
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOCAL HISTORY

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The unquestionable need in history for works about the local past in a strictly circumscribed or an extended period inevitably involves the development of bibliography.

The author of the above mentioned bibliography is a native of Kikinda. After graduating from the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University in Belgrad he became a famous and conscientious researcher of the General Board of State Archives in the capital of the neighbouring country. J. Pejin, author of more than 160 contributions to the history of the 19th century and to the development of archival science showed throughout his writing, a strong militant spirit in his truthful arguments regarding the nature of the Yugoslavian state. This was demonstrated in a series of studies published between 1992-1994.¹

The study of the history of his native town and its neighbourhood urged him to write this bibliography which was limited to 500 copies and contains 1280 references divided alphabetically.

The existence of a significant number of publications in an important period (temporal sample) and the great importance of a series of publications (whether periodicals or not, with a limited or an extended sphere of interest) has led to the conclusion that an auxiliary bibliographical tool is indispensable in well-conducted research into local history.

The whole range of materials concerning the period between 1876-1994 has been thoroughly catalogued and the title of the work indicates each category of materials. The collection of materials and their cataloguing has been not only based on primary sources i.e. local institutions, museums, archives, libraries, but also other great centres of the autonomous province of Vojvodina (Novi Sad, Pancevo, Vârset), Belgrad or Szeged (Hungary).

The study of current and retrospective bibliographies (Serb and Hungarian included) of given authors and periods allowed the author to draw valid conclusions concerning the existence and evolution of publishing activities (books and periodicals) and developed tendencies, particularly in the native language sample which was more accessible and easier to generalise. J. Pejin sur-

¹ See, among others, the study entitled "The Privileged District of Velika Kikinda in the Serbian History, 1774-1876", in: *The Austrian Military Border. Its Political and Cultural Impact*, Iași, 1994, p.66-78.

veys therefore the contribution of local bookshops in the 19-20 century, the role of popular literature and of patriotic-instructive calendars, the impact of textbooks, literary activity and finally the interaction of mutual translation systems, mainly periodicals, in all four languages used in that area.

Naturally, there is a subjective criterion of selection in the above-mentioned bibliography but it is objectively motivated by the author when he underlines the notable initiatives only within the Serb activity in the given period. It is a historically proven fact that there was a quantitative and qualitative recession during World War I and also after 1918, when the centralisation of culture (and publications) in Novi Sad and Belgrad seriously affected local production (in Kikinda as well). Stagnation characterised the whole interwar period. New social, political and economic circumstances affected local spiritual life after 1945. This is demonstrated in the final part of the bibliography.

The author's method is by a detailed description with the necessary addenda resulting from locating auxiliary sources. The material collected before July 1994 was in chronological and alphabetic order so that it was ready for printing. An index of names, places, publications (books, periodicals), publishing houses, bookshops and printing houses facilitates the use of this bibliography.

In conclusion, the present work is a model for bibliographical tools which deal with local history. It is concerned with the town of Kikinda in the autonomous province Vojvodina, Transylvania and the Banat (in Romania). Jovan Pejín, historian and archivist, has completed a remarkable research project in an edifying period of the history of his native town.