are the author's own reflections and conclusions regarding the evolution of dance worldwide, which he intertwined with clear historical facts. This book adds another precious piece into the mosaic of writings about the art of dancing in the Slovenian language, and will remain relevant for future generations.



**Andrej Jemec: *All There Is ... Paintings*
2018–19**

Commentary and dedication poem:
Milček Komelj

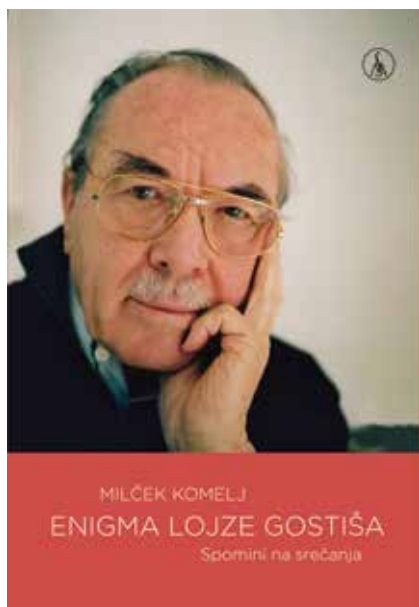
Original Slovenian title: *Vse, kar je ...
Slike 2018–19 = All there is ... Paintings
2018–19*

2019, hardcover, 127 pp., bilingual edition

Genre: non-fiction, a monograph

Key words: art history, Slovenian painters,
21st century, personal exhibitions

The monograph by the academician Andrej Jemec (b. 1934) was published in honour of his 85th birthday to bring forth 32 reproductions of his drawings and 80 reproductions of his paintings dating from 2018 and 2019. It includes a scholarly commentary by the academician Dr. Milček Komelj, who says of Jemec's creativity of past years that "in his markedly colourful creative domain, Andrej Jemec, a fine colourist painter, primarily expresses himself through a delicate stroke of the brush. The stroke is fundamentally fine, fragile, whereas energetic and ragged with sudden turns so that it sparks and inspires everything as it swoops through the colour base; however, it can also be tough and massive to mark out the architectural foundations above which, and among which, the colourful life goes on. In its oneness with colour, the painter's stroke resembles a poetic word, or an emerging and dying sound of charmingly suggestive visual music. Artistically, the painter's endless plain of colour is an ocean, or a cosmos, in which a rhythm of shapes – with its multiple voices or a central-line sound – merges into an aerial or a green earthly vastness, making it blare with light or darkening it and marking, by its line clusters and colour relations, the resounding of ethereal or thick surfaces with everything there is."



Lojze Gostiša (1923–2019), an art historian, began to join up with artists in his service to post-war rulers, but his having met creators grew into a true interest in art, in which he discovered the meaning of his life. The author of the book, Dr. Milček Komelj, became associated with Gostiša in an unusual way, i.e. through his collaboration with France Mihelič and, later, by his insight into Gostiša's final time of study as a mentor. In their working meetings in pubs, Komelj was the most surprised by Gostiša's character that shaped his decisions and destiny, as well as his passionate love for art, which can bring people together regardless of their views of historical time.

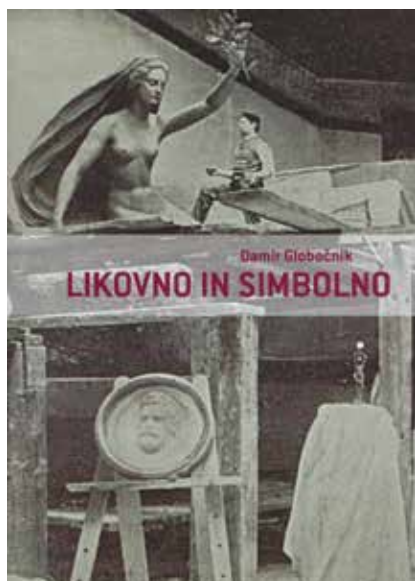
Milček Komelj: *The Enigma of Lojze Gostiša. Memories of Having Met Him*

Original Slovenian title: *Enigma Lojze Gostiša. Spomini na srečanja*

2021, hardcover, 348 pp

Genre: non-fiction, a memoir

Key words: art history, art



Damir Globočnik: *The Artistic and the Symbolic: Collective Memory of Being Slovenian in Fine Arts*

Original Slovenian title: *Likovno in simbolno: kolektivni spomin slovenstva v likovni umetnosti*

2017, hardcover, 640 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a monograph

Key words: art, sculpture, monuments, memorial plaques, gravestones, national identity, Slovenian painting, caricature, exhibitions, art theory, symbols, 19th century, 20th century

The book comprises sixteen chapters focusing on symbolic dimensions of fine art works (i.e. public monuments in honour of, respectively, Valentin Vodnik, Simon Jenko, Ivan Cankar, the kings Peter I, and Alexander I of Yugoslavia, and the Illyrian Pillar), emblematic fine art images (Leopold Layer's painting of *Holy Mary of Mercy*), and the artists who came to enjoy a mythical status (painter Ivan Grohar, caricaturist Hinko Smrekar). Symbolic charge of artistic images is also discussed in the chapter on the caricatures originating in the time when the Habsburg Monarchy fell apart and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians was formed, and the chapter on illustrated editions of France Prešeren's *A Toast* during World War 2. Monuments, in particular, can be conceived of as fine art realisations of time-bound ideals of the Slovenian national community, or indicators of its shared identity, memory, the collective imaginary, and national myths. Works of art are fitted into their historical, social, ideological, and political contexts.



Klemen Jelinčič Boeta: *Languages and Peoples of Europe*

Peer reviewers: Matjaž Klemenčič, Aleš Maver

Original Slovenian title: ***Jeziki in ljudstva Evrope***

2021, hardcover, 335 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a lexicon

Key words: ethnography, peoples of Europe, native peoples, ethnic groups, languages, language minorities, history, religious identity

Translated into: English (National Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana)

The book is a voluminous and exact lexicon, in which Klemen Jelinčič Boeta (b. 1973), an anthropologist, sociologist, historicist and translator, lists 212 entries, of which 201 pertain to languages and an additional 11 ones to nations. The author presents the history and the current situation of nations and languages of Europe, while each entry also includes information on the historically predominant religious identity of the particular community's members. A value added of the monograph is the multitude of statistical information, which makes for a clear image of the sizes of particular communities in terms of their numbers and territories, while an additional useful tool of the book is maps, and a list of main sources and literature. There is no doubt that historians, linguists, sociologists, theologians, geographers and, in fact, all interested in the origins and makeup of the 'Old Continent' linguistic and cultural diversity, will be able to put the book to good use.



Marija Stanonik: *The Bee in a Flower and in the World: Bees in Nature and the Economy, Slovenian Cultural History, Literary Lore and Literature*

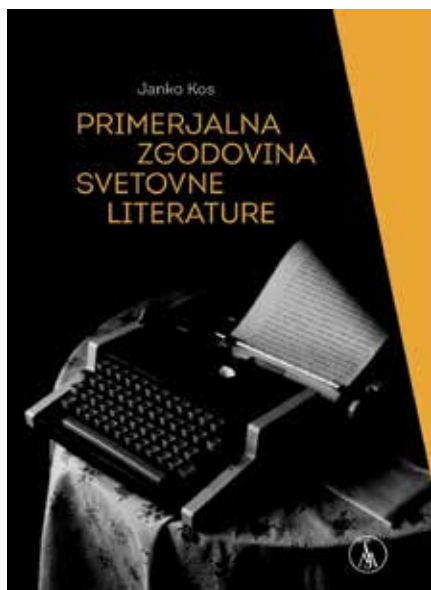
Original Slovenian title: *Čebela na cvetu in v svetu: čebela v naravi in gospodarstvu, slovenski kulturni zgodovini, slovstveni folklori in literaturi*

2018, hardcover, 296 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: bees, beekeeping, biology, Slovenian culture, folklore, literature

Bees used to have a vital role in Slovenian culture and economy. On the occasion of the first World Bee Day, several remarkable books were written. For nearly a decade, the academican Ddr. Marija Stanonik (b. 1947) collected and researched a wide variety of materials relating to their significance both in the nation's economic life and cultural history, including literary traditions, folklore, science and art. The result of this endeavour is a monograph that also includes a rich selection of photographs to present the role of the bee in culture in general, and in Slovenian literature in particular. Introductory chapters present the origin of the term *čebela* ("bee"), its life in a natural environment, and its rich symbolic meanings in antiquity and early Christianity. This is followed by a presentation of first Slovenian scientific writings on beekeeping (by Valvasor, Scopoli, Hipolit, Janša, Levstik and others), and works and institutions in the period between the 17th and 20th century that either consider bees or refer to them. In chapters 6–9, bees and beekeeping in Slovenian literature and literary lore are discussed. The tenth chapter is ethnological in nature, reaching across Slovenia's borders to Slovenians living in its neighbouring countries or worldwide. The next section, "Bees in the Economy," is dedicated to all who endeavour to earn their living by beekeeping and bee products. Together with the twelfth chapter ("Bees and Politics"), it joins forces with all those concerned about the future of bees, as a future for bees also means a future for humans.



Janko Kos: *A Comparative History of World Literature*

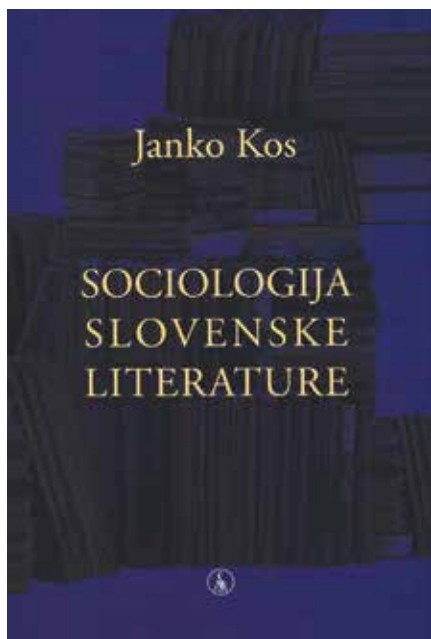
Original Slovenian title: *Primerjalna zgodovina svetovne literature*

2020, hardcover, 204 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: world literature, literary history, spiritual history, culture

In his *Comparative History of World Literature*, Dr. Janko Kos (b. 1931), an academician, literary historian and theorist, member of post-war critical generation, university teacher and author of numerous books, brings forth an outline of literary history that defies a positivist inventory of all of its particulars. He thus discerns, by way of the methodology of a spiritual history, generalities in particular literary history phenomena that relate literature to contemporary religious, metaphysical, and social-moral bases of culture. In a time marked by a tendency to reference-book knowledge, Kos' book is a precious attempt at a synthesis of complex phenomena and movements, through which a coherent image of world literature arises. "What distinguishes the author is his encyclopaedic knowledge of world literature as well as of cultural communities and historical facts," Aljaž Krivec writes in his review of the book in *Delo*.



Janko Kos: *A Sociology of Slovenian Literature*

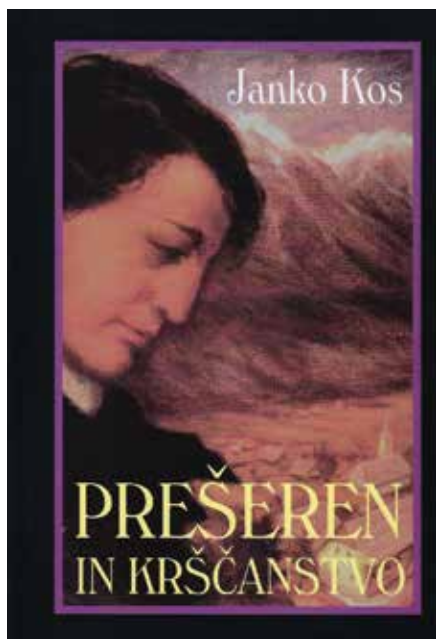
Original Slovenian title: ***Sociologija slovenske literature***

2016, hardcover, 162 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a monograph, a treatise

Key words: sociology of literature, Slovenian literature, literary science, literary history, sociological aspect

The author conceives of literary sociology as of a specific scientific discipline at the borderline between sociology and literary science. Literary sociology, researching Slovenian literature at the level of authors, has sufficient data at its disposal to be able to employ an analysis bringing together the two disciplines to explain with a great deal of certainty the meaning of literature in each particular historical social context. Using this method, Janko Kos interprets Slovenian literature on a wide historical trajectory of social circumstances and ideologies. Ideologies manifest with greater power at times of strong social and political conflicts. Naturally, there are authors and books that escape such definitions, remaining ambiguous or completely non-definable in terms of ideology. This is an exceptional work by the excellent expert on Slovenian and European literature and the social circumstances in which they originate.



Janko Kos is an expert in comparative literature, who also specialises with great distinction in the most acclaimed Slovenian poet, France Prešeren (1800–1849), and is particularly interested in the latter's relation to Christianity. The book discusses Prešeren as a freethinker, his knowledge of the Bible, the world of his values, and the understanding of Christianity in Prešeren's long poem *The Baptism by the Savica*. The treatise is annotated, and is recommended to all who love Prešeren and who would like to come to know objectively his spiritual outlook.

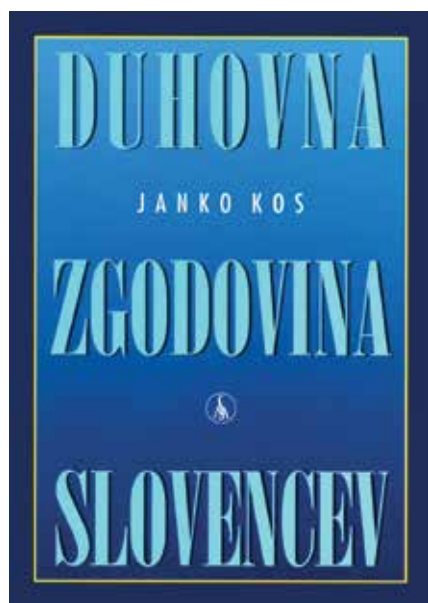
Janko Kos: *Prešeren and Christianity*

Original Slovenian title: *Prešeren in krščanstvo*

2002, hardcover, 162 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a monograph, a treatise

Key words: sociology of literature, Slovenian literature, literary science, literary history, sociological aspect



Janko Kos: *A Spiritual History of Slovenians*

Original Slovenian title: *Duhovna zgodovina Slovencev*

1996, hardcover, 225 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: cultural history, spiritual history, Slovenians

The author's view of problems of spiritual history is based on his exceptional knowledge of written heritage in the lands where Slovenians have lived from its first beginnings, to its inclusion in European historical realities beginning with an established Roman culture, to the inclusion of Slovenians in various cultural styles and philosophical movements contemporary with them. Knowledge of the fundamental moving forces that distinctly appeared in the course of history and formed us is a precondition for understanding the Slovenian pulse of today. The book traces the emergence of a medieval Slovenian people and its evolution into a nation, and finally into a spiritually and culturally complex nation having formed its own nation-state. This is a natural process, therefore any attempts to bring the "diversified national body" back to the level of a homogeneous people, as recently communism and some other belief movements attempted, should be rejected as regressions. The author sees a prospect for a positive evolution of the Slovenian nation in a self-reflection of the positions of the two historical belief movements that were elemental for the Slovenians – i.e. Catholicism and the freethinkers. The two should complement each other in a dialogue rather than being opposites destructive for the nation as a whole.



Vesna Mikolič: *Do You Do Cankar's Books?*

Original Slovenian title: *Ali bereš Cankarja?*

2021, hardcover, forthcoming

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Slovenian, Ivan Cankar, reading strategies, reading literacy

Vesna Mikolič (b. 1965) is a full-time professor and academic councillor in linguistics, essayist and media contributor. Her popular science book thus endeavours to bring the poetics of Ivan Cankar close to both young and older readers, especially teachers. The basic premise of a new reading of Cankar is that each artistic idiom has to be comprehended, just as we have to comprehend each language we want to use. The book brings a new, innovative approach to raising reading literacy and developing capabilities to read more demanding literary texts. It describes new reading strategies intended for both teachers and pupils when discussing Cankar at school as well as for a wider readership interested in Ivan Cankar's work. Linguistic and formal features of this monograph, based on a terminology of key words, comply with all scholarly standards while at the same time, the author, discussing particular Cankar's works in a very concrete and clear manner, ensures a broader usability of the work both at school and outside of it.



Matevž Kos: *Years of Living Dangerously. Five Fragments on Slovenian Literature and World War 2*

Original Slovenian title: *Leta nevarnega življenja. Pet fragmentov o slovenski literaturi in drugi svetovni vojni*

2019, hardcover, 191 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: literature and war, Slovenian novel, 20th century, World War 2

Short-listed for: Rožanc Award for Best Collection of Essays, 2020, Anton Ocvirk Recognition Award, 2020

Translated into: Croatian (Naklada Lara, Zagreb)

In his literary history book, Matevž Kos (b. 1966), a literary historian, reviewer and essayist, discusses selected novels by writers having lived through the War, including Edvard Kocbek, Vitomil Zupan, Lojze Kovačič and Zorko Simčič, as well as younger authors of contemporary Slovenian literature whose topic is World War 2. “In his *Years of Living Dangerously*, Matevž Kos deploys fragment as his literary-historian poetics, starting from the premise that fragment, while not attempting to capture totality in all its width, is nevertheless more telling of it than a vast synthesis. In addition, Kos makes it clear to the reader that with his literary history narrative rounding up the literary basics of what and how especially with historical context, he is building up a story: a story of stories. The image of a totality arising in the pages of Kos’ book is by no means clearcut, or marked by any prejudgement. ... Kos’ fragments, like best Slovenian literature on World War 2, finally come through as a writing distinguished by the writer’s unsparing self-honesty, or attitude devoid of any prejudice against others; a graphic outbringing of human experience; and a brevity of style depicting the incomprehensibility and horror of human fate in an ascetic manner, by way of ‘less is more,’” wrote Dr. Vid Snoj in his scholarly review of the book.



Bogomila Kravos: *Slovenian Theatre in Trieste. From First Performances until Today: 1848–2018*

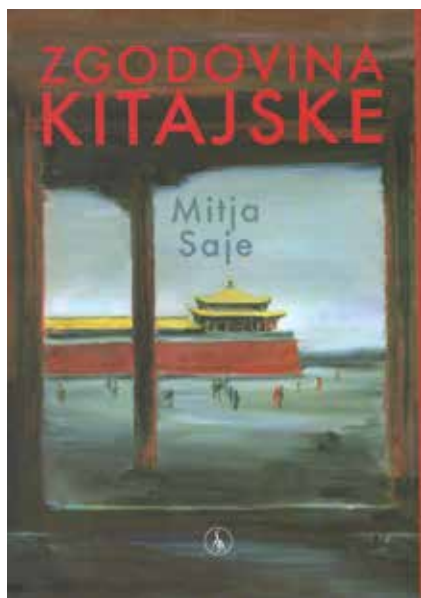
Original Slovenian title: *Slovensko gledališče v Trstu. Od prvih nastopov do današnjih dni: 1848–2018*

2019, hardcover, 315 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Slovenian theatre, Trieste, 1848–2018, national minorities, Italy, Slovenians living beyond state borders

The monograph by Bogomila Kravos (b. 1948), a Slavic linguist and doctor of philosophy in literary sciences, is a definitive overview of theatrical endeavours of Slovenians in the broader area of Trieste since their beginnings in 1848 until today. In it, the author collected and published important sources and photographic materials testifying to the beginnings of both national and theatre-related awakening of Slovenians in Trieste and its surroundings. She sums up the history of theatre in Trieste chronologically, by significant periods and historical turning points. Each section also comprises a list of all recorded performances. Despite the vast mass of information, however, the evolution of Trieste theatre is depicted primarily as a live and lived theatrical reality, since the author cites numerous public documents – i.e., letters, reviews, newspaper articles – that stress not only historical facts but also the political, cultural, linguistic, and solely interpersonal relations in the Trieste theatrical environment. With a critical apparatus and detailed descriptions it contains, the author's research work is doubtlessly a precious source of information for generations to come.



A History of China is a historiographic monograph presenting the historical evolution of China from the earliest times until modern age. The book by the sinologist Mitja Saje (b. 1947) is well-structured, and after introductory chapters outlining the basic features of the geography and natural environment of China, and the Chinese' view of their own history, each historical period is presented clearly and vividly in terms of not only its politics and administration, but also its society, economy, culture and religion. The book includes maps and selected black-and-white illustrations.

Mitja Saje: *A History of China*

Original Slovenian title: ***Zgodovina Kitajske***

2015, hardcover, 546 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: history, political history, economy, culture, society, China

Translated into: Croatian (Srednja Evropa, Zagreb)



In a time period that mistakes speed for quality, and in circumstances forcing us to publish our research results immediately and – frequently – without a truly careful consideration, the mindful and, in terms of content, very well-structured treatise by Irena Avsenik Nabergoj (b. 1969), a historian of literature and an expert on religions, is a more than pleasant surprise. Following a concise introduction outlining the history of Judaism and the beginnings of archaic antisemitism, it depicts – in addition to a clear identification of reasons for the exclusion of Jews – images and self-images of the Jews in European literary heritage.

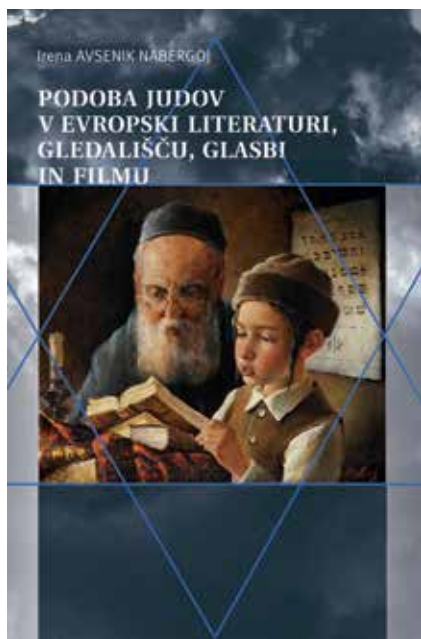
Irena Avsenik Nabergoj: *A History of Anti-Judaism and Antisemitism in Europe*

Original Slovenian title: *Zgodovina protijudovstva in antisemitizma v Evropi*

2016, hardcover, 247 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Jews, European history, antisemitism



The book reaches to the field of the most prominent examinations in literature, culture and religion. Jewish culture is not only the culture with the longest unbroken tradition but still one of the most influential ones, which is reflected in presence of its themes and images in all artistic genres. The author consistently compares her findings to interpretations given by her colleagues from Israel, Europe and the US. She does not do this in the usual way of merely summing up relevant studies in the field but rather she complements them in a subtle and, occasionally, critical manner. The book is interesting for the academia, a wider audience and, doubtlessly, also for the more ambitious students of various fields of social sciences and the humanities.

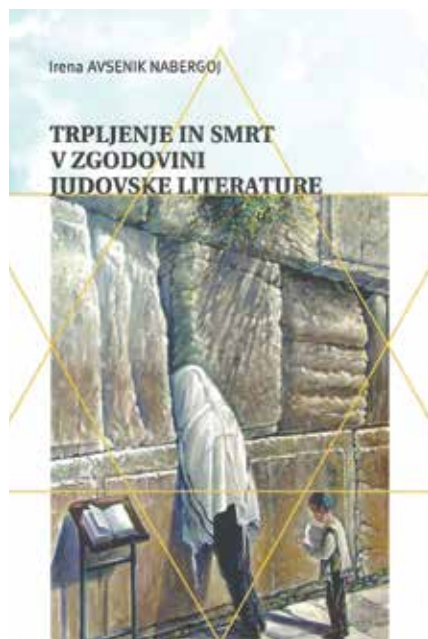
Irena Avsenik Nabergoj: *The Image of Jews in European Literature, Theatre, Music, and Film*

Original Slovenian title: *Podoba Judov v evropski literaturi, gledališču, glasbi in filmu*

2017, hardcover, 352 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Jews, European art, European culture, antisemitism, identity



Irena Avsenik Nabergoj: *Suffering and Death in the History of Jewish Literature*

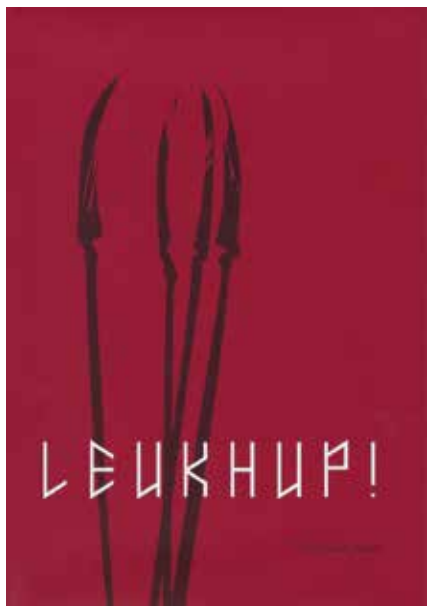
Original Slovenian title: *Trpljenje in smrt v zgodovini judovske literature*

2020, hardcover, 556 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Judaism, Jewish literature, history, suffering, death, mourning, holocaust, antisemitism

The work is the author's third book on the Jewish people concerning the history of their reception, which is reflected in their portrayals in non-Jewish cultural production, in the history of antisemitism, and in the Jews' own responses to human condition, which they experienced in a completely unparalleled way. A feature of this important study – important not only in Slovenian canon – is an examination of a representative conspectus of writings on this topic, coupled by an explanatory presentation of noticeable trends. The subject of this monograph has a specific eco in the poetization of suffering, death and mourning, not only in biblical psalms but also in later writings until the end of the 19th century. Themes and aspects discussed are those related to the central subject-matter, such as martyrdom, Crusades, antisemitism and pogroms, with due attention paid to the holocaust and everything that made, and was making, way for it. Internationally, Ddr. Irena Avsenik Nabergoj's work represents the irresistible power of endeavours for a dialogue and reconciliation among ethnic groups who had had their terrible shares of guilt.



The monograph includes twenty-three treatises by prominent Slovenian historians, art historians, anthropologists, ethnologists and sociologists, written on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the great peasant rebellion in Slovenia in 1515.

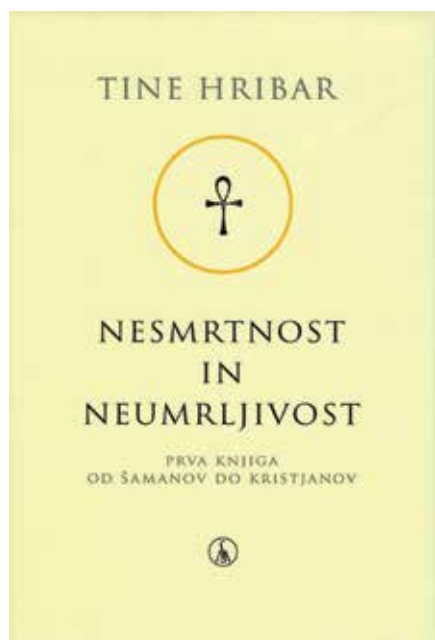
Sašo Jerše: *Rise Up!: Peasant Rebellions in Early Modern Age: History, Parallels, (Re)presentations*

Original Slovenian title: *Leukhup!: kmečko upornišstvo v obdobju predmoderne: zgodovina, vzporednice, (re)prezentacije*

2017, hardcover, 355 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: history, modern era, peasant rebellions, social processes, social conflicts, Slovenia



From Gilgamesh to Paul or first Christians, people believed in deathlessness, i.e. an eternal life without a passage through death. Immortality, on the other hand, means an afterlife, a Life beyond death. Therefore, immortality and deathlessness are not one and the same thing. Modern scientists thus mainly work toward deathlessness, a prolongation of life itself, with its extreme end in eternity. The book *Immortality and deathlessness* by the prominent Slovenian philosopher Tine Hribar (b. 1941) presents, analyses and interprets human desire for deathlessness, or immortality, from world religions, to philosophy, and to endeavours in science.

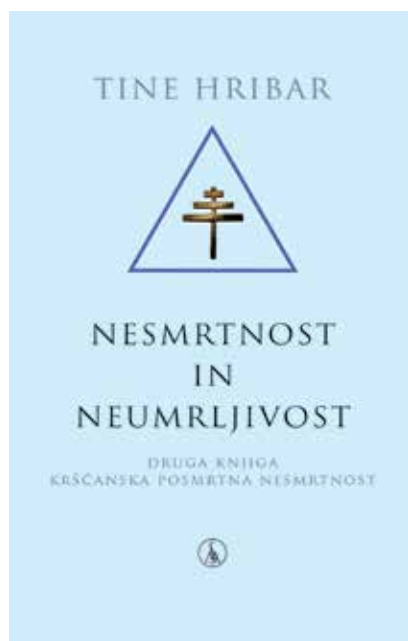
Tine Hribar: *Immortality and Deathlessness, Book I. From Shamans to Christians*

Original Slovenian title: *Nesmrtnost in neumljivost, 1. knjiga. Od šamanov do kristjanov*

2016, hardcover, 274 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, religion, death, immortality, deathlessness



Tine Hribar: *Immortality and Deathlessness, Book II. Christian Post-Mortem Immortality*

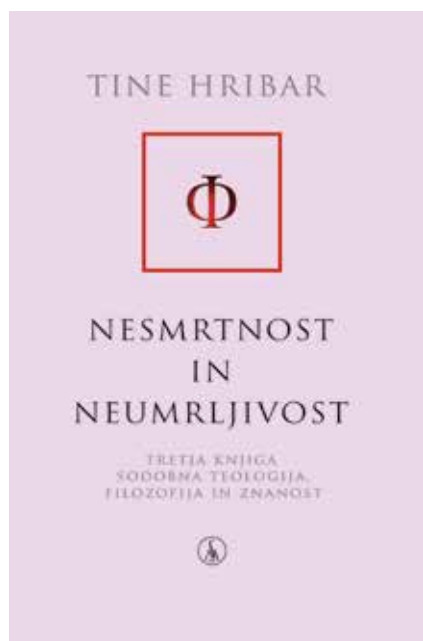
Original Slovenian title: *Nesmrtnost in neumrljivost, 2. knjiga. Krščanska posmrtna nesmrtnost*

2017, hardcover, 444 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, Christianity, immortality, death, martyrs, hermits, clerics, theologians

Hribar's second book discusses the forms and degrees of post-mortem immortality having evolved together with Christianity from the age of martyrs (with a martyr's death for God as a direct passage into heaven), through the age of hermits (who make for a salvation and immortality of their soul by askesis and abstinence from sexuality), to the age of clerics (when a difference between a second, eternal life in heaven, and a second death as a punishment for the greatest sinners thrown into eternal hellfire gradually evolves). The book presents in some detail the views of post-mortem immortality held by Church Fathers and theologians: Polycarp, Justin, Athenagoras, Irenaeus, Tertullian; Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Anthony the Hermit, Athanasius, Pachomius, Evagrius, Ambrose of Milan, Augustus, Dionysius the Areopagite, Boethius, and Thomas Aquinas. A separate presentation is given to Dante and his *Divine Comedy* with its circles of Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise, and the hierarchies that developed among the post-mortals, or immortals, within the said transcendent settings. The book is a clear presentation/demonstration of how true research work is done, and how a creative approach includes its own elaboration and modification.



With this third part, the author concludes his voluminous philosophical trilogy. In it, he discusses in some detail Eckhart's philosophical views of immortality and deathlessness; modern theology (Balthasar, Moltmann, Rupnik); Heidegger's philosophical views of immortality; apologetic philosophising theology (Levinas, Marion, Kocijančič); and findings of modern science relating to death and near-death experiences. He concludes his three-part book treatise saying, "Love of life, in which zest for the life lived now originates, transcends not only a desire for death but also a desire for eternal Life. Death drive (or instinct) is not a desire for death but a desire for something surpassing life: for what is supposed to be more than life but is in fact less. Less than life that includes philosophy, i.e. philo-sophy as love: love of learning. To LOVE, THAT'S ALL."

Tine Hribar: *Immortality and Deathlessness, Book III. Modern Theology, Philosophy and Science*

Original Slovenian title: *Nesmrtnost in neumljivost, 3. knjiga. Sodobna teologija, filozofija in znanost*

2018, hardcover, 403 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, Christianity, science, religion, immortality, modern theology



**Marko Uršič: *Transcendent Presences.*
*Essays on Plotinus' Metaphysics of Light***

Original Slovenian title: ***Presežne prisotnosti. Eseji o Plotinovi metafiziki svetlobe***

2021, hardcover, 404 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, essays

Key words: ancient philosophy, Plotinus, metaphysics of light, Neoplatonism, philosophical-poetical meditation

The book by the university teacher, philosopher and writer Marko Uršič (b. 1951) is a thematically coherent and methodologically thorough philosophical monograph on the metaphysics of light in the most prominent philosopher of late antiquity and the founder of Neoplatonism, Plotinus (3rd c. BC). On the other hand, it is a markedly original work, in which theoretical discourse intertwines with personal philosophical and spiritual contemplations of the world of the Intellect in (Neo)platonism and wider. The theme is structured in three arrays of philosophical essays or treatises: the first array is concerned with the “Shining Kingdom” of the Intellect; in the second array, making up the central and most voluminous part of the book, the author contemplates the Soul in its duality (and, at the same time, oneness) between mind and body; and in the third array titled “Circles of Light” which, though the briefest, is the most condensed in terms of content, the author selected from Plotinus’ opus nine passages for his own philosophical-poetical meditations on the One-or-Good. In addition to extensive footnotes, the book comprises a bibliography, a list of citations from Plotinus’ tractates, and an index of names.



Gorazd Kocijančič: *Erotics, Politics etc.*

Three Essays on the Soul

Commentary: Vid Snoj

Original Slovenian title: ***Erotika, politika itn. Trije poskusi o duši***

2011, hardcover, 455 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, soul, the infinite

Translated into: Serbian (Otačnik, Belgrade/Bernar, Stari Banovci)

The book by the philosopher, translator, media contributor and poet Gorazd Kocijančič (b. 1964) *Erotics, Politics etc.* is a book about the soul. According to an ancient tradition that took root in Europe – and it is traditions that have something to tell that do so – a person not only has a soul but is a soul. Not the “something immaterial” enclosed within a body – a “ghost in a machine” (to use G. Ryle’s memorable syntagm) – but rather a transcendent inaccessibility, which is the locus of everything. Whereas the second tradition, related to the structure of the book, holds that the soul is “composed of” three parts: the desiring part, the capacity for excitement, and the thinking part. The essays of this book which, in line with this trichotomy, are three in number, endeavour to set free, by way of creative philosophising, the potential dimensions of this tradition, and to make it relevant for us again, and today. This goes on within three fragments; within three borderline phenomena; within three concentrations of *éros*, *thymós* and the capacity of *logos*: firstly, in the sphere of erotic phenomenon in its most concrete meaning of sexual desire and sexual pleasure; secondly, within political action as the primordial gesture of “excited” marking of the territory of one’s world, and of conflictual clashes with other “angers;” and thirdly, at the borderline of thinking itself – at the point where the incredible capability of this *logistikón* merges into its Other without being sure if this merging is something real: in the thinking of infinity.



Lenart Škof: *Antigone's Sisters: On the Matrix of Love*

Original Slovenian title: *Antigonine sestre: o matrici ljubezni*

2018, hardcover, 325 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, genealogy, love, ethical principles

The book by Prof. Dr. Lenart Škof (b. 1972), a philosopher and scholar of religion, is a work on the genealogy of love. Like Jesus for Christianity, it is Antigone who is the zero point of ethics in early European thought: she combines ancient unwritten laws, archaic ethical principles, and the highest law of love. Also drawn into a dialogue with Antigone are female deities of Greek Archaic period (Metis), old cosmological matrices (*chóra*), and figures of the so-called heroic women, such as Savitri from the Indian epic *Mahabharata*, Alcestis from the eponymous Greek play by Euripides, and the Slovenian mythological figure of Beautiful Vida. The book also discusses the role of women and the female principle in Jewish-Christian tradition. In conclusion, *Antigone's Sisters* discusses the French philosopher Luce Irigaray as a code for a passage into an age of Breath, which is grounded in a horizontal transcendence, and the related spiritual-bodily gesture of compassion and love.



Lenart Škof: *The Ethics of Breath and the Atmosphere of Politics: From Ethics to Politics, or an Essay on Intersubjectivity*

Original Slovenian title: *Etika diha in atmosfera politike: od etike k politiki ali poskus o intersubjektivnosti*

2012, hardcover, 400 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, politics, social ethics, intersubjectivity

The book is concerned with the question of intersubjectivity and ethics, discussing some of the key thinkers of Western philosophical tradition (Schelling, Feuerbach, G. H. Mead, Heidegger, Derrida, Levinas, Irigaray). It centres on an analysis of corporeality, which Škof discusses using the method of the so-called ethical anatomy of the body. He compares Old Indian philosophy with the classical and the modern Western philosophy to construct a new model of ethics based on an awareness of the elements (air and water). In particular, he focuses on the element of air/breath and the ethical phenomenon of co-breathing, which he grounds in the body – through ethical gestures of attentiveness, peacefulness, and compassion. In this part, he also relates his ethics to the French political philosopher Luce Irigaray, employing a number of comparisons to suggest an elemental intersubjective stance of the communal model of political ethics.



Tomaž Grušovnik: *Willing Ignorance*

Original Slovenian title: *Hotena nevednost*

2020, hardcover, 275 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: philosophy, knowledge, genealogy, truth

The monograph by the philosopher Tomaž Grušovnik (b. 1982) is an attempt at a comprehensive discussion of a phenomenon that we are all aware of but do not know well at all: avoidance of truth. Whereas traditionally, theory of knowledge focuses on the issue of attainability of truth, Grušovnik turns this optics upside down and rather questions himself what role, in our ideas and actions, plays the uneasy burden of knowledge, for which we often wish it would have avoided us. There are three extensive chapters through which the author elaborates his main point, i.e. that the problem of knowledge is related not only to weakness of human reason, but also to our deliberate hiding or running away from the relentlessness of truth: the first chapter focuses on the history of discussions of willing ignorance, which can be traced from antiquity through middle ages to modernity; the second one is concerned with types of, reasons for, and (non-)contradictoriness of the phenomenon; while the third one is concerned with its ethical dimensions. “The author’s knowledge has arisen also based on his own experience in environmental and animal ethics recurring throughout the treatise, which is written in a discourse of great linguistic elegance, rich meaning, and clarity also to a reader with no pre-knowledge in philosophy,” the reviewer Maja Črepinšek writes in *Bukla*.



Matjaž Zwitter: *Talking of Eutanasia*

Introduction: Radko Komadina

Original Slovenian title: ***Pogovarjamo se o evtanaziji***

2019, hardcover, 114 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: medicine, medical ethics, euthanasia, organ transplantation, suicide, patient rights, palliative care, withdrawal of treatment, terminal patients

The book on euthanasia by Matjaž Zwitter, an oncologist and university teacher of ethics, emerged at the time of heated discussions in Slovenia on whether it would be proper to make euthanasia lawful.

There are different, more or less judicious or responsible standpoints from which a person can talk about euthanasia, or give grounds for it, or decide about it. As an oncologist having also watched dying patients for several decades, the author leads us, chapter by chapter, to conclusions that everyone endeavouring to take a stance towards euthanasia-related human and ethical questions ought to know. It should also be read by everyone encountering pain and distress as well as tranquillity of all who are leaving in the course of their work. At various points, the book calls attention to practices that decrease credibility of euthanasia messages. The work is written in the first person – while remaining true to medical ethics throughout, the author presents us many a time with completely personal views concerning the topic under consideration, which opens up a possibility for democratic ethic discussions.



Zvonka Zupanič Slavec: *The History of Healthcare and Medicine in the Slovene Lands. From Traditional to Modern Healthcare, Pharmacy*

Original Slovene title: *Zgodovina zdravstva in medicine na Slovenskem. Medicina skozi čas, javno zdravstvo, farmacija* = *The History of Healthcare and Medicine in the Slovene Lands. From Traditional to Modern Healthcare, Pharmacy*

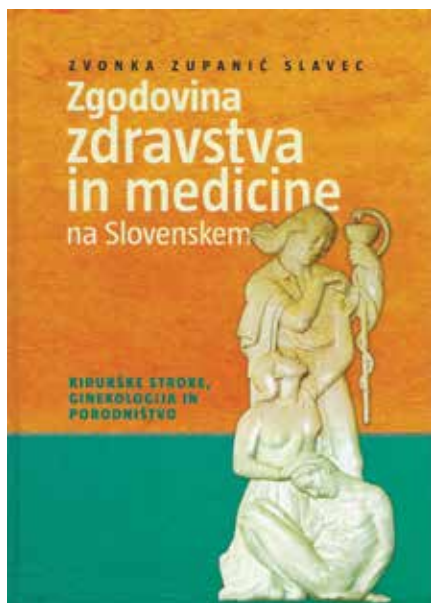
2017, hardcover, 470 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: medicine, history, Slovenia, public health, pharmacy

Due to the wide extent of its subject-matter, an integral presentation of the historical evolution of healthcare in the Slovene lands from the time before the modern age until the beginning of the 21st century will be presented and logically completed in three books. The trilogy is the first attempt at a comprehensive presentation of the evolution of healthcare in this geographic area, and it includes, in addition to the main branches of medicine, the key social factors that determined the healthcare system as well as conditioned the development of fields of medicine in Slovenia, and which are specific for this territory. The guiding principle of medical personnel and all connected within healthcare remains to be health of the individual and of the society, from preventive to curative and rehabilitation-focused activities. At many points, this involves social policy, work of associations of patients, of the disabled and similar, and their spiritual support.

The first book of the trilogy describes the evolution from folk medicine to first medical and pharmacy schools, monastery medicine and charity institutions, to a presentation of the health situation in the Slovene lands, in particular in the 19th and 20th century, and the leading doctors born before the 20th century. Systematically arranged chapters present the development of public health (care) and its changing systems and legislation, the emergence of outpatient clinics, of the general and family medicine, of the medicine of work, transport and sports. The book records the development of hospitals of all types (civil, military, general and specialist ones), private healthcare institutions (sanatoriums), of medicine in extreme circumstances, military health service in World Wars 1 and 2. It includes more than 1000 pictures.



Zvonka Zupanič Slavec: *The History of Healthcare and Medicine in the Slovene Lands. Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics*

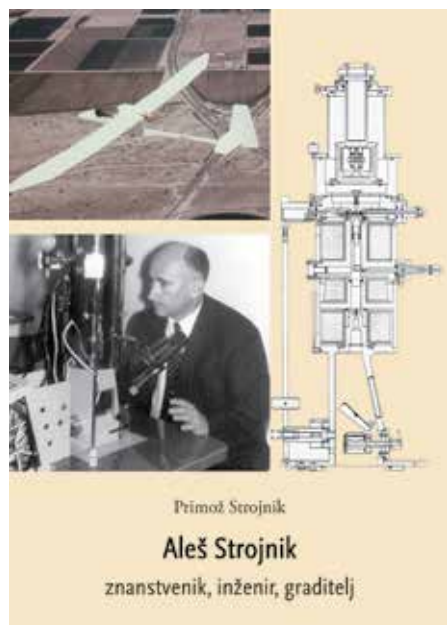
Original Slovene title: *Zgodovina zdravstva in medicine na Slovenskem. Kirurške stroke, ginekologija in porodništvo* = *The History of Healthcare and Medicine in the Slovene Lands. Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics*

2018, hardcover, 461 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: medicine, history, Slovenia, surgery, gynaecology, obstetrics

The second book of *The History of Healthcare and Medicine in the Slovene Lands* – titled *Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics* – comprises nearly 500 pages and about 1000 accompanying graphic materials presenting the development of operative medical specialties, including the broadest one, i.e. surgery (general surgery, abdominal surgery, traumatology, cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, thoracal surgery, plastic, reconstructive and burns surgery, urology, child surgery, and maxillofacial and oral surgery). There follow histories of other specialties, which mostly are surgical, too: ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, orthopaedics, and gynaecology and obstetrics. Steps in the evolution of the specialties that firmly support surgery – anaesthesiology, transfusion and transplantation medicine, and diagnostic-therapeutic specialties, i.e. radiology and nuclear medicine – are also described in detail. As regards its progress, the chapters also touch upon the work of nursing staff. Finally, contents of the book are rounded up by rehabilitation medicine.



Primož Strojnik: *Aleš Strojnik. Scientist, Engineer, Constructor*

Commentaries: Alojz Kralj, Tadej Bajd

Original Slovenian title: ***Aleš Strojnik, znanstvenik, inženir, graditelj***

2021, hardcover, 346 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: electrical engineering, airplane engineering, emigration, the US, 20th century, memoir

This lengthy monograph comprising rich graphic materials describes the life and work of Aleš Strojnik (1921–1995), a Slovenian-American scientist renowned for his invention of the most powerful electronic microscope, which earned him a marked international reputation. In addition, he constructed airplanes. In carefully arranged chapters, the book details his scientific achievements and contributions to education, and presents his full-length books, textbooks and papers, which he published in Slovenia and abroad. Against the backdrop of his professional career, however, the book also keeps portraying Strojnik's personal views and responses, his tendency to give critical thought to matters, his character, the relations within his family and within the wider community. All this is intertwined with reminiscences of the book's author, i.e. his son Primož Strojnik, a doctor of science in electrical engineering, author of more than 70 scientific papers and inventor of more than 14 patents. Primož Strojnik lives with his family in Los Angeles in the US, and is the leading American expert on functional electrical stimulation of body organs.



The book covers the quarter of a century (i.e. 1991–2016) of decisive social events in the territory of Slovenia, and the foreign policy position of Slovenia after it was internationally recognised in 1992. Some chapters describe beginnings and promises, and other ones disappointments and problems. The author starts with posing the question of legitimacy in late socialism, and of the possibility that both Slovenians and Europeans found (instead of socialism or national socialism) a new means for a cohesion for the 21st century. Dimitrij Rupel (b. 1946), a sociologist, politic, diplomat, writer, playwright, editor and media contributor, puts in a particular focus questions of the capabilities and achievements of Slovenian leaders from Anton Martin Slomšek to Jože Pučnik.

Dimitrij Rupel: *Iron and Velvet or From Culture to a State: Slovenian Statehood and the European Union after the End of Cold War*

Original Slovenian title: *Železo in žamet ali Od kulture do države: slovenska državnost in Evropska unija po koncu hladne vojne*

2017, hardcover, 370 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Slovenia, European Union, gaining independence, political history, foreign policy, social circumstances



Dimitrij Rupel: *Slovenia in the International Setting: from the Brioni Declaration to the Arbitration Agreement, from Zone A to Point 5*

Original Slovenian title: *Slovenija na svetovnem prizorišču: od Brionske deklaracije do arbitražnega sporazuma, od cone A do točke 5*

2011, hardcover, 563 pp.

Genre: non-fiction, a scientific monograph

Key words: Slovenia, foreign policy, diplomacy, international relations

The book depicts and considers Slovenia's activity in the international setting in the past years. On the one hand, it is organised according to established approaches of the history and theory of international relations, while on the other hand, it is a critical overview of the main problems of Slovenian foreign policy and diplomacy. The author is interested in what was in fact going on in people's lives, and in the backscenes of Slovenia's foreign policy from the start of its independence until today. The first part of the book is concerned with the heritage, capacities and directions of Slovenia. The second part begins with Slovenia's being late, and goes on to describe actions of Slovenia's foreign policy at the time when it was integrating into the EU and the NATO. The third part focuses on the "foreign policy apparatuses," especially diplomacy. The main stress of this part is on the relations between Slovenia and its neighbouring countries of Austria, Croatia and Italy.

Slovenian Book Agency: funding opportunities for foreign publishers

Grants for the translation and publication of works by Slovenian authors

Yearly open call for **translations from Slovenian into foreign languages** includes first translations of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be legal persons (publishing houses, theatres) registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 100% and a maximum of EUR 10,000 of the translation costs.

Contact: katja.stergar@jakrs.si

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Yearly open call for **printing costs of Slovenian Books published in foreign languages** includes first prints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 70% and a maximum of EUR 3,000 of the printing costs.

Contact: katja.stergar@jakrs.si

Slovenia – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023

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Contact: mateja.humar-jelnikar@jakrs.si

In 2022 and 2023 publishers from EU countries, publishing first prints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics can apply for a fixed sum of EUR 5,398.48 towards the costs of translating, editing, printing and publishing Slovenian works in **German, French and English**.

Contact: katja.urbanija@jakrs.si

Travel grants are also available for Slovenian authors, translators, editors or rights agents who have been invited to literary or industry events abroad. An invitation and the programme for the event must be enclosed with the application. There is one call per year, which covers trips throughout the year.



SLOVENSKA MATICA

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Edited by: *Zarika Snoj Verbovšek*

Data on books: *Mateja Rizvič*

Translated by: *Nuša Rozman*

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Slovenska matica

Kongresni trg 8

1000 Ljubljana

Website: www.slovenska-matica.si

Email: tajnistvo@slovenska-matica.si

Phone: +386 1 422 43 45