

"Cleveland Journal"

Published every Thursday by
The American - Yugoslav Printing and Publishing Co.
6231 St. Clair Ave. — Cleveland, Ohio

Frank Suhadolnik, Editor Heinie Martin, Sports Editor

Subscription Rates: One year \$2.00
Six Months \$1.00

Established May 24th, 1928



CLEVELAND, OHIO — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th 1930

A Merry Xmas

The whole world is preparing to make this Christmas season a jolly occasion. Trees of various shades of green decorated with brilliant lights; wreaths of bright red to contrast the green of the holly are expressions of the beauty that is significant of the joy and the happiness that will not be choked in the heart. Almost spontaneously everyone is getting ready to enjoy himself in the measure that he is able and getting ready to join with the rest of the world in adding his little mite in making the world a happy place to live in. Whatever little he may give will be given with the spirit that it is much nicer to give than to receive.

The exchange of gifts will raise the level of humanity to a royal plane on which the medieval or even ancient people of the nobility have exchanged gifts as a prince to a prince. It will be an expression that when a gift is given that it expresses a gift to one whom he loves or to one whom one respects. Nor yet is the idea that one must reciprocate in returning gifts in exchange for those given. Exchange of gifts is a wonderful idea and in its own way it transforms all of us Scrooges into human beings who have human contacts and can recognize that our fellow man is human also and on the same plane as the rest. With the passing of the hearth very few Yule logs will be burned but in its stead it is hoped that the ember of human kindness and beautiful friendship will flame anew and be kindled into a bonfire of love and devotion to friends that will last throughout the whole year.

From the beginning of the celebration of Christmas from a religious custom and a celebration of a fact that has animated the world for its great sacrificing love and condescension the world has taken the idea of love and transformed it into the wonderful expression of gift exchange as a carrying on of the idea that it is much nobler to give rather than to receive. In the same spirit the CLEVELAND JOURNAL wishes its many friends and readers a Christmas season filled with the best of human devotion and a hope that it has added in the past year only a little more to the fund of happiness and with the hope that it has been personal enough to add a little glow to the spark of love to fellow men so that the happy smile and the cheerful greeting that is universal about this time of the year will have in it that expression of good cheer that has been the accepted message for Christmas.

To all of our readers and our friends we wish that this Christmas will be the beginning of a new era of their life in which everything will take on a new and more beautiful aspect which will carry on until next Christmas at least and then be added to with each successive season. The CLEVELAND JOURNAL wishes you a Merry Christmas.

"A Lot of Nerve"

We will be poachers on the Christmas spirit of our readers and ask them for some things which we would like to get for Christmas. It may be said that we have a "Lot of Nerve" to ask for things instead of waiting to get them but we hope to be excused especially since what we intend to ask for is nothing personal but rather a request that will do everyone a favor.

With a kind of trepidation we will suggest that each and every one of our readers take a personal interest in the Journal and

each and every one do only a little something toward making it more known or a little more interesting. The whole editorial staff with its very few contributors have been carrying on trying to sense what the readers want and the things that they think will be interesting. During the past year new departments have been added with the hope that more and more readers will find the Journal more entertaining and more personal to every reader. We recognize our faults, we have been criticized for policies but we were somewhat helpless in doing much about the things that we wanted to improve. The whole editorial staff has felt that they could be more and more useful if everyone of the readers would take so much interest in the doings of their fellow Slovenes that they would leave the Journal know about the things that happen in the particular community in which they live and make the Journal more serviceable to everyone. If there is nothing sensational happening there are many things that are interesting to everyone else. Send it in you may be sure that your servants at the Journal will appreciate it. May we also suggest that our readers take an interest in the Journal and make it known to more and more people so that the circle of its service may be more extended.

We are asking for a Christmas gift but you may be sure that it is not with a selfish spirit but with the idea that the Cleveland Journal can be of more service to others.

Ex Libris

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"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward men."

In spite of the fact that a good many of us are without means to spend the amount of money this Christmas season, that we have spent in bygone years, there is the same desire to give that there has been for nineteen hundred years. The sight of the stores with their Christmas decorations and displays causes a little thrill to go up and down one's spine in anticipation. During this one time in the year we are apt to throw careful financial calculations to the winds and become reckless, and over generous. At Christmas time even the smallest remembrance from one's friends takes on a significance that it would have at no other time. It is the one time that the giver rather than the gift is thought of. It is not necessary to spend a small fortune in order to please. For what can give greater delight than a well written and well chosen book? Other gifts wear out or one grows weary of them but time after time the same pleasure is felt when one rereads a favorite book. In the last year many worth while and delightful books have been written and the following is a list of recent books to aid the Christmas shopper.

General outstanding fiction:
Helen Ashton—Dr. Serocold
Louis Bromfield—Twenty-four hours
Dorothy Canfield—The Deepening Stream
Knut Hamsun—Vagabonds
J. B. Priestley — Angel Pavement

A. D. Sedgwick — Philippa
Hugh Walpole — Rogue Herries
E. H. Young — Miss Mole
American
Burnett, W. P. — Saint John-son
Anne Green — The Selbys
F. I. W. Keyes — Queen Anne's Lace
Morrow, H. W. — Last Full Measure
Roberts, Cecil — Havana Bound
Rosman — The Young and Secret

Non-Fiction
The best plays of 1929-30 ed. by Burns Mantle
The poems of Emily Dickinson
Will James—The Lone Cowboy
Andre Maurois—Byron
The Life of George Gordon Lord Byron translated from the French by Hemish Miles
Emily Post — The personality of a house
Helen Josephy and M. M. McBride—London is a man's town
Helen Josephy and M. M. McBride—Paris is a woman's town

Books For Boys and Girls
Chase, M. E. — The silver bell
Dennis Cleugh — Wanderer's end
Captain Connor — Red legs
Paul Haworth — Cavern's of Sunset
Joseph C. Lincoln — Blowing clear
Lovell — Petticoat court
Cecil Roberts — Pamela's spring song
A. G. Rosnian — The young and secret
A. G. Rosnian — Jock the Scott

Hoping that this list will prove to be a help to anxious shoppers,

St. Clair Branch Library wishes all her patrons a very Merry Christmas and sends out the wish of Charles Dickens' Tiny Tim: "God bless us all, every one."

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Short History of Slovene Literature

By F. T. SUHADOLNIK

3. SIMON GREGORIC

The poetic form which Stritar developed was given expression by Simon Gregoric. Simon Gregoric was born on October 15, 1844 in a little mountain village Vrsno in Gorisko, where his father had a small farm. His childhood days were spent in his birthplace high up on the mountainside which created in him the love of nature and of the mountains the basis of practically all of his poetry. The boy showed many of his talents early in his life so that Anton Gregoric, vicar and educator recognized his talents early and induced Simon Gregoric's father to send his son to the school in Gorica. There the youth completed his grades school and entered the Gymnasium in 1856. The first year of the school was very difficult for him in spite of his talents and he was forced to repeat the year because of mathematics. The following year he completed with so high honors that he was accepted into the seminar. Classical languages were the foundation of his studies plus a knowledge of Bohemian and Serbo-Croat, which he mastered under the tutelage of Ivan Solar, who taught to him to love his own people and his country. Simon Gregoric was very interested in literature especially the poems of Preseren and practiced writing poetry. Even as early as 1864 Gregoric wrote poems. After he completed his examinations he sent his first poems to Janezic in the Slovenian Glasnik.

In the fall of 1864, after a long and severe battle with himself Gregoric entered the seminary. He was anxious to study classical physiology but conditions at home did not permit him to do that. In spite of his

choice he was an honor student in all the departments of the seminary.

The Slovene theology student's recognized the need of the beautiful expressed Slovene word and practiced writing in a practical way. They published a small paper in manuscript the "Sloga". At this venture Gregoric also contributed. From this era are also the poems which show much development of form and poetic ideal. In an anachronistic sonnet Daritev Gregoric shows his ethically poetic thought. Daritev the poem he wrote in honor of a fellow student for his First Mass.

In the fall of 1867 Gregoric said his first mass at Libusnjem and in the following year he was assistant at Kobarid where he remained for five years. The time he spent at the little village so near to his own home was probably the happiest time of his life. Here he became acquainted with Ignacij Gruntar who remained his friend for the rest of his life. With him he dedicated his life to national work; he established a library lead community singing and supervised the production of plays. The people liked him very much and A. Jakse the deacon was the real friend of the sick leader.

In 1870, while Gregoric was at Kobarid he sent some poems to Stritar in the Zvon over which Stritar enthusiastically exclaimed "This at last is real poetry". The critic however was not completely content with the poetry and sent Gregoric some instructions of how it could be improved upon. This is the beginning of Gregoric in the Stritar school of poetry. Even the subject matter of Gregoric changed considerably. Up to this time he wrote almost exclusively of love of the motherland but with Stritar's influence he branched into other things. Gregoric was highly impressed with Stritar's theory of "world sorrow" with the result that some of Stritar's ideas were included in his "Ne Tozim" (I do not complain), and "V Mraku" (At dusk) especially after Zorin was published. This "world sorrow" had so great influence because the poet felt a sympathetic chord struck in his own life. Stritar's abstract world-sorrow Gregoric translated very vividly into his own

life, especially because of his ailment and his mental struggle. This feeling of his spiritual ailment and of the continual battle with doubt and temptation resulted in the very beautiful ode "Cloveka nikar". Gregoric did not consider himself only and his suffering but as is characteristic of every man who suffers very much, he grew spiritually. With him this growth was marked with a realization of his duties and an expansion of personal bravery. As a reflection of this growth are the poems "Na bregu" (On the Shore), "Sam" (Alone), "Kupa življenja" (The Cup of Life). Besides the influence of Stritar one can see the influences of Preseren, Levstik, Jenko, Goethe and especially the folk songs. In spite of all of these influences Gregoric's own poetic personality developed while he stayed at Kobarid. Gregoric's personality and poetry contains an ethical foundation which is one of the fundamental characteristics of Gregoric's work. Besides the ethical conscientiousness of duty to his fellow men Gregoric expressed an uncontrolled desire after the mountain plains of his childhood days, mellowed with the heart feelings of a man who loved his people and who was disappointed in them, there is nevertheless an unbroken love of Slovenes and Slavs. This peculiar and deeply felt personality gave rise to a whole series of poems of this period of his life. Some of them are: "Cloveka nikar", "Na bregu", "Veseli pastir" (The Happy Shepherd), "Pogled v nedolžno oko" (Looking into an Innocent Eye), "Pri zibelki" (At the Cradle), "Mavrica" (The Rainbow), "Siromak" (The Unfortunate), "Pri mrtvaškem odru", (At the Bier), "Jejtejeva prisega" (Jeftje's Oath), "Soči" and others. Some of the poems appeared in "Zvon" and others in the "Besednik" and the "Zora".

In 1873 Gregoric was transferred to Rifenberg as assistant, into the sunny and pleasant Vipavsko, where, however, he could not get acquainted. His "Nazaj v planinski raj" is an expression of his desire to be back at the place which he dearly loved. Besides his inability of getting acquainted with the locality and increased amount of work in the new position and the

failing health of the poet, added to this the pastor did not like him overmuch. As a respite from his duties were his trips to Gorica where his boon companion Fran Erjavec always welcomed him. Especially happy were the trips in spite of the distance when Ivan Gruntar was also came to Gorica from Kobarid, in later time he was also joined by the poet Josip Pagliaruzzi-Krilan.

The first three years in Rifenberg were not overly productive for Gregoric. No poems appeared in any of the newspapers of the time. It was only in 1876 that he again began to sing of mountains and nature. The following years were somewhat more productive, for, in spite of bodily ills and conditions of his life, he prepared one volume of "Poems", and almost a third of another volume. Rifenberg saw some of the most beautiful compositions of Gregoric: "V pepelnici noči" (Ash Wednesday Night), "Domovini" (To My Homeland), "Na potujeni zemlji" (On Alienated Soil), "O nevihti" (About the Storm), "Pozabljenim" (To Those Forgotten), "Zivljenje ni praznik", (Life is not a Holiday), "Izgubljeni raj" (Lost Paradise) and others. Probably the most sincere of his stay in Rifenberg was the "Ujetega ptica tožba", (The Complaint of the Caged Bird), "Pastir", which have a strong reminder that Gregoric was singing of his own condition. The war months in 1878 were his inspiration for his war themes which he expressed often in the Slovene folk song style. They are: "Cesarski razglas", (The Emperor's Edict), "Oj z Bogom, ti planinski svet" (Farewell, Thou My Mountain Home), "Vojaki na poti", (Soldiers on Route), "Za dom v bojni grobi" (Into the Battle for Fatherland), "Dekletova molitev", (The Maiden's Prayer). Into this era must be classed his beautiful contribution to friendship poetry "Slovo in naročilo" which he wrote on the occasion of Ignacij Gruntar's leaving for Logatec and the elegy "Grobnik prijatelja" (Memorial to a Friend) which he wrote in honor of Ivan Stress.

(To be Continued)

