

A careful analysis of Dositheos' youthful writings leads to the same conclusion as that reached by Stojanović. By «youthful writings» we mean those that were written before his arrival in Vienna: his *Hristoitija* and the *Venac od alfavita*, in which theological and biblical elements dominate and the classics hardly appear at all. It has been maintained that, along with these two works, *Ižica* should also be grouped amongst his «youthful writings»: Stojanović thinks otherwise, and the arguments that he puts forward in support of his view are convincing. Analyzing the work closely and comparing it with not only Dositheos' early writings but also his later works, he concludes that *Ižica*, which is full of paedagogical thoughts and classical elements, differs radically from *Hristoitija* and the other works of this early period and bears closer resemblance with the products of his maturity; with his *Mezimac* in particular, which was written in Trieste at the start of the nineteenth century.

«Basne» (myths) is the title of the second chapter (pp. 49-125), and it is devoted to Dositheos' collection of the same name. Others have made the point that the motifs of some of the myths in Dositheos' collection reveal that these myths were not taken unaltered from the ancient original. From which sources, then, were they taken? Until now, no satisfactory answer had been given to this question. After submitting the work of previous scholars (such as K. Radčenko, I. Scherzer, A. Šmaus, M. Sironić, P. Skok, V. Čajkanović) to an exacting scrutiny, Stojanović analyzes the myths of Dositheos' collection one by one and accurately identifies the sources which Dositheos consulted in order to compose his *Basne*.

Chapter III, which bears the title «Antička paradigmatska misao u Dositejevim delima» (Ancient moralist thought in the works of Dositheos) (pp. 129-228), examines the ancient gnomic maxims and the ancient Greek and Latin authors of a moralist character referred to in Dositheos' works, principally the *Naravoučenija*.

The author rounds off the book with a synopsis of his conclusions and an extensive bibliography of works consulted (pp. 231-251). Judged as a whole, this book can be regarded as a significant scholarly achievement. Stojanović has supplemented and improved upon the views that had been expressed by preceding scholars and has advanced new, solidly-based interpretations which will be of undoubted assistance in broadening our knowledge of Dositheos beyond its present limits.

The influence of ancient Greek letters upon the Serbian scholar and educationist Dositheos Obradović is a further token of Hellenism's contribution in the formation of the intellectual life of the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula.

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Duncan Wilson, *The Life and Times of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić*, London, Oxford University Press, 1970, pp. 415.

During his diplomatic service as Ambassador from Great Britain to Yugoslavia from 1964 to 1968, Sir Duncan Wilson became attracted by the rich literature of this Balkan nation during the 19th century. Therefore, it is not surprising that he chose one of the central figures from Serbia's cultural, social, and political movements of that time, namely Vuk Stefanović Karadžić. Vuk was responsible for establishing the framework of today's modern Serbian and Yugoslav national culture, and appears as a giant figure in the general development among all South Slavs.

Sir Duncan faced three problems in approaching Vuk's works:

1. Such a prominent figure was already carefully studied in Yugoslav historiography as

well as in the history of Yugoslavia; i.e., the works of Ljuba Stojanović, Alexander Belić, and as recently by Miodrag Popović¹. This made it difficult for the author to give something basically new or original concerning his topic. Although he was fortunate enough to have such wealth of published material in order to approach all the aspects of Vuk's life and works, the author himself is aware that he was able to base his book only on secondary sources.

2. Parallel to the study of his central figure, Sir Duncan was faced also with the larger and complicated historical, political, social, and national movements of that time. Besides the genuine personal qualities of Vuk, his activities closely coincided and intermingled with the Serbian national revival as expressed in the 1804 uprising and, in addition, through the old question of the relationship between man and his entourage. It is clear that Vuk's works could find fertile ground only based on the results of the Serbian revolt.

3. The author had to analyze the general aspects of Vuk's activities which created the necessary cultural foundations for the development of modern Serbian and Yugoslav culture.

After a brief introduction concerning a survey of books on Vuk's life and works, Sir Duncan discusses his early years and background from 1787-1804. This introduces the reader straight into the main current of events of Serbia's uprising which changed the destiny of the Pašalik of Belgrade and of Vuk himself.

Further on the author follows Vuk's contact with Europe, his travels to Buda and Vienna as well as the crucial meeting with Kopitar. Sir Duncan discusses the beginning and development of Vuk's activities in creating the grammar, dictionary, collection of popular songs, and further historiographical work.

The second part of Vuk's life and activities was dedicated to the application of his reforms and the fight for his ideas with the conservative segment of Serbian society. Vuk's involvement in politics during the rule of Prince Miloš Obrenović is also described. The author ends the study of this Serbian scholar with a brief and condensed conclusion, and in the appendix, he includes the following: the translations of a couple of Vuk's popular songs; a translation of some of the items taken from Vuk's *Dictionary*; Vuk's *Study, Life, and Customs of the Serbian People*; «The Slavonic and Serb Alphabets»; a review written by Jacob Grimm of *Vuk's Leipzig Collection of Serb Popular Songs*; Vuk's introduction to the same book; and finally «Vuk's Writings on Montenegro». At the end there is an abridged bibliography which does not go beyond some standard books concerning the central figure.

Although the author had no ambitions to present us with a new or original approach to his subject he, nevertheless, has used the available materials and achieved his purpose. Sir Duncan presents us with a solid book in English which, besides having the advantage of presenting Vuk to the English-speaking public, gives the Western reader a better and more profound understanding of the type, mentality, and psychology of the Balkan intellectual during the first half of the 19th century. Working in a non-developed and basically illiterate society, Vuk's primary aim was to «develop the Serbian language as spoken by the ordinary peasant under Turkish rule into the literary norm». This practice which stamped the Balkan intellectual in general expressed not only his militant ideology which corresponded to the necessity of the epoch but also manifested the greatness of the task which he was confronted with and which he had to solve. Thus this book will be of great interest to the historian of comparative literature as well as of Southeast Europe.

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1. Prosveta Publishers (Belgrade) published recently 10 volumes of collected works by Vuk S. Karadžić.