

## DNEVOM INŠTITUTA ZA SLOVENSKO IZSELJENSTVO ZA POPOTNICO

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Pred dobrima dvema letoma, natančneje maja 2000, se je Inštitut za slovensko izseljenstvo prvič predstavil širšemu občinstvu tudi v nekoliko drugačni, manj znanstveni in bolj strokovni ter prijaznejši preobleki. Vzrok za našo »dopolnilno dejavnost«, ki je bila nekako speljana v sloganu »odpreti se javnosti in približati naše delo tudi laikom«, je bil predvsem v želji izpostaviti in poudariti naše tedanje finančne težave, torej nezadostno financiranje našega raziskovalnega dela, kljub temu da smo z izpeljanimi raziskavami že tedaj daleč presegle lastne načrte. Z namenom, da prikažemo in seznanimo javnost z načinom našega dela, vezanega na metodologijo različnih znanstvenih disciplin, skozi katere se že ves čas kaže naše interdisciplinarno delo na Inštitutu, se mi je rodila ideja o Dnevih Inštituta, ki naj bi potekali ves teden, in sicer v treh različnih oblikah: razstava, okrogla miza, predavanja.

Na ta način smo s sofinanciranjem Ministrstva za kulturo in domače hiše postavili na ogled ves potek našega dela, od prvih zapiskov in izpiskov iz različne literature do dokumentiranega terenskega dela in končnih izdelkov, tj. naših monografij, znanstvene revije in informativnega glasila Bilten. To je bila vsebina slikovno in dokumentarno dokaj pestre razstave v dvorani Zemljepisnega muzeja, ki sva jo s sodelavci izpeljala skupaj z mag. Jernejem Mlekužem, tedaj mladim raziskovalcem na Inštitutu. Okrogla miza je pod vodstvom dr. Marjana Drnovška in pod okriljem Historičnega seminarja ZRC SAZU odkrila nekaj zanimivih in novih pogledov na arhivsko gradivo med izseljenci (vsi prispevki so bili objavljeni v Dveh domovinah št. 11–12/2000). V kontekst »pokazati, kaj imamo« je sodil tudi izid Vodnika po arhivskem gradivu, ki ga hrani Inštitut, avtorja mag. Deana Ceglarja. Teden je bil izpolnjen s štirimi zanimivimi predavanji, ki so posegla na področje izseljenskega jezika (dr. Nada Šabec), življenja izseljenskih duhovnikov (g. Janez Pucelj), problematike NUKA v odnosu do izseljenskega gradiva (mag. Rozina Švent) in Baragove misijonarske metode (dr. Zmago Šmitek). Obisk gledalcev, poslušalcev, razpravljavcev in poročevalcev nas je razveselil in čutili smo se koristne.

Minili sta dve leti. Vmes je Inštitut vzorno izpeljal mednarodni simpozij na temo Kulturnoumetniška dejavnost izseljencev in njeno mesto v sodobni kulturi v Gozdu Martuljku. Tu se je, med drugim, prvič resneje omenjalo pomanjkanje raziskovalnega interesa za likovno ustvarjalnost naših umetnikov na tujem. Po tem dogodku se je zgodilo še marsikaj in ker so bralci Dveh domovin velikokrat tudi bralci našega Biltena, bi se prevečkrat ponovila v naštevanju vseh naših dogodkov do lanskega oktobra – življenje na Inštitutu namreč nikoli ne usahne.

V lanskem oktobru pa smo zopet z enako finančno pomočjo kot prve izpeljali druge

Dneve. Tako kot prvič sem tudi drugič in zadnjič prevzela organizacijo razstave, okrogle mize in predavanj. Tokrat smo izpeljali obljubljeni in namenili nekaj dni (med 14. in 18. oktobrom 2002) pereči in malo raziskani temi likovne ustvarjalnosti med slovenskimi izseljenci. Z veliko pomočjo Kristine Toplak, dipl. etnologinje, kulturne antropologinje in umetnostne zgodovinarke – sedaj že inštitutove mlade raziskovalke, sva v dvorani Zemljepisnega muzeja postavili razstavo dosegljivih likovnih del izseljenskih umetnikov, ki sva jih zbrali po Sloveniji. Nekatere umetnice (gdč. Nataša Škof, ga. Rozalija Knez in ga. Tamara Burmicki) so nam pripovedovale o svojem življenju in ustvarjanju. Okroglo mizo Znana in neznana likovna ustvarjalnost slovenskih umetnikov v izseljenstvu, ki je pritegnila k sodelovanju priznane poznavalce tovrstne problematike iz vse Slovenije, pa je z velikim poslušom za odpiranje neznanih preteklih in sedanjih strokovnih in znanstvenih zanimanj slovenskih intelektualcev za omenjeno tematiko vodila dr. Irene Mislej, sama argentinska Slovenka, že dolga leta živeča v Sloveniji. Obe imenovani sta sourednici današnjega tematskega sklopa.

In kakšno je bilo vzdušje? Ker se je ravno v tem času bližal mednarodni simpozij o sezonstvu in izseljenstvu v panonskem prostoru (katerega soorganizator je bil tudi Inštitut) in se je nanj pripravljala večina slovenskih raziskovalcev izseljenstva, se s pretiranim obiskom ne moremo pohvaliti. Tisti, ki pa so prišli, so izkazali še poseben interes za do sedaj malo omenjeno temo in veseli smo bili njihovih pohvalnih besed. Tudi mediji nas niso spregledali.

In sedaj je pred vami še objava celotnega dogajanja – v sliki in besedi. Preden se



*Vitrina pred dvorano Zemljepisnega muzeja z vabilom na likovno razstavo ob Dnevih Inštituta za slovensko izseljenstvo.*

lotite branja, še nekaj pojasnil: vsebinski potek okrogle mize sva z dr. Mislejevo skušali ohraniti čimbolj v avtentični obliki. Prispevki so avtorizirani in nam vsem, ki se ne ukvarjamo z raziskovanjem likovne umetnosti izseljenskih umetnikov, prinašajo vrsto novih in zanimivih podatkov, uporabnih tudi za nadaljnjo razpravo. Objavljene življenjske pripovedi omenjenih treh slikark sva skupaj s kolegico Toplakovo nekoliko popravili, skrajšali diskusijske prispevke ali jih, v primeru Nataše Škof, celo vnesli v samo zgodbo. Še zlasti zadnja omenjena pripoved je po moji želji ostala zapisana v pogovornem jeziku pripove-

dovalke in je kot taka odličen vir za raziskovanje jezika druge generacije avstralskih Slovencev.

Dnevi št. 2 so za nami. Spominjala se jih bom zaradi slikark in njihovega iskrenega navdušenja nad skromnim razstavljanjem njihovih del, tujcev in šolske mladine, ki so si ogledali razstavo, znancev, ki jih že dolgo časa nisem videla, zanimivih, meni manj znanih razpravljavcev na okrogli mizi pa tudi zaradi starih izkušenj.

Ostane mi še zahvala – sprva domači ustanovi in Ministrstvu za kulturo za finančno pomoč, mag. Jerneju Mlekužu, našemu hišniku Marku Jevnikarju in prijazni čistilki za pomoč pri postavljanju razstave, dr. Irene Mislej za vse koristne sugestije, strokovne nasvete in vodenje okrogle mize ter Kristini Toplak za njeno zagnanost in nesebično požrtvovalnost.

### *THE DAYS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SLOVENIAN EMIGRATION STUDIES*

*A good two years ago, more precisely in May 2000, the Inštitut za slovensko izseljenstvo/Institute for Slovenian Emigration Studies has for the first time presented itself to a wider public in somewhat different, less scientific, more technical and friendly a form. The reason for our "supplementary activity" that was scoped in the slogan "open to the public and bring our work near to the laics as well", was above all in the wish to expose and stress our financial hardship at that time, that is insufficient financing of our research work despite the fact that we have with our realized researches extensively surpassed our projects. With the intention to present to the public and acquaint them with the manner of our work that is linked to methodologies of various scientific disciplines through which the institutes' interdisciplinary work is all along being demonstrated, the idea about The Days of the Institute occurred to me. The Days were schemed to last a week and in three different forms: exhibition, round table, lectures.*

*Thus, we have exhibited with the co-financing of The Ministry of Culture and The ZRC SAZU the entire course of our work, from the first notes and extracts from various literature to documented field work and final products, that is our monographs, scientific journals and the informative paper Bilten/Newsletter. This was the content of a variegated – in image and documentation – exhibition held in the hall of the Geographical museum, and realized by Jernej Mlekuž, at that time research assistant at the Institute, co-workers and myself. The round table under the conduct of Marjan Drnovšek, PhD and under the patronage of the Historical Seminar of The ZRC SAZU has revealed some interesting and new aspects on archival material among emigrants (all contributions were published in Dve domovini/Two Homelands No. 11-12/2000). The publication of the Vodnik po arhivskem gradivu/A guide through archival material by Dean Ceglar, kept at the Institute, also belonged into the context "show what we have". The week was implemented with four interesting lectures, which reached into the fields of emigration language (Nada Šabec, PhD), the life of emigrant clergymen (Mr. Janez Pucelj), the problematic of the NUK (National University Library) in relation to emigration materials (Rozina Švent, M.A.), and Baraga's missionary method (Zmago Šmitek, PhD). The visits of the spectators, listeners, debaters and reporters delighted us and we felt useful.*

*Two years have passed by. In between the Institute has exemplarily carried out an international symposium in Gozd Martuljk on cultural/art activity of emigrants and on its stand in*

modern culture. There, among other, a lack of research interest in fine arts creativity of Slovene artists abroad was for the first time seriously discussed. A lot happened after that event; as readers of *Dve domovini/Two Homelands* are in many cases readers of our *Bilten* as well, I would be repeating myself too much if enumerating all events until last year's October - life at the institute never runs dry.

In October 2002, we have carried out the second Days - with the same financial aid as the first ones. As in the first Days, I have taken over the organisation of the exhibition, the round table and the lectures (for the last time) of the second Days. This time we have carried out the promised, and devoted a few days (between October 14th and 18th 2002) to the burning and hardly researched theme of fine arts creativity among Slovene emigrants. With the great help of Kristina Toplak, ethnologist, cultural anthropologist and art-historian - now the Institute's research assistant - we prepared in the hall of the Geographical museum an exhibition of accessible works of emigrant artists that we collected in Slovenia. Some artists (Miss. Nataša Škof, Mrs. Rozalija Knez and Mrs. Tamara Burmicki) have been telling us about their lives and their work. The round table *Znana in neznana likovna ustvarjalnost slovenskih umetnikov v izseljenstvu/The Known and the Unknown Artistic Creativeness among Slovenian Emigrants*, which drew to cooperation acknowledged experts on the problematic from Slovenia, was with grand sensitivity for revealing unknown past and present expert and scientific interests of Slovene intellectuals in the mentioned thematic, conducted by Irene Mislej, PhD, herself an Argentinean Slovene and for many years living in Slovenia. The both mentioned are co-editors of the actual thematic presentation.

In addition, what was the atmosphere like? As just at that time the international symposium on seasonal work and emigration in the Panonian space (of which co-organiser was the Institute) was nearing and the majority of Slovene researchers of emigration were preparing for it, we cannot speak of excessive attendance. However, those who came have demonstrated special interest in until the present scarcely mentioned theme; we were pleased with their words of approval. Neither did the media overlook us.

The publication of the entire event - in picture and in word is now before you. A few explanations before you get to reading: Irene Mislej, PhD and I have tried to preserve the content course of the round table as authentic as possible. The contributions are authorised, and bring to all of us who are not engaged in researching fine arts of emigrant artists, a number of new and interesting information that are useful for further discussion. Together with my colleague Mrs. Toplak we have slightly corrected the published life narratives of the three mentioned painters, abbreviated the discussion contributions or, as in case of Nataša Škof, even included them in the narrative. Particularly the last mentioned narrative has to my wish remained written in colloquial language of the narrator and is as such an excellent source for researching the language of the second generation of Australian Slovenes.

The Days No.2 are behind us. I will remember them because of the painters and their sincere enthusiasm about the unpretentious exhibiting of their works, foreigners and school youth who came to see the exhibition, acquaintances I have not seen for a long time, interesting, to me less known debaters at the round table, and because of old experiences.

Remaining is my thanks - firstly to the ZRC SAZU and The Ministry of Culture for financial aid, to Jernej Mlekuž, M.A., to our housekeeper Marko Jevnikar and to the kind cleaning lady for their help in preparing the exhibition; to Irene Mislej, PhD for all useful suggestions, expert advices and for conducting the round table, and to Kristina Toplak for her enthusiasm and unselfishness.