

THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AND THE SLOVENIAN AMERICAN COLLECTION

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The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) is a unit of the University of Minnesota dedicated to fostering research on and understanding of the history of American immigration. One of the nation's leading archival/library repositories of source material on immigration and ethnicity, the IHRC locates, collects, preserves, and makes available for research the records of 24 ethnic groups that originated in eastern, central and southern Europe and the Near East. Although diverse in religions, cultures, and languages, they were the »new immigrants«, those who came to this country during the Great Migration that gained momentum in the 1880s and peaked in the first decades of this century.

The Center serves scholars and the public in the state of Minnesota, in the nation, and internationally. It educates and enriches the lives of many through 1) newsletters, press releases, and media appearances; 2) exchanges of students, scholars, and research materials; 3) visits and correspondence with individuals and representatives of institutions and organizations in the ethnic communities; and 4) public lectures, conferences, and exhibits. The Friends of the IHRC, an independent support group, assists in these outreach efforts by providing a bridge to the ethnic communities.

The IHRC's collections include printed, manuscript, and audio-visual materials of national and local origin. The print collection consists of 23,000 books and pamphlets, more than 3,000 serial titles and over 900 newspaper titles. Most of these publications are the products of ethnic presses in the United States and Canada from the late nineteenth century to the present; but there are also many academic and popular works from university and commercial publishers. The manuscript holdings consist of ca. 900 collections occupying 4,500 linear feet. Typical collections include the personal papers of community leaders, clergy-

men, and journalists and the records of fraternal organizations, service agencies, and publishing companies. Audio-visual materials consist of small, but rapidly growing, files of phonograph records, photographs, and oral history tape recordings.

The Slovenian American Collection at the IHRC includes an extensive body of archival, monographic, and periodical sources. The Center's archival holdings are particularly strong in the area of Slovenian fraternal benefit organizations. The IHRC maintains the records of the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ), the American Fraternal Union, the Slovenian Progressive Benefit Society, and the Zveza »Lilija« Wisconsin. Slovenian (and other South Slavic) political activism is significantly reflected in the records of the Jugoslav Socialist Federation. The religious dimension of Slovenian immigrant life is also prominently represented through the records of several individual parishes as well as the papers of clergymen Wenceslau Sholar and John Zaplotnik. The Slovenian American monograph collection includes ca. 500 volumes covering a wide range of subjects. Most of these are detailed in the work *Slovenes in the United States and Canada: A Bibliography*, by Joseph Dwyer (1981). Included is a rich collection of writings by author and social activist Louis Adamic, whose life is further documented in the papers of his biographer, Henry Christian. The IHRC maintains some 60 newspaper and 125 serial titles published by and for Slovenian American communities. Among those with extensive runs of issues are *Amerikanski Slovenec*, *Ave Maria Koledar*, *Glas Naroda*, *Glasilo KSKJ*, *Nova Doba*, and *Prosveta*.

The holdings of the IHRC are available for research use in person from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday, and Saturdays by appointment. For more information about the Center's collections and programs contact: Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, 222 21st St. S., Suite 311, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, ph. (612) 625-4800 (as of 2/1, 2000). Web site: www.umn.edu/ihrc. Persons who have material they would like to donate to the IHRC are warmly encouraged to send a brief description to Rudolph J. Vecoli, IHRC Director, or Joel Wurl, IHRC Curator, at the above address.