

AI

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3 FALL 1986

SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN JOURNAL

Published by the American Association
of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
AATSEEL of the U.S., Inc.



Branko Fučić. *Glagoljski natpisi*. Zagreb: Jugoslavenska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti, 1982. xii, 420 pp.

This synthetic history of Glagolitic epigraphic writing in Yugoslavia is the culmination of a career of fieldwork and research, begun just after World War II. The catalog contains every known Glagolitic inscription cut in or written on stone, wood, or plaster, or cast in metal, as well as all graffiti—some 1200 texts in all from 219 locations. The introduction—along with preliminary notes on the background of the project, its motives and scope, the transliteration and transcription systems employed and the organization of the book—discusses the development and decline of Glagolitic epigraphic writing, as well as the value of the monuments as historical sources. Here we find a periodization of Glagolitic script and its basic types (round, early Croatian, *ustav*, semi-*ustav*, cursive), along with discussion of their characteristics and the development of individual letters and ligatures. Fučić explores the geography of Glagolitic epigraphic monuments, including the earliest situation and the phases of expansion and decline. Finally, he describes the ambiances of Glagolitic epigraphic writing: the social setting, variety of monuments and texts, the occasions on which they arose, the motives of the authors, and the type of people who produced them. This book is certainly one of the major works on Glagolitic paleography and literacy. Just as importantly, though, it provides a wealth of information for historians of medieval Croatia. Epigraphic monuments provide evidence not only of major historical events and the lives of the political and cultural elite: they also allow us to read firsthand (especially in the graffiti) of the everyday lives, as well as the sorrows, hopes, and even jokes of “little people”—village boys learning to write, local priests, and so on.

The volume has been competently prepared. Considering its size and scope, there are remarkably few errors of a technical or substantive nature. These will be mentioned in the discussion below.

The texts are grouped into 517 entries (graffiti within a single building are gathered under one entry). These are arranged alphabetically according to location, and within each location according to date. Each entry gives the location, building, date, dimensions, and material, as well as a description of the monument. Text is rendered in both Latin transliteration and a special transcription adapted to modern Serbo-Croatian orthography, in order to assist non-philologists in interpreting the texts. In the transcription, dates are given in Arabic numerals. Following the text are paleographic notes and, where necessary, a discussion of dating criteria, as well as notes on the history of the monument and its historical significance. Some especially important inscriptions, including the earliest, are treated in considerable detail. In particular, the author devotes 17 pages (including illustrations and diagrams) to a detailed history of study of the well-known tablet from Baška (*Bašćanska ploča*). At the end of an entry any literature on the monument is cited. With the exception of graffiti, a very large majority of the entries, and certainly all important ones, are accompanied by photographs and/or drawings. Many, though not nearly all, of the graffiti are also illustrated. Interspersed throughout the book are photographs of a number of the locations and buildings containing Glagolitic epigraphic monuments. Most of these illustrate individual entries, but also provide a broader insight into the setting of Glagolitic literacy.

Because of the continual deterioration and loss of epigraphic monuments, one of the primary goals of Fučić's work has been to save for posterity a complete record of as many such artifacts as possible. The catalog thus contains photographs, drawings, and reconstructions of many monuments which have been lost or destroyed since their discovery (e.g., the defaced inscriptions of Hum). Moreover, the use of special lighting and shading techniques has allowed the author to provide interpretable drawings and/or photographs of some extant monuments which can no longer be read by the naked eye (e.g., entry 356 from the year 1492 in Roč).

Following the catalog are indexes (personal names; surnames and nicknames; titles, epithets, honors, and occupations; toponyms and ethnonyms) and a general glossary. A chronological index of dated monuments is lacking. Such a list would allow a researcher to easily isolate texts from a specific year or range of years without having to leaf through most of the catalog.

It is Fučić's stated policy that the volume not be polemical. Still, his discussion of the geography and chronology of Glagolitic epigraphic monuments (1-3) injects important new arguments into the debate on the region in which Croatian Glagolitic literacy originally developed. Fučić has provided maps (one showing the locations of monuments from the tenth through thirteenth centuries, and one each for the fourteenth through eighteenth centuries), which allow us to follow first the geographical spread and later the decline of Glagolitic literacy. These suggest strongly that from the beginning through the fourteenth century Glagolitic usage was connected primarily with the area of Istria, the Kvarner islands and the coastline opposite them (especially Senj). Only from the fifteenth century do we begin to encounter Glagolitic inscriptions in the inland areas (e.g., Lika, Krbava, Modruš) and southern coastal and island areas surrounding Zadar.

Fučić's discussion of periodization and types of Glagolitic script is concise and incisive, and may be recommended to those beginning their study of Glagolitic paleography. His discussion of the development of individual letters is similarly successful, though he treats only the letters *a, b, v, g, d, e, iže, i, k, m, n, p, s, u, h, ž*, and *ju*, as well as the symbols derived from original *ior*. The remaining letters developed according to the same general processes at work in those examined. Some, though, especially *z, ž, l*, and *t*, provide valuable dating criteria, particularly in evaluating the oldest monuments; these letters might therefore have been included. In discussing the development of the letter *i*, Fučić fails to mention the nearly symmetrical "hour-glass" shape—*X* or *Ɑ*—which occurs during the fifteenth century and later, though never exclusively. In his discussion of the symbols derived from original *ior*, Fučić seems to indicate that the apostrophe (*jerok*), which is said to have been used only where no sound was pronounced, appears only in the fifteenth century. However, we find this mark in Croatian manuscripts even from the thirteenth century; in spite of its apparent absence in the few remaining inscriptions and graffiti from before the fifteenth century, we should not conclude that it was not employed in any of the many epigraphic monuments which must have been produced during that earlier period. It is also doubtful that the apostrophe was never used in epigraphic monuments for a pronounced *a* (or *e*), for there are sporadic instances of such usage in the manuscripts.

In Fučić's transliteration the symbols derived from *ior*—*Ț* or *ǀ* and ' (apostrophe)—are all rendered as '. It would perhaps have been more prudent to distinguish the apostrophe from the other symbols. In some manuscripts of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, *Ț* or *ǀ* word-internally (or word-finally in a monosyllabic form) often stands for a pronounced *a*, while ' is reserved for nonphonetic functions. We might expect this functional differentiation to carry over into some epigraphic texts as well.

The minor criticisms offered here in no way detract from the stature of Fučić's work. Though it is impossible in the scope of a review to discuss the book in the detail which it deserves, the preceding comments should suffice to show that it is at once both a major work of Slavic philology and paleography, and an invaluable source for the history of Yugoslavia.

Andrew R. Corin, University of California, Los Angeles

Peter J. Mayo. *The Morphology of Aspect in Seventeenth-Century Russian: Based on Texts of the Smutnoe Vremja*. Columbus: Slavica. xi, 234 pp., \$14.95 (paper).

For his 1981 doctoral dissertation for the University of Sheffield, Peter Mayo read the *Time of Troubles* texts in volume 13 of *Russkaja istoričeskaja biblioteka* (SPb., 1909) and examined, he estimates, thirty-seven thousand verb forms. The language of the texts is, to say the least, "heavily influenced by Church Slavonic" (199), which means we tend to find *mjaxu ego*