

South Slavic Folk Culture

A Bibliography of Literature
in English, German, and French
on Bosnian-Herzegovinian, Bulgarian, Macedonian,
Montenegrin and Serbian Folk Culture

Südslavische Volkskultur

Bibliographie zur Literatur
in englischer, deutscher und französischer Sprache
zur bosnisch-herzegowinischen, bulgarischen, mazedonischen,
montenegrinischen und serbischen Volkskultur

compiled and edited by
KLAUS ROTH
and
GABRIELE WOLF

with the cooperation of
Tomislav Helebrant

Slavica Publishers, Inc.
Columbus, Ohio

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Preface

When Johann Gottfried Herder published his *Volkslieder* in 1778/79, he included a few Greek and "Morlakan" songs in translation. By doing so, he became the first to direct the attention of the educated elite to the Balkan peninsula, the "forgotten subcontinent". Herder's translation of four Serbo-croatian narrative songs, among them the *Lament of the Noble Wife of Asan Aga*, not only inspired Goethe and other poets but also marked the beginning of the interest in those European regions which had at that time been under Ottoman rule for over 400 years. Herder's, Goethe's, and the romantics' interest in the poetry of the Balkan peoples had lasting effects in the fields of both culture and politics: the numerous translations of Balkan folk poetry stimulated the study of Balkan culture, and they generated an atmosphere in Europe that helped the Balkan peoples in their struggle for liberation.

At the same time, however, this early concern with Balkan folk culture revealed the difficulty which most outside observers have faced: ignorant of any modern Balkan language, they had to rely upon translations into Western languages and on second-hand knowledge from travel reports and topographies. The Western picture of the Balkans was shaped by such indirect knowledge for centuries, and it was not until after the middle of the 19th century that scholars with a knowledge of Balkan languages began to draw a more reliable first-hand picture of Balkan folk cultures.

Not only linguistic barriers, however, made the access to the Balkan peoples difficult. Their ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural diversity as well as their perceived distance from Western culture – which resulted from the long Byzantine and Ottoman influence – rendered it even more exotic. In Western countries, the study of Balkan cultures was therefore confined to relatively few scholars. They have published, however, a surprisingly large number of works, and since the end of the 19th century they were joined by a growing number of native ethnologists studying their own cultures and publishing their findings also in Western languages.

Many of these publications on Balkan folk cultures are virtually unknown even to specialists. Two main reasons account for this fact: The scholars working on Balkan folk cultures belong to a variety of disciplines (ranging from folklore, ethnography, ethnology, anthropology, Slavic studies, Balkan studies, linguistics, and literary history to classical and Byzantine studies, Ottoman studies, history, archeology, sociology, geography etc.) with little communication between them; secondly, a very large number of their works appeared in less known journals or other publications that are often hard to come by.

The present bibliography is meant to help overcome these problems. It is an attempt to put together the scholarly (and semi-scholarly) literature on the folk cultures of the South Slavic peoples from the early beginnings of topography and ethnography to the present day and at the same time to include

as many primary sources on historical folk culture as possible. Normal book reviews are not included, whereas more substantial review articles are.

The large number of extant titles necessitated two limitations which concern the **countries or ethnic groups** and the **language of publication**.

1. Countries and ethnic groups: The bibliography includes all available literature on the folk cultures of those South Slavic countries that were under Ottoman rule well into the 19th century and whose populations are Christian Orthodox or Muslim, i.e.; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The bibliography also includes literature on adjacent areas and on South Slavic groups, migrant workers, and emigrants outside these countries. The bibliography does not cover Croatia and Slovenia, because the amount of literature on their folk cultures is too large and because they largely belong to other culture areas.

2. Language of publication: The bibliography comprises only literature in the three major languages English, German, and French. There are several reasons for this limitation, namely: (a) English, German, and French are read and understood by most scholars and are widely used for publications in Balkan studies. (b) The publications in these languages are written by scholars from all relevant countries and are thus representative of the entire research in this field. (c) The diversity of the Balkan languages makes the inclusion of literature in these languages difficult and costly; the Southeast European libraries and research institutes have far better access to Slavic literature and are better equipped for its publication. (d) Southeast European scholars have limited access to Western libraries and literature; the bibliography wants to provide them with information on this large body of scholarly work. (e) Finally, many publications in South Slavic languages are furnished with summaries in Western languages.

As for the range of **subjects**, the bibliography tries to be as comprehensive as possible. Unlike some other bibliographies limited to "folklore" and "ethnography" in the traditional sense, it comprises all literature on **folk culture or popular culture**, "culture" being (in accordance with our contemporary understanding of the term) defined and applied in the broadest sense. As a consequence, many anthropological, sociological, historical, cultural geographical, and other works relevant to the understanding of Balkan folk culture have been included.

To sum up, the bibliography attempts to incorporate all extant scholarly literature in English, German, and French on the past and present everyday culture of the Christian Orthodox or Muslim South Slavic peoples and the minority groups living in these countries. For all those who wish to gain an even broader access to, and understanding of, the Balkan countries and their peoples, we have added a selection of basic literature on the history and geography of the Balkans. In addition, such valuable printed sources on historical folk culture as historical topographies and travel reports were added in a separate chapter.

The bibliography is to serve three purposes. In the first place, it is meant to provide the student and teacher of Southeast European culture (and all

those interested in these countries) who do not know a South Slavic language with a study and research tool. Secondly it attempts to make known to a wider public the results of Southeast European culture studies and further the understanding of this sometimes puzzling region that has recently become the focus of world-wide attention. It may thus, thirdly, serve as a stimulus to learn even more about these peoples and their cultures.

Thanks to the almost matchless collection of South Slavica of the Bavarian State Library in Munich we were able to examine nearly all titles in this bibliography; valuable information was also obtained in the libraries of the Folklore Institutes at Münster and Munich Universities, the British Library in London, the Library of Congress, the Libraries of the University of California (Berkeley) and Indiana University (Bloomington), and in many other libraries. Titles which could not be found in libraries or in major national bibliographies or catalogs are marked with an asterisk (*).

Thanks and acknowledgements are due to the librarians of the above mentioned libraries as well as to all colleagues who sent titles of their own or other publications. Most of all, however, I have to thank my colleagues Gabriele Wolf and Tomislav Helebrant who searched and examined thousands of titles and took care of the computer programs. Finally, I want to extend my thanks to Charles Gribble at Slavica Publishers who from the beginning took an active interest in the bibliography.

We plan to continue the bibliography with its over 7650 titles in the form of a data bank and to publish either an updated edition or a supplement after some years. In order to achieve this goal we largely depend on the help of all colleagues who are herewith kindly requested to send titles of relevant publications to this address:

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