

*Angelos Baš*

OPISI KMEČKEGA OBLAČILNEGA VIDEZA NA SLOVENSKEM V PRVI POLOVICI 19. STOLETJA

DESCRIPTIONS OF PEASANT CLOTHING IN SLOVENIA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Ljubljana, Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 1984.

This book by Angelos Baš, published by Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti (Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts) in the *Gradivo za narodopisje Slovencev* (Material for Slovene Ethnography) series, would deserve more attention than it - supposedly - has. Yet this standardly grey, stiff and therefore somewhat unfriendly image of volumes from this series does not hide a rigid and uninteresting reading for a layman. The book namely comprises a real anthology of quotes and different sources describing the manner of clothing in Slovenia up to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This material actually presents the remains of the material which could not be used in Baš's synthetical research of the same topic. He states that this period is "the first period for which we have enough instructive sources". In view of this it was possible to obtain a rather exact picture of Slovene clothing culture or folk attire in the period of France Prešeren, the best-known Slovene poet.

The material which is published in this volume describes peasant attire from entire Slovene territory because — to put it simply and conditionally — the historical situation then still enabled a uniform Slovene culture. The first part of the book brings lists with more general local descriptions of peasant attire, while the second brings quotes about different elements of peasant's clothing. The first example is illustrated by a fragment from Macher's *Medizinisch — statistische Topografie des Herzogtumes Steiermark*, published in Graz in 1860: "Attire of Slovene peasants is becoming similar to that of townsfolk, but otherwise it is similar to that of highlanders. Wide-brimmed hats and long sheepskin coats are still very numerous. Women wear woolen, sometimes silken jumpers, brightly colored wrappers, skirts and such mostly made of cotton goods; one can even notice large head-dresses which look unlike anything else, sometimes also old golden ones, but most of them gave way to kerchiefs." This description refers to the surroundings of the town of Celje, but we shall give a more detailed reference to the then costume with a passage from Puff's *Marburger Taschenbuch für Geschichte, Landes- und Sagenkunde der Steiermark und der an dieselbe grenzenden Länder*, published in Graz in 1853, which says: "Regarding their costume Slovenes can be divided into those wearing short, tight clothes, and others who wear long, wide garments. The dialect of the first is more similar to those from Carinthia and Carniola, while that of the latter likens to southeastern Croatian and Hungarian Slavs... Costume from the Pohorje region is the ugliest of all, reminding us of convicts in prisons, yet it is very suitable for highlanders, especially for wood-cutters and charcoal burners. They have long trousers made of coarse grey cloth, the majority of which have small buttndown the sides, like those of Upper Styrians, jacket of the same kind, boots, a bag made of fox - and more often of badger skin, sometimes a cap made of dormouse skin..."

A quote from Woltensdorf's *Die Illyrischen Provinzen und ihre Einwohner*, published in Vienna in 1812, speaks about those details which have interested the researcher: "In Trieste one can see fans in the hands of men and women of the lowest classes, on both sides pasted over with Italian songs." The quantity of different sources, Slovene as well as German, having been examined by Angelos Baš in order to find references to clothing, is enormous. He has taken into account even such distant and "non-existent" documents as are specialized geographic, topographic or historical writings, but at the same time he has also examined Slovene literature from that time. As an example we quote a passage from Tilka by Simon Jenko: "...when in the middle of his breast he buttons a red silken scarf, aesthetically twisted into a sausage, with an enormous button, a number of which adorn his vest..."



In order to get a notion about clothing customs of that time, Jenko had written enough and it became valuable data, also applicable to today's complex historical views of Slovene clothing culture in the past.

Descriptions of Peasant Clothing in Slovenia in the First Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by Angelos Baš is not solely a complex view of our written legacy which concerns Slovene cultural bequest relating to this topic, but at the same time an eloquent collection of narratives with their own soul which are therefore very pleasant to read.

Vili Vuk

*Franjo Baš*

STAVBE IN GOSPODARSTVO NA SLOVENSKEM PODEŽELJU  
BUILDINGS AND ECONOMY IN SLOVENE  
COUNTRYSIDE

Ljubljana, Slovenska Matica, 1984.

Some time ago we received a book which should not be overlooked, let alone forgotten, despite its professional orientation. This book entitled *Buildings and Economy in Slovene Countryside* comprises ethnological essays by Franjo Baš who had helped to shape modern Slovene ethnology. These essays were selected and equipped by necessary and useful footnotes by Angelos Baš, the author's son.

The book offers many valuable things to its reader. First of all it reveals the overlooked or even unknown: while one is certain that the really essential things concerning one's profession are happening only now, in the present, such books persuade one that much has been already said and treated. Undoubtedly these selected essays present one of such surprises, for only when reading these tidily arranged essays which have previously been published in different publications, we are able to perceive the wholeness of professional work of Franjo Baš in the sphere of ethnology. Besides this the essays also reveal professional broadness and thematical extent of his research work and interest.

These essays are mainly centered on the part of Slovene territory called Carniola. The introductory essay which is of great importance for Slovenia in general, deals with the history of houses in Slovenia. It is based on concrete research of houses in Kropa, houses of miners in Idrija, press-sheds at Kozjak, boucans at Pohorje and peasant furniture in northeastern Slovenia. These research projects excell in historical accuracy as well as scientific precision, so characteristic for the works of Franjo Baš, worthy of our consideration and imitation today still.

The above-mentioned qualities characterize the whole of Baš's work. The present book furthermore describes characteristics of Slovene farmbuildings, peasant economy and country trade. Editor has added two general surveys dealing with characterology of inhabitants living in northeastern Slovenia and folk cultures and people in the lower part of northeastern Slovenia. These surveys are followed by reviews of two ethnographic volumes, one dealing with hayracks in Slovenia (Kozolec na Slovenskem), written by Melik, and the other about nutrition in the region of Prekmurje (Ljudska prehrana v Prekmurju) by Vilko Novak. The book is concluded by a report on an ethnographic dissertation in Maribor Provincial Museum (Pokrajinski muzej v Mariboru).

Even this brief survey of the contents of this new book reveals scientific wealth which has thus been revived and saved from oblivion. At the conclusion of such a review it is common to state that the material shall prove valuable for eventual research in the future as well. Yet in this case one almost cannot venture such a recommendation since it is generally not possible to find the objects of Baš's research in their totality and authenticity any more. Therefore it would be better to say that, aside from being scientifically valuable, this book presents a precious evidence about our folk culture in the past.

Vili Vuk