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With its twenty-seven contributors of diverse research interests and from different disciplines, the book has an interdisciplinary character, which indeed is necessary for a subject as multifaceted as this. A single volume may seem to be a limiting factor for a comprehensive coverage of relations between any two countries. For researchers in different disciplines, however, this becomes a reference book

they will be able to draw on in the effort to understand British-Serbian relations in a period of more than two centuries. Last but not least, more than two hundred photographs, images, reproductions of the front covers of important books, pamphlets or posters add a remarkable visual dimension to the text, bringing the reader closer to the subject of the volume.

STUDIA BALKANICA BOHEMO-SLOVACA VII. PŘÍSPĚVKY PŘEDNESENÉ NA VII. MEZINÁRODNÍM BALKANISTICKÉM SYMPOZIU V BRNĚ VE DNECH 28.–29. LISTOPADU 2016, EDS. VÁCLAV ŠTĚPÁNEK AND JIŘÍ MITÁČEK. BRNO: MORAVSKÉ ZEMSKÉ MUZEUM – ÚSTAV SLAVISTIKY FILOZOFICKÉ FAKULTY MASARYKOVY UNIVERZITY, 2017, 714 p.

*Reviewed by* Miloš Luković\*

The volume reviewed here is the proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Balkan Studies held in Brno, Czech Republic, on 28 and 29 November 2016 under the auspices of three institutions: the Department of Slavic Studies of Masaryk University's Faculty of Arts, the Moravian Museum and the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences.<sup>1</sup>

The volume opens with an introduction and the introductory words by the organizers (Tomáš Pospíšil, Ivo Pospíšil, Jiří Mitáček and Eva Semotanová) and by the President of the Czech National Committee for Balkan Studies (Miroslav Tejchman), followed by four main sections presenting the papers presented at the Symposium, and ends with a list of contributors.

The Introduction (pp. 13–22) in Czech and English, *The Tradition of Balkan Studies Symposia in Brno*, by Václav Štěpánek, head of the volume's editorial team composed of

Pavel Boček, Ladislav Hladký, Pavel Pilch and Petr Stehlík, provides background information relevant to understanding the genesis and nature of the publication.

The Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in Brno has a long tradition of Balkan Studies that dates back to its very founding in 1919. It was only in the 1960s, however, that this field saw a major boom, and thanks to Professor Josef Macůrek (1901–1992) and his colleague Josef Kabrda (1906–1968), a renowned European expert in Ottoman and Balkan Studies. It was them who founded in 1966 – at the then Department of the History and Ethnography of Central, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe of the Faculty of Arts in Brno – the Institute for Balkan and Hungarian Studies, which until 1995 coordinated research in the field of Balkan Studies at the Faculty. Although being a part of a department focused on history and ethnography, the Institute also provided instruction in South-Slavic languages and produced scholarship concerned with Balkan literatures. The Institute is

<sup>1</sup> See *Symposium Programme* at: <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/download/konference/2016/program-balkanisticke-sympozium-brno2016.pdf>

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closely tied to the history of Balkan Studies symposia as well. At first these meetings were envisaged as nationwide, that is Czechoslovak-wide events, and therefore their published proceedings were titled *Studia Balkanica Bohemoslovaca*. Their primary initial objective, which, in fact, has not changed, was to recapitulate the state of Czech and Slovak scholarship in the field of Balkan Studies and to outline possible future research focuses and activities. The first symposium held in December 1969 laid the groundwork for and the structure of all future symposia. The Fifth Balkan Studies Symposium, held in May 2001, differed from the previous four in many respects. All five of the Balkan studies symposia were organized or co-organized by Professor Ivan Dorovský (Professor Josef Kabrda's successor), and all five proceedings bear his editorial imprint. All reflect his great erudition and scope in the field, and the proceedings of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth symposia are also revealing of how rich his network of scholarly friendships was. For this and other reasons, an entire section of the Sixth Balkan Studies Symposium was devoted to his scholarly activities in the field. This symposium, held in April 2005, was the largest to date both in the number of participants and in costs, and is not likely to be outdone any time soon. The papers were given by 115 scholars from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and Bulgaria. The objective was to present the academic and methodological shifts that had occurred in all four areas of Balkan Studies since the demise of the bipolar world, during which the Balkans underwent tumultuous changes. The proceedings were published in a two-volume nearly 1,200-page monograph edited by a group of middle-generation researchers.<sup>2</sup> The

Seventh Balkan Studies Symposium followed in this tradition. Held in Brno on 28 and 29 November 2016, it brought together sixty-five scholars from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Poland and Serbia, working in three sections: on history, ethnology and political science; on linguistics; and on literature and cultural studies. The first of these sections was further broken down into subsections focused on the history of the Balkans until the end of the nineteenth century; the Balkans in the twentieth century; and Czech-Slovak-Balkan relations. In the plenary session, the attendees had the opportunity to hear reports on the state and results of each Balkan Studies discipline in the Czech Republic and Slovakia since 2005, i.e. since the Sixth Balkan Studies Symposium. Most of the papers have been included in this publication.

In the Introductory Words in Czech (pp. 23–32), Ivo Pospíšil, Head of the Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Jiří Mitráček, Head of the Moravian Museum, Eva Semoťanová, Director of the Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, and Miroslav Tejchman, President of the Czech National Committee for Balkan Studies point to the long tradition and importance of Balkan Studies among the Czechs, and to Brno as growing into their main centre over the last few decades. The complex history and the present reality of the Balkans remain the lasting inspiration for researchers in different disciplines in the Czech Republic, and the field has good prospects.

The first section of the volume, *Results and tasks of Balkan Studies* (pp. 33–136), contains 12 contributions: Ivan Dorovský (Brno, Czech Republic), Some basic theoretical and methodological questions on Balkan studies in the Czech Republic; Ladislav Hladký (Brno, Czech Republic),

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<sup>2</sup> Pavel Boček, Ladislav Hladký, Pavel Krejčí, Petr Stehlík and Václav Štěpánek, eds., Václav

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Štěpánek, red., *Studia Balcanica Bohemo-Slovaca*, vol. VI/1–2 (Brno 2006), 1164 p.

Czech historical Slavic Studies in the years 2005–2016; Martin Hurbanič (Bratislava, Slovakia), Historical Balkan Studies in Slovakia in 2006–2016; Damir Agičić (Zagreb, Croatia), Research on Balkan/Southeastern European history in Croatian historiography after 1991; Mira Radojević (Belgrade, Serbia), The temptations of contemporary Serbian historiography; Zdeněk Uherek (Prague, Czech Republic), Czech ethnology and anthropology in the Balkans in the years 2006–2016; Pavel Krejčí (Brno, Czech Republic), Czech linguistic Balkan Studies 2006–2016; Petr Stehlík (Brno, Czech Republic), Czech and Slovak Slavic Studies on South Slavic literatures in the last decade; Konstantin Tsivos (Prague, Czech Republic), Modern Greek Studies in Czechoslovakia: their role in constructing the national identity of Greek immigrants; Orkida Backus Borshi (Prague, Czech Republic), The Albanian language: present viewpoints and perspective; Vladimír Penčev (Sofia, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria), The instruction of Slavic Studies, ethnological, and anthropological disciplines at Bulgarian and Czech universities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The second section, *History, Ethnology and Political Science* (pp. 137–495), divided into four subsections, A, B, C and D, comprises 26 papers.

Subsection A, *Theoretical Bases*, consists of one contribution: Helena Bočková (Brno, Czech Republic), The Balkans as an ethnological area in a Central European perspective: a contribution to European cultural diversity.

Subsection B, *The history of the Balkans until the end of the nineteenth century*, contains six contributions: Soňa Hendrychová (Brno, Czech Republic), The study of early medieval jewelry in the Balkans; Martin Hurbanič (Bratislava, Slovakia), “*Expurgate vetus fermentum graecorum...*”: the religious dimension of Bohemond of Tarento’s campaign against Byzantium of 1107–1108; Petra Melichar (Prague, Czech Republic),

“Eternal be the memory of our lady”: the Synodikon of Orthodoxy and the piety of the late Byzantine empresses; Đjura Hardi (Novi Sad, Serbia), “Balkan forces” in the Czech offensives of Hungarian King Bela IV; Miloš Luković (Belgrade, Serbia), Shepherds’ organizations in the Balkans and in Carpathian regions in the late medieval and early modern period; Maroš Melichárek (Košice, Slovakia), Exaggeration and controversy: Serbian migration in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in the context of modern historiography.

Subsection C, *The Balkans in the twentieth century*, contains 11 contributions: Mihađ Mujanović (Prague, Czech Republic), Muslims, not Muhammadans! the roots of the Bosniak national movement in 1878–1918; František Šístek (Prague, Czech Republic), The Battle of Mojkovac, 1916–2016: narratives of World War I in Montenegro; Hana Dvořáková (Brno, Czech Republic), Ethnographers behind the front line: the Great War in the Balkans from the perspective of contemporary scholars; Miroslav Tejchman (Prague, Czech Republic), Collaboration in the Balkans during World War II: different perspectives and assessments; Karin Hofmeisterová (Prague, Czech Republic), Jews in Socialist Yugoslavia: a quest for a new Jewishness; Jan Pelikán (Prague, Czech Republic), Ethnic relations in the Socialist Republic of Serbia in 1971 as reflected in the daily *Politika*; Magdalena Najbar Agičić (Koprivnica, Croatia), Difficulties in research on the socialist period in Croatia demonstrated on the example of research on the history of journalism; Lukáš Vomlela (Opava, Czech Republic), Political changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the 1990 elections; Richard Stojar (Brno, Czech Republic), The deployment of Czech troops as part of the UNPROFOR and UNCRO missions in the Republic of Serbian Krajina in the context of the development of this entity; Ondřej Žíla (Prague, Czech Republic), The exodus of Serbs from Sarajevo after the end of the conflict in Bosnia

and Herzegovina; Barbora Machová (Brno, Czech Republic), Bulgarians in Macedonia: possibilities for ethnological research on the "business with identity".

Subsection D, *The Czech-Slovak-Balkan Relations and Contacts*, contains eight contributions: Pavel Zeman (Brno, Czech Republic), Czechs in Sofia in the 1880s and their social composition; Jaroslav Vaculík (Brno, Czech Republic), Czechs in Bulgaria after World War I; Kateřina Kalářová (Brno, Czech Republic), The activities of the Czechoslovak-Yugoslav League in south Moravia in the interwar period; Eva Škorvánkova (Bratislava, Slovakia), Slovak-Yugoslav relations in 1939–1941; Lubomíra Havlíková (Prague, Czech Republic), "Always first woman": feminism in congratulations sent to Czech historian Milada Paulová; Milan Sovilj (Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic), Two nearly forgotten figures in intelligence and resistance activities in Czechoslovak-Yugoslav relations during World War II: František Hieke and Aleksandar Gjurici; Ondřej Vojtěchovský (Prague, Czech Republic), Yugoslav workers in Czechoslovakia during normalization, 1969–1989; Samuel Jovankovič (Bratislava, Slovakia), The Association of Slovaks from Yugoslavia, 1945–1949.

The third section, *Literature and Cultural Studies* (pp. 497–606), contains 9 contributions: Miroslav Kouba (Pardubice, Czech Republic), An unknown nephew: Dr. Vasil Beron and a network of intergenerational inspiration in the Bulgarian national revival; Marcel Černý (Prague, Czech Republic), On the underappreciated Bulgarian studies works of František Rut Tichý, also known as Zdeněk Broman (1886–1968); Vladimír Martinovski (Skopje, FYR Macedonia), Re-actualizations of medieval culture in contemporary Macedonian poetry; Jarmila Horáková (Prague, Czech Republic), Romanian literature as a political instrument; Erika Lalíková (Bratislava, Slovakia), Presentation of autobiographical memory in the literary and philosophical

texts of contemporary Slovak authors; Aljaž Koprivnikar (Prague, Czech Republic), An examination of Nietzsche's impact on Slovenian and Czech literature: the case of Ladislav Klíma's *The suffering of Prince Sternenhoch* and Vladimír Bartol's *Alamut* and *Al Araf*; Zvonko Taneski (Bratislava, Slovakia), Slovak novelists Jana Beňova and Juraj Šebesta in the Macedonian cultural context; Alica Kulihová (Bratislava, Slovakia), The tricky task of translating Zvonimir Balog; Nora Nagyová (Bratislava, Slovakia), The poetics of Marija Havran's costume design for Slovak and Czech stage and her collaboration with director Dino Mustafić.

The fourth section, *Linguistics* (pp. 607–704), contains eight contributions: Miroslav Dudok (Bratislava, Slovakia), Disappearing South Slavic languages and their revitalization in diasporas; Katarina Mitrićević Štēpanek (Belgrade, Serbia), Verbal prefixal derivatives in the Serbian language in comparison with Czech; Snežana Popović (Belgrade, Serbia), Phraseological Collocations in Czech and Serbian; Nikola Koščak (Zagreb, Croatia) & Paulina Pycia-Koščak (Katowice, Poland), Figures of writing in Croatian and Polish advertising discourse; Przemysław Fałowski (Krakow, Poland), The status, frequency, and function of some Turkish loanwords in modern Croatian; Helena Stranjik (Prague, Czech Republic), The quantity of Czech vowels within words in the speech of members of the Czech minority in Croatia; Kristina Đorđević (Bratislava, Slovakia), Error analysis of Slovak native speakers at the basic level of learning Serbian as a foreign language; Marina Protrka Štimec (Zagreb, Croatia), Critical pedagogy in teaching (national) literature.

To sum up, apart from four introductory texts, this two-volume publication contains fifty-five contributions in different areas of Balkan Studies and Slavistics presented at the Symposium. Most are in Czech (31) and this language was also used by some foreign participants and foreigners temporarily or permanently employed in Czech scholarly

institutions. Eight contributions are in Slovak, nine in Serbian or Croatian, two in Macedonian, one in Slovenian, one in Polish, and two in English.

The List of Contributors (pp. 705–712) contains 59 names and their affiliations. Most come from the Czech Republic (36), but some are foreign citizens working in the Czech Republic or are of Balkan origin. Eighteen contributors come from Prague (10 from Charles University, six from the Czech Academy of Sciences, one from the Czech National Committee for Balkan Studies, and one is a freelance translator); 16 contributors come from Brno (12 from Masaryk University, one from the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno Department, two from the Moravian Museum, one from the University of Defence); and one comes from each of the universities in other Czech cities: Pardubice, Hradec Králové and Opava. All of this speaks of a broad interest in Balkan Studies in the Czech Republic. Nine contributors come from Slovakia (two of them being foreign nationals), mostly from Bratislava (six from Comenius University, one from the Theatre Faculty, one from the Association of Slovaks from Yugoslavia) and one from the University of Košice. Five authors come from Serbia, of whom four from Belgrade (three from the University and one from the Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts). Four authors come from Croatia: three from Zagreb University, one from Koprivnica University. One author comes from Bulgaria (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia), and one from Macedonia (University in Skopje). Two come from Poland: one from

Jagiellonian University and one from Katowice University. Such a composition of participants in the Symposium suggests well-developed ties between the Czech organizers and scholarly institutions in the Balkan and other countries where there is research in the field of Balkan and Slavic Studies.

Among the contributors residing temporarily or permanently in the Czech Republic or Slovakia, seven are originally from South-Slav or Balkan countries, including the doyen of Czech Balkan Studies Professor Ivan Dorovský, who arrived in Czechoslovakia as a child together with refugees from northern Greece, i.e. Aegean Macedonia, fleeing from the civil war of 1946–49. In a way, this is an illustration of the openness of Czechs and Slovaks towards people from the Balkans.

The Czechs' long-standing interest in the countries and peoples of South-East Europe was transparently shown by the book *The Czechs' Relations with the Nations and Lands of Southeast Europe* published in 2010.<sup>3</sup> The proceedings of the 7th Balkan Studies Symposium held in Brno – which have been presented here – confirm the continuity of this old scholarly and cultural tradition in the Czech Republic.

<sup>3</sup> Ladislav Hladký et al., *Vztahy Čechů s národy a zeměmi jihovýchodní Evropy* (Prague: Historický ústav, 2010), 367 p. See also my review of the volume in *Balcanica XLIV* (2013), 463–464.