

SERBIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS  
INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

LI



2020

# BALCANICA

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ANNUAL OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

UDC 930.85(4-12)

BELGRADE 2020

ISSN 0350-7653

eISSN 2406-0801



world of Romani non-activists is the space in which users replicate the offline practice, using the whole range of linguistic repertoires reflecting their individual identities. As Leggio concludes: „The coexistence and acceptance by language users of such a plurality of literacy practices is a confirmation of how linguistic pluralism can positively support previously spoken-only languages in new domains“ (p. 532).

Sofiya Zahova in her chapter on *Romani Language Literature* (Chapter 18, pp. 539–569) distinguishes between Romani literature and Romani language literature. While the former encompasses literary creations written by Roma in Romani or other languages, the latter refers to works written in Romani, but also written by non-Roma and translated into Romani. The first works written in Romani were published in the interwar period (1918–1939), and the literature in Romani has expanded after 1989. The author surveys the historical development of the Romani language literature and emphasizes that the production in all periods was marked by the state policies towards Roma or minority groups in general. This chapter also discusses the literary genres of Romani language literature. According to the author, although it is possible to discuss the frequent genres, a strict classification is not applicable to the Romani language literature. Folklore material, poetry and short stories,

as the most frequent genres, were published in Romani or as bilingual/multilingual editions, whereas memoirs, oral history and children literature were almost exclusively published in Romani, with the accompanying translations. This chapter mentions the challenges that Romani language literature encounters with regard to the distribution, reception and the availability of literature.

On the whole, *The Palgrave Handbook of Romani Language and Linguistics* offers an impressive interdisciplinary and up-to-date insight into the Romani language and linguistics. In addition to providing a relevant and thorough synthesis of the previous scholarship, as well as emphasizing important gaps to be filled by future research, the authors draw on a multitude of sources, such as the data available in the Romani-Morphosyntax Database, ROMLEX Lexical Database, early historical sources, Romani literature, or the data coming from their own and others' empirical research and prolific field work. The handbook is, therefore, a most valuable read for different kinds of audience: from those interested in general and interdisciplinary linguistic studies, which could benefit from the well documented phenomena in Romani, up to the international experts in various fields of Romani linguistics and scholars in other fields. The handbook will certainly represent an essential reference point for future research.

BORIS MILOSAVLJEVIĆ, *BOGRADSKI RODOSLOVI (GENEALOGIES OF BELGRADE FAMILIES)*. BELGRADE: BALKANOLOŠKI INSTITUT SANU, 2020, 444 p.

*Reviewed by* Vojislav G. Pavlović\*

The book *Genealogies of Belgrade Families* by Dr Boris Milosavljević, a senior research associate at the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, offers many important lineages

which, in some cases, span the period from the War of the Holy League (1683–1699)

\* Institute for Balkan Studies SASA

to the present. As the author explains, the reference to Belgrade in the title was inspired by the fact that Belgrade has been the capital of the modern Serbian state since its inception under Karadjordje at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Even though some families, including the ruling ones, were tied to one part of Serbia or another by origin or by official duties, the elites of nineteenth-century society became increasingly tied to Belgrade as the capital and seat of government. The book mostly deals with the families whose members were “noble civil servants”, relatives of ruling houses, descendants of civilian and military administrators, *obor knezes*, *vojvodas*, and members of the Governing Council. Among the figures occurring in the genealogies are descendants of almost all princely and royal regents and prime ministers, presidents and members of the Governing Council, princely representatives, presidents and members of the Council of Ministers, leading statesmen and generals. Persons from that world are well known because they are historical figures, but once they left the historical stage, their community or social group sank into oblivion. As the author puts it ironically, in the Serbian post-war social sciences and humanities, they became a well-hidden minority.

The monograph is the result of decades of research based on extensive source material, mostly from private family archives, which have been inaccessible because many of the families found themselves on the “wrong side of history” after the communist revolution in Yugoslavia. Access to family archives provided a reliable basis for this book, which makes an unquestionable contribution to a better understanding of social and political life in the Principality and then Kingdom of Serbia, and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and then of Yugoslavia, but it also sheds light on the life of the Serbian emigration after the Second World

War. The book discusses the importance of genealogical studies for historiography and the issue of trustworthiness of genealogies in view of the existence of false, unverifiable, mythic genealogies. Some methodological issues pointed out by the author deserve attention. Genealogical research and compiling family trees and histories do not follow the rules of the deductive but of the inductive method, even though, in this case, the two approaches arrive at the same result at a certain stage. It should also be noted that, unlike much of the earlier work that dealt with the history of elites in Serbia, the author’s methodological approach is not ideologically predicated. This adds weight to the fact that he gives in-depth thought to methodological issues, shedding light on social and political life in Serbia in the nineteenth and twentieth century, seeking particularly to capture its subtle nuances.

Especially relevant to Balkan studies are the genealogies that show connections between families from various parts of South-East Europe. The genealogies of the descendants of Prince Miloš Obrenović through his daughters show the ties of this ruling house and their relatives with prominent Serbian, Hungarian or Romanian families that lived in the Habsburg Monarchy, Imperial Russia, the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia. Kinship ties between the Serbian, and Yugoslav, Karadjordjević dynasty and the Petrović Njegoš dynasty, the ruling house of the Principality and then Kingdom of Montenegro, and the royal houses of the Kingdom of Romania and the Kingdom of Greece are well known. Dynastic genealogies constitute only the initial but indispensable and overarching point of reference for the research presented here. If close and distant relatives of the ruling families and other family charts are taken into account, there emerges an intricate network of kinship ties. What these genealogies also testify to are intricate elite networks in the Balkans and South-East Europe. The author rightly argues that, notwithstanding all distinctive

features of individual regions and states, the world presented in the genealogies was in many ways similar to the world that could be found in other contemporary European countries (from Britain to Russia). This book, a testament to an authentic scholarly effort involving decades of single-handed

work, is something of an encyclopaedia which will be an unavoidable point of reference to all researchers whose work is based on unbiased critical interpretation of documentary, memoiristic and diaristic source material.

Publisher  
Institute for Balkan Studies  
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
Serbia, Belgrade, Knez Mihailova 35/IV  
www.balkaninstitut.com  
e-mail: balkinst@bi.sanu.ac.rs  
www.balcanica.rs

Editorial assistant  
*Marina Adamović-Kulenović*

Layout  
*Kranislav Vranić*

Cover design  
*Aleksandar Palavestra*

Printed by  
*Birograf comp. d.o.o., Beograd*

300 copies

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији  
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

930.85:94

BALCANICA : annuaire de l'Institut des études balkaniques = annual of the  
Institute for Balkan studies / editor-in-chief Vojislav G. Pavlović. - 1970, knj. 1- .  
- Belgrade : Institute for Balkan studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts,  
1970-(Beograd : Birograf comp). - 24 cm

Godišnje. - Drugo izdanje na drugom medijumu: Balcanica (Online) = ISSN 2406-  
0801

ISSN 0350-7653 = Balcanica (Beograd)

COBISS.SR-ID 6289154