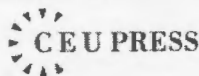


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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EAST EUROPEAN TRAVEL WRITING ON EUROPE

Edited by
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Introduction

All kinds of people from eastern Europe have travelled abroad, and many have written accounts of their journeys. Such texts have performed, or are said to have performed, many roles. Travel writings have linked communities of humanists or scholars; helped to define the boundaries of the nation; popularized vernaculars and contributed to the development of literary traditions; spread new ideas; or addressed dangerous subjects in forms that evaded the attention of the censor. While the travel account may have been treated as less prestigious than other literary genres—the novel or the lyric poem, for instance—examples have entered the canon in many national literatures, and some have been translated for an international readership. And, of course, travel writings have represented individuals'—and societies'—encounters with the world, and have offered their authors an opportunity to meditate on the issues of difference and familiarity that travel highlights. These works may also tell us something about what Europe, or being European, has meant to those from the continent's eastern half.

Given this, it is all the more surprising that such writings have attracted so little attention. There are reasons for this, of which the proverbial multiplicity and obscurity of the region's languages are probably the best-known, if not the most major. A certain number of texts are available in west European languages; but these are not necessarily easy to find or to survey. Some existing bibliographies detail travel accounts produced in particular territories or written in particular languages, but a region-wide, comparative survey is lacking. Even national bibliographies tend to collate subsets of the genre (literary travels, diplomatic reports, or geographical literature) while ignoring more ephemeral or difficult to categorize texts.

This bibliography is a first attempt to survey east European travel accounts of Europe. The information contained here will help researchers find new sources in a whole range of subjects. At the same time, this work should enable further research on travel and travel writing from the region between Russia and Germany, Turkey and Italy. Striking information and suggestive lines for future study emerge even from this preliminary listing. Comparisons across regions or national traditions are often instructive. It comes as no surprise to find that the many sixteenth- and seventeenth-century central European accounts of journeys to the East are not matched by accounts of the West from Orthodox Europe until the eighteenth century or later; but this is thrown into perspective by the fact that travels to western Europe do not feature prominently in early central European publications either. The shift in the direction of travel writing from the socialist countries after the Second World War—towards the USSR and the fraternal socialist countries—is notable, if unsurprising; less predictable is the increasing number of travels to the West published even under some of the most isolationist regimes. Some destinations have an unexpected prominence in national traditions: note the persistent interest in Montenegro in Czech accounts; or the number of Serbian (or, later, Yugoslav) travel books about Norway. Just as striking are the destinations that do *not* seem to have been worth describing: in spite of the numbers travelling in the nineteenth century from Croatia to Budapest, or from Prague or Budapest to Vienna, these destinations seem curiously underrepresented in published travel writing.

CRITERIA

The scope of the bibliography is easily summarized: travel writing about Europe published in book form in the languages of eastern Europe from ca. 1550 to 2000. However, each component of this statement requires further clarification:

- *Travel writing.* As a literary genre, this is notoriously hard to delimit. We have taken as our starting-point the following definition: 'first-person narratives, proposed and received as non-fiction, representing the narrator's encounter with foreign or unfamiliar surroundings'. As such, travel writing can be understood as a thematically-delimited branch of autobiography or the memoir. We have used

our judgment to include such works when they are primarily or significantly structured around travels. Exile and émigré memoirs, many of which occupy an important place in some national traditions and periods, are likewise included only selectively. Although they have in common with conventional travel writing the autobiographical mode and a theme of displacement, they do not by and large focus on observation of place nor are such observations necessarily presented in terms of a distancing from (and eventual reintegration into) the community of the imagined readership. Published travel accounts are often framed in epistolary form, or collate a series of 'travel letters' first published separately (in the form of *feuilletons*, for example). We have included a few editions of private letters when they result from travels, but have not systematically analysed epistolary sources. Some foreign reportage is included, to the extent that it has a primarily narrative rather than discursive structure and the narration is non-fictional and first-person. Finally, in the modern world the activity of writing descriptions of things and people observed in different places has become immensely organized, with a large number of separate institutional manifestations, such as archaeology, anthropology, botany, diplomacy, journalism, flight logs, commercial reports and so forth. We have recorded some texts from these special fields (of which the above is not a complete list), applying our conventional definition of first-person travel narrative as the criterion of inclusion, but we have not investigated them exhaustively.

• *Europe*. The geographical limits to Europe have been interpreted fairly generously. A number of pilgrimages to the Holy Land or travels to the Americas, for example, have been included when there is a substantial European component. Travels to Russia or the Soviet Union are included as a matter of course, though those that focus on non-European territories have been treated selectively. Given the importance of travel accounts of Turkey and the Ottoman Empire (and especially Istanbul), particularly in terms of the travellers' self-definitions, a case has been made for selected entries, especially for earlier periods. Travels within eastern Europe (e.g. Czechs travelling to the Balkans) are included. Travels within a homeland have been a very important part of individual national traditions; these are included when they are specifically framed as travel writing (and especially when treating the area travelled through as unfamiliar or requiring interpretation).

• *Published in book form.* We have not included manuscripts or texts published in periodicals (except when republished as separate works, in collections, or in individual authors' collected works). Anthologies of travel writing (which include much material originally published in periodicals) are listed in the bibliographic introductions to each section, which also include references to bibliographic tools for the most important periodical sources.

• *The languages of eastern Europe.* 'Eastern Europe' is a much-disputed appellation. We have tried to minimize definitional problems by using language of composition, rather than place of origin or ethnic allegiance of the author, as the basic criterion for inclusion. The bibliography collates travel writing in Albanian; Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian and Serbo-Croatian; Bulgarian; Czech; Greek; Hebrew and Yiddish; Hungarian; Macedonian; Polish; Romanian; Slovak; Slovene; and Ukrainian. We have not been able to include Belorussian and the Baltic languages. Nor have we searched for travel accounts in Armenian, Aromanian (Vlach), Ladino, or Romani. Sorbian literature has not been systematically analysed (it might in fact be identified as a west European language), but it should be noted that there are bibliographies available, particularly for the Sorbian publishing house 'Domowina'.¹ Perhaps more controversially, we have not included travel accounts written in Turkish and in German. A number of travellers from Ottoman Europe recorded their experiences in Turkish (the best-known is probably Osman Ağa of Timișoara's engaging account of his captivity during the 1683–1699 Habsburg–Ottoman war, which involved travels from the Croatian Military Frontier to Graz and Vienna, and back through Buda and Belgrade; this is available in German, French and Croatian translations).² Many more east Euro-

1 See, for example, *Bibliografija Ludoweho nakladništwa Domowina, 1958–1997 / Bibliographie des Domowina-Verlags, 1958–1997* (Budyšin/Bautzen: Domowina, 1998). Domowina published at least two travel accounts in the 1950s–60s: Jurij Brězan, *Po dróze a při dróze; zapiski pućowaceho* (Budyšin, Domowina, 1955) [Bulgaria, Russia] and Jurij Wićaz (1899–?), *Z Kamjenskim nosom; što dožiwi serbski nowinar we swěće* (Budyšin: Domowina, 1961) [Europe].

2 *Der Gefangene der Giauren*, trans. Richard Kreutel & Otto Spies (Vienna: Verlag Styria, 1962); *Prisonnier des Infidèles*, trans. Frédéric Hitzel (Arles: Actes Sud, 1998); *Autobiografija Osman-Age Temišvarskog*, trans. Ekrem Čaušević (Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2004).

peans have used German as their first tongue, while others have adopted it as their preferred literary language (e.g. Transylvanian Saxons, the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Bohemian nobility, Polish Jews). These include such notable travel writers as Joseph Roth (born in Brody, Galicia in 1894, educated in Lviv and Vienna, and working in Berlin, Paris, and Amsterdam, among other places) or Egon Erwin Kisch (born in Prague in 1885, a Czechoslovak citizen after 1918 but largely working in Berlin, in exile in the 1930s–40s in Paris and Mexico). But—as these examples hint—determining what to include as ‘east-European German travel writing’ would be a near-impossible task, and one that is largely redundant in any case, given the availability of bibliographies of German-language travel literature. However, the insistence on a restricted set of languages has not completely solved the problems of delimiting ‘east European travel writing’. Writers from the region have also published accounts in other languages (including Latin, French, Italian, English, and Russian). Rather than exclude these altogether, we have thought it more useful to include a section for ‘Languages of International Circulation’ for works first written in these languages.

•‘From ca. 1550–2000’. Some flexibility has been applied here: material published before 1550 or after 2000 is included particularly for languages (e.g. Albanian or Macedonian) where the numbers of texts are not large, or for those where there are important texts published between 1500 and 1550 (Czech, Hungarian, Polish).

The above criteria have, inevitably, introduced some distortions in the understanding of travel writing that can be gleaned from this work. The decision to limit works to those that were published in monograph form means that the bibliography fails to give an accurate picture of the total scope of travel writing being published at any one time, as in many periods journals or newspapers were the most prominent publishers of travel accounts. A second distortion derives from the decision to limit the bibliography to accounts of travel in Europe. Travelers from eastern Europe quartered the globe, and the resulting writings are at least as worthy of notice as their European accounts, but they still await their bibliographers. Perhaps less importantly, we have left aside the many west European and other travel accounts published in translation in the east European languages.