



Bulletin

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Research Opportunities in Russian Archives

Paul Jukić

In the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse, many archives in Russia were opened to an unprecedented extent to international researchers. A rush is still on to take advantage of this unique situation while it lasts, and the state of Russian archives is not without interest for students of Croatian history and culture. Soviet party archives in particular promise to yield much new information on the recent history of Croatia and Yugoslavia, especially the history of communism. My own dissertation research on Soviet-Yugoslav relations during the Second World War has taken me to Moscow twice in the last

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Croatian Studies in Russia

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Given recent events in the former Yugoslavia, the task of historians is to rethink problems and give new explanations for the process of national self-determination in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe, where world wars have resulted twice in the twentieth century. We need to overcome old myths, plans, and prejudices, and we must advance new objectives and explanations to create a new consciousness free of conflict. Two problems are of particular importance. First, is the nation-state the only possible form of political and economic organization of society? Second, is the conflict in the former

Yugoslavia merely a stage in the development of these peoples, a stage through which nations in Western Europe have already passed? Or is the so-called conflict type of national self-determination a distinctively regional feature of Central and Southeastern Europe? Is the creation of states with but a single nationality—even by ethnic cleansing--inevitable?

To determine the shape of future work, however, it is also useful to review what has already been done. Modern scholars in Russia who are researching the history of the Croatian people and state base their studies on pre-

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year. I have worked primarily in the Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Modern History (formerly the Central Party Archives), but I have also used materials in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the summer of 1992 I engaged in preliminary research in the Archives of the Communist International, examining the materials of George Dimitrov, Dimitri Manuil'skii, Wilhelm Pieck, and others. The Soviet-Yugoslav wartime relationship was of course effected through the Comintern--the most important wartime clearing-house for intelligence on Yugoslavia--where day-to-day policy was implemented and communications with the Yugoslav Partisans were maintained. I also consulted the archives of the Yugoslav Communist Party (KPJ), held for safekeeping in the interwar period in Moscow and still stored there. I read and surveyed only a portion of the materials in this archival group, perhaps the most important untapped source for the history of Yugoslavia in the interwar period.

To expect stunning revelations on Croatia or Yugoslavia from the newly

available documents is probably unrealistic; security agencies are still active, after all, and many personal collections, such as Tito's, are still closed. But documents in the formerly sealed Communist Party archives should reveal a wealth of information useful to scholars working on topics in Croatian studies, and some dark and dusty corners of Croatian history may finally be illuminated. The collection of KPJ material, for example, contains tantalizing traces of Communist activity among Croats in emigration in the Western hemisphere, from Uruguay to the United States, and a number of Comintern documents describe the formation of a Yugoslav military unit on Soviet territory, for which the Soviets evidently had specific plans. The troops were mostly Croat soldiers taken prisoner at the Battle of Stalingrad, survivors of an infantry regiment decimated on the Eastern Front. Many of the officers were in fact defectors from the Axis side, and Croat airmen flew their planes onto Soviet territory, sometimes in previous agreement with the Partisans in occupied Yugoslavia.

Diplomatic and military archives that previously hosted few outside

researchers may also reveal much in the future. In the documents from 1941 that I was able to review before the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs suddenly closed, particular attention was paid to the role of the Croatian Peasant Party and the Croat leadership in the crisis leading up to the German invasion in April. Soviet views of the political situation in Yugoslavia should provide new and different perspectives on the interwar history of Yugoslavia and on the Croat struggle for political affirmation and independence. Unfortunately, the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs suddenly closed --"temporarily" we were told. Such are the vagaries of research in Russia!

To predict future accessibility in the huge Russian archival system is impossible as Russia lurches from one political crisis to another with a regularity that has exhausted the already cynical Russian electorate. There are signs of a slow backlash against the initial wave of liberalization, but the present state of affairs--as all else in Russia--is fluid. Nevertheless, there are now greater opportunities for research in Russia on
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topics in Croatian studies than ever before, and not only on twentieth-century political or diplomatic history. From Juraj Križanić's journey to Muscovy, a trip that began in 1658 and turned into a twenty-year odyssey, through Eugen Kvaternik's stint in the service of the tsar in the nineteenth century, to Stjepan Radić's bid for Soviet support of a Croat peasant republic in 1924, Croat thinkers and leaders have gone East. Whether inspired by personal vision or driven by political expediency, they were drawn to the vast expanses, the impressive power, and the Slavic face of Russia. All were disillusioned in the end; Russian reality betrayed their faith and hope as we can see in the Croat Communists purges of the 1930s. In any case, Croats have left their mark on Russia and Russian history as have Russians on Croatian history. With any luck, more of the story may be told in the future.

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revolutionary traditions, in which Croatian studies were not regarded as a separate field of study. In fact, research on Croatian history, ethnology, culture, law, and statistics were considered of less value than studies of Serbia and Montenegro, largely because Russian public opinion ranked the latter as "the closest allies" of Russia. Nevertheless, P. Kulakovsky, N. Kryukov, I. Smirnov, A. Pogodin, V. Makushev, N. Yastrebov, P. Milyukov, A. Lukyanenko, and other prominent historians contributed to Croatian studies in Russia before the Revolution in 1917. After the Bolshevik revolution, Croatian studies were stopped. Only after World War II did a new generation of Soviet historians continue the work of these earlier scholars, primarily in the fields of medieval and early modern history and for the period from the eighteenth century to 1914.

Medieval and early modern Croatian history received attention from Academician Boris Grekov, who wrote a monograph devoted to the Vinodol Statute (1), and Yulian Bromley, who wrote two excellent monographs dealing with the peasant

uprising of 1573 and theoretical problems of feudal society (2). Their heirs are Professor Evgenia Makova at Moscow State University and Professor Maren Freidenberg, formerly at the University of Tver and now in Israel. E. Makova concentrates on economic and social development in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Croatia. She is especially interested in Croatian culture and the cultural cooperation of South Slavs and other Slavic peoples (3). M. Freidenberg specializes in Dalmatian studies and devotes his attention mostly to Dubrovnik's economic history and role in international affairs (4). Our scholars concentrated on economic and social history according to the then-prevailing official theory of so-called class struggle. The early Middle Ages, interethnic relationships, and the history of the Orthodox and Catholic churches have not been studied, and only E. Makova has contributed in the field of cultural history.

Historiography for the period from the eighteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century was first developed by Inna Leshchilovskaya and Vladimir
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Friedzon. I. Leshchilovskaya studied the period before the revolution of 1848-49 in two monographs. The first was devoted to the Illyrian movement and the second to the events of 1848-49 in Croatia. Her current research is on Croatia in Russian public opinion in the nineteenth century. V. Freidzon focused on the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. He used archives in Moscow, the Croatian press, and many other sources. In the 1950s, he published a number of articles on Franjo Rački, Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Antun and Stjepan Radić, and the economic history of Croatia. He later published an interesting book that dealt with the history of the Croatian national movement in the period from the 1850s to the 1870s. In the early 1980s, he wrote a comparative analysis of the social history and national ideology of all peoples of Austria-Hungary (6). In 1993, he finished a monograph devoted to the history of the ideology of the Radić brothers. Yuriy Pisarev also contributed to the research of the history of the national movements of the South Slavs before World War I (7).

Sergei Romanenko continues V. Freidzon's work and has researched a broad range of topics such as the history of the national movements of the Croats and Serbs in Austria-Hungary, the roots of ethnic conflict between these two peoples, a comparative analysis of the Habsburg and Russian empires at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century, the role of the Slavic idea in domestic policy and international affairs, the integration and disintegration of multinational states, and the theoretical problem of national self-determination.

Except for the well-known book written by Juraj Križanić, sources on Croatian history have not been published in Russia. Many interesting and important documents are located in such Russian archives as the Archives of the Foreign Policy of Russia, the Russian Military Archives, and the Archives of Literature and Art. We also find fundamental research materials and sources on Croatian history in some Moscow libraries.

Ethnologists and specialists on culture, literature, and theater have contributed to Croatian studies as well. Natalia

Vagapova devoted a book to Miroslav Krleža and Branko Gavella (9) and also published numerous articles on Croatian literature, theater, and culture. Galina Il'ina published a monograph on Croatian literature (10), and Marina Martynova analyzed the ethnic history of Croats in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Two deceased colleagues also published in the field of Croatian studies: Albina Callosh (Danilova) specialized in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Croatian theater and drama, and Igor Pimonenko wrote some articles on the modern situation in the former Yugoslavia that are of great interest.

In the last two decades, Croatian studies in Moscow has lost the traditional features of Soviet Slavic studies. Our scholars now try to regard the history of Croatia and the Croatian people as part of the history of Central Europe, to show the role of the Croatian Question in European policy, and to demonstrate the influence of European (including Russian) culture on Croatian literature, theater, art, and music. We consider Croatia an important part of Austria-

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Hungary and former Yugoslavia and view the Croats as a people who influenced the history and fate of those two countries.

The current situation is paradoxical. Many students are interested in Croatian history as their projects and Ph.D. dissertations show, but later they have to change their specialty to find employment. Our research centers prefer scholars who specialize in Serbian and Montenegrin history because of the long Russian and Soviet traditions. The situation inevitably leads to a shortage of professionals in Croatian studies, so that only a few people know and understand the complexity and contradictions of the relationship between Croats and Serbs. This limits Russian diplomacy in its attempts to mediate in the conflict. Moreover, the Serbian community in Russia is very active: Serbs finance research, invite Russian scholars to visit research centers in Serbia, and organize conferences. The Croatian community in Russia, however, is quite passive. In addition, the authorities and mass media in Zagreb often criticize Russian policy in the conflict, as well as articles that

appear in Russian newspapers, but do not make any efforts to support Russian specialists in Croatian studies, who might help change Russian public opinion.

Because of the demise of the former Yugoslav state, Croatian studies in Russia must be separated from so-called Yugoslav studies. This process is difficult for financial reasons, but other obstacles--such as Russian officials' belief in the supremacy of national, religious, and political stereotypes--exist as well. This situation is not, I believe, inevitable or irreversible.

NOTES

1. Boris Grekov, Vinodol'skiy statut ob obshchestvennom i politicheskom stroye Vinodola (The Vinodol Statute on the Social and Political Structure of Vinodol), Moscow, 1948, and Politsa, Moscow, 1951.

2. Yulian Bromley, Krest'anskoye vosstaniye 1573 goda v Horvatii (The Peasant Uprising of 1573 in Croatia), Moscow, 1959, and Stanovleniye feodalizma v Horvatii (The Formation of Feudalism in Croatia), Moscow, 1964.

3. Evgeniya Makova, Zagreb v 16 veke (Zagreb in the Sixteenth Century), Moscow, 1976; Iz istorii social'no-ekonomicheskogo razvitiya slavonskogo goroda (Some Aspects of the Economy and Social Structure of Slavonian Cities), Moscow, 1980; and Istoriya yuzhnykh i zapadnykh slavyan v 6-18 vekakh (The History of the South and West Slavs from the Sixth to the Eighteenth Century), Moscow, 1987.

4. Maren Freydenberg, Dubrovnik i Osmanskaya imperiya (Dubrovnik and the Ottoman Empire), Moscow, 1989, and Krest'yanstvo na Balkanakh v 12-18 vekakh (Balkan Peasants from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Centuries), Kalinin, 1984.

5. Inna Leshchilovskaya, Illirizm: k istorii khorvatskogo natsional'nogo vozrozhdeniya (Illyrianism: Toward the History of the Croatian National Renaissance), Moscow, 1968, and Obshchestvenno-politicheskaya borba v Khorvatii v 1858-1849 godakh (The Social and Political Struggle in Croatian in 1848-1849), Moscow, 1977.

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6. Vladimir Freidzon, Borb'a khorvatskogo naroda za natsional'nuyu svobodu 1859-1873 (The National Struggle of the Croats for Freedom, 1859-1873), Moscow, 1970, and Osvoboditel'nye dvizheniya narodov Avstriyskoy imperii (Liberation Movements of the Peoples of the Austrian Empire), vols. 1-2, Moscow, 1980-1981.

7. Yuriy Pisarev, Osvoboditelnoye dvizheniye yugoslavianskikh narodov Avstro-Vengrii 1905-1914 (The Liberation Movement of South Slavs in Austria-Hungary, 1905-1914), Moscow, 1962.

8. Sergei Romanenko, "National Autonomy in Russia and Austria-Hungary: A Comparative Analysis of Finland and Croatia-Slavonia," in Richard R. Rudolph and David F. Good, eds., Nationalism and Empire: The Habsburg Monarchy and the Soviet Union, New York, 1992; "The Yugoslav Question in the Foreign Policy of Russia at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," in The Working Papers of the Russian Littoral Project, Washington, 1993; "Formirovaniye kontseptsiy natsional'nogo

gosudarstvennosti i problema sblizheniya slavyanskikh narodov Avstro-Vengrii" (The Conception of National-Political System and Cooperation of National Movements in the Habsburg Monarchy) and "Problema natsional'nogo gosudarstvennosti v programmakh politicheskikh partiy Khorvatii-Slavonii i Voyevodiny (Some Aspects of State Development in Croatia-Slavonia and Vojvodina) in Balkany v konce 19-nachale 20 veka (The Balkans at the End of the Nineteenth and Beginning of the Twentieth Century), Moscow, 1991; "Novy kurs': shag k reforme monarkhii Gabsburgo ili k 'natsionalnoy revolucii yuznhogo slavyanstva'?" (The 'New Course' as the Way to Reform the Habsburg Monarchy or Toward the 'National Revolution of the South Slavs?') in Balkan Studies, Moscow, 1993.

9. Natalia Vagapova, Formirovaniye realizma v scenicheskom iskusstve Yugoslavii (The Formation of the Realism in Croatian Theater), Moscow, 1983, and, as editor, Branko Gavella: Drama i teatr (Branko Gavella: Drama and Theater), Moscow, 1976.

10. Galina Il'ina, Razvitye yugoslavskogo romana 20-30 goda (The Development of the Yugoslav Novel in the Twenties and Thirties), Moscow, 1985.

11. Marina Martynova, Khorvaty. Etnicheskaya istoriya 18-19 vekov (Croats: Ethnic History in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries), Moscow, 1988; V. K. Zaytsev, Mezhdru l'vom i drakonom. Dubrovnikskoye Vozrozhdeniye i poema Gundulića "Osman" (The Dubrovnik Renaissance and Gundulic's "Osman"), Minsk, 1969; and Natalia Yakovleva, Sovremenny roman Yugoslavii (The Contemporary Novel in Yugoslavia), Moscow, 1980. I would finally like to mention two great scholars on Yugoslav history, Leonid Gibiansky and Pavel Kandel.

PUBLICATIONS

C. Michael McAdams. Croatia: Myth and Reality. Arcadia, CA: CIS Monographs, 1992.

Predrag Kordić. Ogledi i pogledi. Chicago: Ziral, 1993

Marijan Karabin. Između zbilje i snova. Chicago: Ziral, 1992.

Jill Irvine. The Croat Question. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993.

Dijana Pleština. Regional Development in Yugoslavia. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1992.

PARTICIPATION OF ACS MEMBERS AT THE 1993 CONVENTION OF AAASS

On Friday, November 19, the discussant for the panel, "Topics in Slavic Phonology," was Ljerka Debush, Harvard U.

On Saturday, November 20, the ACS sponsored a panel on "Topics in Croatian Linguistics" with Henning Andersen as Chair. Ljerka Debush, Harvard U., presented a paper on

"Patterns of Adverb Formation in Croatian Dialects." Grace E. Fielder, U. of Arizona, Tucson and Mirjana Dedačić of the Voice of American presented a paper on "The Opposition 'Indefinite/ Definite' in Croatian." The discussant was Mirjana Dedačić.

Andrea Feldman, Yale U., presented a paper on "Women and National Ideologies of the South Slavs in the 19th Century" in the panel, "Ladies' Clubs and Women's Consciousness: Slavic Women's Voluntary Associations."

The ACS sponsored a panel on "National and Regional Identity Among the Croats" with Peter Sugar, U. of Washington, as Chair. Sarah A. Kent, U. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, presented a paper on "National and Regional Identity: School-teachers Look at Croatia in the 1880s and 1890s." Marko Prelec, Yale U., presented on "Competing Loyalties in 20th Century Dalmatia." The discussants were Henrik and Marianna Birnbaum of UCLA.

On Sunday November 21, Tatjana Lorković, Yale U, participated in a roundtable on "Acquisitions Survey Travel: Maximizing Results."

A panel entitled, "What is Croatian in Croatian Music: The Dialogue of Differences" featured a paper by Eva Sedak, Zagreb Music Academy, entitled, "Croatian Music and the Slavic World." Ennio Stipčević, Inst. for the History of Croatian Music, presented on "Croatian Music versus Italian Influence." Zdravko Blažeković, City U. of New York, "Croatian Music in Habsburg Empire." The discussant was Michael Beckerman, U. of California, Santa Barbara.

On Monday November 22, Tatjana Lorković, Yale U., participated in a roundtable discussion entitled "Collaborative Projects with Libraries in The Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe."

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for 1994: regular membership \$30.00

retired and student \$15.00

Contributions are most welcome!

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Please send dues and membership information to:

Professor Sarah A. Kent
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Department of History
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481

REQUEST FOR NEWS

We would like to run a regular feature on news from our membership. This column would include recent publications, presentations at conferences, fellowship awards and other honors, hirings and promotions and any other professional news. Please send information to the secretary.

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SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Croatian Homeland Foundation sponsors a number of programs: Summer Croatian Language and Culture School in Zagreb; Summer Croatian Language and Culture School in Supetar, Island of Brac; Summer School of Croatian Folklore in Hrvatsko primorje; Task Force 1993; Suncokret, Center for Grassroots Relief Work; the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. Contact Sally Kent at (715) 346-4442 for further information.

MEETING REPORT

The annual meeting of the ACS took place on Saturday November 20 at the Honolulu meeting of the AAASS, and the biennial elections were held at that time. The following new officers were elected.

President:
Joseph Bombelles
Department of Economics
John Carroll University
Cleveland, Ohio 44118

Vice Presidents:
Ivo Banac
5002 Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520

Ante Čuvalo
19121 Wildwood Ave
Lansing, IL 60438

Secretary:
Paula Lytle
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Treasurer:
Sarah Kent
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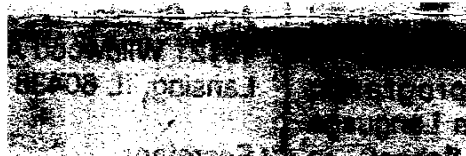
In a brief discussion, members were urged to send professional news to be posted in the newsletter. (See announcement.)

Possible panels for Philadelphia were also discussed. There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned. The social evening was held at a local restaurant, and the members of the ACS were joined by visiting scholars from Zagreb.

CALL FOR CONVENTION PROPOSALS

The twenty-seventh convention of the AAASS will be held in November, 1995. The ACS must agree on two panels for the 27th convention before the end of the year. Please send your proposals for individual papers or whole panels to Prof. Lytle by 1 December 1994.

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