

Cleveland Journal

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A REPLY

There is no doubt that the nationalities as they are in our American life today are contributing a very real and very definite part to the progress, culture and the industry of today.

Phenomenal as it may seem, the question of the institutions which they are supporting and building are as much a vital share in the making of America, the place which it is as the political machines and other institutions are doing for the public life America.

If the case is made now that the Slovenes should as a group adhere to the Slovene there is reason for that policy. The Slovenes have made things of which they are proud.

zen who can co-operate with his fellowmen and to which is added just a little more of something else. If the Slovenes were not considered so much as a "foreigner" problem and thought of, rather as an asset to everything that American life can boast of there would be quite a different angle given to the whole situation.

Ex Libris Conducted by the St. Clair Branch Public Library.

During the winter of 1929 with the advent of the Talking Pictures, the American Theatre, proper, seemed to have very nearly lost its hold on the public.

The stage play "Death Takes a Holiday" adapted to the American stage from the Italian was given here at the Hanna theatre last week.

Death is tired of man always going in dread of him from the time of birth. He decides to take a week-end holiday in order to see just what it is that makes human beings cling so to life.

In 1930, the American producers and dramatists seem to have done some excellent work in order that their opponents the "Talkies" might not again get the better of them.

"The Criminal Code," is a drama with a purely American background. It deals with a New York district attorney and a boy 20 years old, who, because of a bad break is "sent up" for ten years for man-slaughter.

Scars as Badges of Honor

The custom of dueling among the German students goes back to the time when the sword was a piece of almost every man's equipment. There is no clear record of just where or how it started but we do know it was popular in the medieval ages.

Today the "mensur" is practiced only in the universities and then only among certain classes. The students have cliqued together in bodies corresponding somewhat to the American college fraternities.

Each member wears the colors of his corporation in the form of a ribbon run diagonally up and down across his breast as well as a characteristic little hat.

Of course, there is a social aspect. The boys get together and have the excitement of witnessing the duels and on the whole such affairs are very jolly.

A seeming paradox is the fact that the students are very proud of their scars. Certain young buckos have been known to lay a hair in the wound to delay its healing and thus aggravate the scar, lending the wearer a particularly ferocious aspect.

Sopping wine on a wound is also known to delay healing and many a scarred face has enjoyed this treatment. A student who has engaged in many duels presents a cheek that is lined with parallel scars which, according to our conception is anything but a thing of beauty.

Sometimes accidents do occur and an ear or a nose will be lopped off close to the head, marking that individual in such a way that whiskers will not cover the blemish.

CRUSADERS' DANCE

The Modern Crusaders and the Eastern Stars, both active S. D. Z. lodges, are giving a big dance at the Slovene Workmen's Home on Waterloo Rd., on Sunday, February 22nd!

As usual, there will be refreshments for the hungry and thirsty, and music furnished by the Thrugler Harmony Aces, for those who wish to dance!

GRIN!

A traveler going to New Zealand was asked by a friend if he would inquire while there as to the whereabouts of his grandfather, Frederick Thompson.

"Did you ever meet an Englishman named Frederick Thompson?" he asked.

"A smile passed over the Maori's face. 'Meet him?'" he replied. "Why, I ate him!"

Lady Gosch - Darnn - The duchess comes of a famous old family, I believe?

Lady Pusch-Button - Yes, very! An ancestor of hers was beheaded in the Tower of London during the reign of King Edward IV!

Lady Gosch-Darnn—Oh, how perfectly thrilling!

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Short History of Slovene Literature

By F. T. SUHADOLNIK

ANTON ASKERC

Almost contemporaneously with Pagliaruzzi, the greatest Slovene writer of ballads and romances, Anton Askerc, made his appearance. Askerc was born on the 9th of January, 1856 in a shabby cottage in Globokem at Rimske Toplice.

Askerc did not reveal his poetic talents as early as some of his contemporary fellow-poets. Even while he was in the seminary none of his companions suspect-

ed that he was a poet. The year before his ordination he published his first poem in the Vienna "Zvon" under the pseudonym Gorazd, "Trije popotniki" (Three Travelers) a romanza of home love in the traditional style of Pagliaruzzi.

It was only when he was assistant at Podsreda that he devoted himself to poetry. His first attempts were expressed in lyrics after the traditional style clearly showing the influence of Jenko, Stritar and Gregoric.

In 1882, Askerc sent his first poems to Levec who immediately saw Askerc's lyric gifts. He advised him to devote himself to narrative poetry. Askerc listened to the advice and in the winter of the same year a long series of poems began to appear in the Ljubljanski Zvon.

The motives for his poems were taken mostly from

the exciting times of Slovene past history. Thus he used the motive in Ilirska tragedija (The Illyrian Tragedy, Brodnik, Stari grad, Slovenski legenda (The Slovene Legend), Napoleonov večer (Napoleon's Night) and most of all, the ballad wreath "Stara pravda" (The Old Rights), a tragedy of Slovene revolts.

Askerc's contribution to Slovene literature was his introduction of the parable, which he uses to express his own personal philosophy. The most characteristic for his future is the poem "Prva mučenica" (The First Martyr) in which he confesses his liberal views.

The complete transformation in Askerc's spiritual life took place about the year 1890. About Easter time of that year, he published his "Balade in Romances" which mark the acme of Askerc's poetic force and beauty.

Praise came with the appearance of the publication. Nor did they miss severe criticism. Anton Mahnic criticized Gerezd severely the year before, with the claim that the poems did not fit into the ideas of Christianity, sometimes with truth and sometimes because the poems and the theme were confused.

acter of the poet called for battle. Not only did he answer only with satirical parables but also with poems which expressed more and more sharply his ideas of social and political faults. More and more he carried the battle into the camp of all the people who oppressed others, more and more he criticized Christian tendencies in the world.

In contrast with his parables the real ballads and romanzas are relegated to the background although those that did appear are classed among his best work.

Soon after Askerc returned to the lyrics and wrote the impressions of his trips through Italy, Bosnia, Serbia, Hungary, Poland, Bohemia, and Turkey in the series known as "Iz popotnega dnevnika" (From the Traveler's Diary) while the social shortcomings of his day he related in "Iz pesmarice neznanega siromaka" (From the Hymnal of an Unknown Pauper); Brute natural force he expressed in "Jaz" and showed the character of his modern and future poetic work in "Moja muza" (My muse) and "Moderni Pegaz" (Modern Pegasus).

All of the poems written between 1890 and 1896 Askerc published in another volume which he called "Lirske in epske poezije" (Lyric and Epic Poems) which he added two from his first volume, the "Najlepši dan" and "Mute oroski."

(To be continued)

