

Yutaka Tazawa (ed.): *Bibliographical Dictionary of Japanese Art*. International Society for Educational Information, Inc. and Kodansha International Ltd. Tokyo 1981, 825 pp., bibliography, index, 48 pp. of b/w ill.

Forty-eight scholars and specialists coordinated by the supervising editor, Dr. Yutaka Tazawa, participated in the work on the Biographical Dictionary of Japanese Art published by the International Society for Educational Information in collaboration with Kodansha International in 1981. Two other biographical dictionaries, of literature and history, were published by the same body in 1976 and 1978, respectively.

The sections into which the dictionary is divided follow the traditional classification of the Japanese art and include not only sculpture, painting and architecture but also minor arts and crafts. The first and considerably larger part of the dictionary comprises artists of two-dimensional arts: painting, prints, calligraphy, photography and graphic design. The second part is devoted to sculptors, tea masters, architects, potters, swordsmiths and sword furniture makers, metalwork craftsmen, textile artists, lacquerers, bamboo craftsmen, ivory carvers, woodworkers and glass artists.

Every section is preceded by an introduction summarizing the history of the respective branch of art thus complementing its picture which is not to be gathered from the separate entries. The headings, on the other hand, provide not only knowledge of life and work of the individual artists but also give information on the techniques of their craft and many other data from the immense world of Japanese cultural history.

The large space given to painting (263 pages to 343 pages devoted to all other branches) reflects not only the important position of this art in the Far Eastern aesthetics and its long and fruitful tradition but perhaps also the intention to enrich the Westerners' image of Japanese art whose knowledge is mostly limited to prints and miniature art. For the same reason probably also all carvers of netsuke, the most popular item of collecting in the West and the subject of a vast amount of literature written in western languages, were omitted.

One of the many undeniable merits of the dictionary is the introduction of a number of modern artists. It is to be regretted, on the other hand, that it does not diverge from the traditional way of presenting classical prints and ignores the existence of the most interesting Osaka school and of the respective research.

The text of the dictionary is complemented by 97 black-and-white photographs of selected works of art and its usefulness is enhanced by genealogies of artists, a glossary, bibliography (restricted to 3 titles at the most) and an index. The many contributors as well as the editor are to be congratulated on this most valuable handbook which will be accepted with gratitude by all students of Japanese art.

L. Boháčková

Oldřich Kašpar: *The New World in Czech and European Literature of the 16th—19th Centuries*. Acta Universitatis Carolinae Philosophica et Historica, Monographia LXXXIV, Prague 1980; 122 pages, 31 pictures.

Register of Spanish papers from the former library of the Roudnice nad Labem Castle which are now deposited in the National Library of the Czech Socialist Republic, Prague. Published by the National Library of the ČSR [Státní knihovna ČSR] in Prague in 1983, 387 pages.

The book "The New World in Czech..." resulted from the inquiry of a Czech historian and literary expert into the history of relations between the Czech lands and the countries of Latin America with special attention to the degree of familiarity of the Czech cultural public of the 16th—19th centuries with Latin America on the whole. The author uses a chronological system for presenting his findings and thus he distinguishes four stages of evolution: 1. The period of the American discoveries itself and the decades directly following these discoveries, 2. The period of the second half of the 16th century, 3. The period of the 17th and 18th centuries — here the author speaks of the baroque image of the New World inhabitants, 4. The period of the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries. Besides this chronological aspect the book also distinguishes between the European and Czech view of the events taking place in the countries of Latin America.

In the opening three chapters (I. Discovery of the New World and its Consequences, II. Great Debate on the Position of Indians, III. The Image of the New World and its Inhabitants in the Second Half of the 16th Century) the author primarily concentrates on the European "theatre" mentioning the Czech response to the American discoveries and the whole of the conquest only individually. Starting with the fourth chapter (Response to the Overseas Discoveries in Czech Lands in the 16th and the Beginning of the 17th Century) the author turns his attention to Czech literature and Czech bulletins. The last two chapters (V. Baroque Image of the New World Inhabitants, VI. America in the Light of Enlightenment) are already written fully in the Czech spirit. It is a pity that here the comparison with the overall European view, which the readers were given in the first half of the book, has been omitted. On the other hand, however, the greatest merit of the book is in these "Czech" chapters — it is here that the results of complicated research in Czech and Moravian castle libraries and archives, leading to several interesting disclosures, are published. The author, for example, shows that the passages on Latin America published in "Czech Cosmography" were not adopted from Münster's "Cosmography", but that they are a compilation from other sources. In the chapter devoted to the baroque period there are particularly valuable facts concerning Czech missionaries — Jesuits working in various Spanish colonies, while in the chapter addressing the period of Enlightenment the passages on the natural scientist and collector Tadeáš Hánke (participant of the Malaspin expedition) are of considerable importance as well as the new disclosures on newspaper

articles from the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, which were meant to educate the "common people" [i. e. the country folk].

The book is supplemented by a bibliography, Spanish and Russian summary, and includes reproductions of book illustrations.

„Register of Spanish papers..." belongs to the category of specialized bibliographies being a contribution to the understanding of the Czech — South American relations in one concrete sphere. The reader becomes acquainted with the library of the Lobkovic House, which in the 16th century had traditional relations with the Spanish countries and it was in this period when the foundations of the library were laid. This interest or these relations found their reflection not only in the composition of the Lobkovic library, but also for example in the collection of paintings etc.

The register itself, consisting of 491 bibliographical items listed in alphabetical order according to the authors, opens with an introductory chapter (in Czech and Spanish) dealing with the history of the Roudnice library and its characteristics from the hispanistic point of view (the authors of the chapter are Josef Poliřenský and Oldřich Kařpar). The introduction also includes a comparison of the Roudnice library with other Hispanica deposited in libraries of other Lobkovic branches as well as of other Czech-Moravian noble houses. As a conclusion of the introduction we can find notes, a list of provenance marks (ex libris) and a bibliography. Following the bibliography are lists in which the book abounds — 1. chronological list, 2. list of publishing places, 3. list of printers and publishers, 4. list of dedications, 5. list of provenances, 6. list of translators, 7. list of contents and items. The publication is a valuable handbook for hispanists as well as for those interested in the countries of Latin America.

J. Kandert

Research. Contributions to Interdisciplinary Anthropology

1. Edition Herodot 1982. Göttingen, 185 pages.

In their new accomplishment — the starting of the Research magazine, Mohan Krischke Ramaswamy (editor) and Rolf Huhman (co-editor), the publishers of a German culturally anthropological bibliography with English annotations ("Abstracts in German Anthropology"), continue in their attempt to multiply the international exchange of information and opinions of ethnologists, cultural and social anthropologists and other research workers from related branches of science.

The two opening articles "Another Shot at the Moon" (authors H. J. M. Cleaessen and P. van de Velde) and "Notes on the Mutual Integration of Qualitative Research Methods and Techniques" (by Dietmar Herbon) are of a theoretical and methodological character. Cleaesse and van der Velde tackle one of the basic problems of ethnology, i. e. how to record the evolution of society as

authentically as possible. They discuss the ideas of their predecessors — particularly Carneiro, Khazanov, Sanders, Webster — and come to the conclusion that “social evolution can be defined as a process of structural change” (p. 15), which means that it is necessary to follow both the changes in the structures of separate periods of evolution of the concrete societies under study and the process of evolution itself in a broader sense of the word. They say: “. . . evolution is structure and process. When we stress structural aspects only, we miss the other essential characteristics, the process; and if we stress the process only, we neglect the existence of structures” (p. 15).

In theory this is a correct and useful starting point and only the future and further studies will show how successfully the separate steps (structures of individual societies in a certain period of time) can be united to form an ideal slope model.

D. Herbon deals in his article with the theory and methodology of ethnological research: he points out the necessity of combining various methods and techniques of research and the close link between theoretical assumption and practical results which should affect one another.

The following block of articles is directed at concrete problems broached on the basis of materials from various societies. They are “Indians in the City” by Pieter Hovens, dealing with the criminality of the ethnic minority, “Notes on the Study of Sub-Saharan Islam” by Martin Rössler, discussing the continuing process of islamisation in western Africa exemplified by the reactions of the Bambara, Mossi and Kurumba ethnics; “The Anthropologist Downtown on Faces, Letterings and Symbols” by P. T. Suzuki is a contribution to the problem of categorisation of foreign human groups. Author analysed the advertisements of East Asian restaurants in U. S. A.; “Heterochronic Berlin” by Klaus Strohmeier deals with the position of an individual in a modern city.

This block of research materials is followed by an informative and evaluating contribution “The Contemporary Situation of Historical Anthropology in the USA” by Jan Vansina, presented at the Symposium on contemporary historical ethnology in Vienna.

Following these articles written in “traditional form” there is a dialog between H. Ketelaar and F. Simon “On Visual Anthropology”, in other words on the nature and direction of ethnographical films — on the way they should be and on the way they really are. The magazine concludes with a list of “German Research Projects” undertaken in 1982, listed according to continents and then alphabetically according to the research workers, and finally P. W. Schienerl informs about the new magazine *Phylakterion* and K. Wernhart about the Symposium “Historical Ethnology Today” held in Vienna in 1982.

The articles are supplemented by a list of newly published ethnological literature. As a result the magazine is a well balanced work dealing both with general and specific problems of ethnology.

J. Kandert

Manuel Galich: *Indagatoria sobre las sobrevivencias del teatro precortesiano en México*. Conjunto, No 51/1982, pág. 3—16.

El estudio reseñado, obra de profesor de la Universidad de La Habana y Jefe del Departamento de Teatro de la editorial Casa de las Américas, Manuel Galich, trata sobre la actual temática que es indudablemente la sobrevivencia de las tradiciones indias en la sociedad mexicana actual. Galich, conocedor experimentado de las culturas precolombinas y del teatro y su historia, concentra en el estudio su atención en dicho fenómeno sobre todo en el teatro popular mexicano, fundamentalmente porque según sus palabras, el teatro es una expresión cultural par excellence. En él se une y mezcla tanto la influencia de expresión cultural de la minoría gobernante, como de la mayoría dominada.¹

En la parte introductoria del estudio, el autor realiza un análisis de documentos de la existencia del teatro indígena en México de la época precolombina (o dicho por sus palabras, y tal vez con más exactitud, de la época precortesiana). Sin embargo, hay que señalar, que los documentos del género de teatro en la vida de las culturas aborígenas del antiguo México, se nos presentan no solamente en las crónicas y relaciones escritas de los cronistas españoles y mestizos², sino también en documentos literarios de las culturas indias. Como el de más importancia podemos considerar los fragmentos conservados del drama de los mayas, *Rabinal Achí*.³

En la segunda parte, Sincretismo religioso-Pagano y el teatro de las masas, el autor trata detalladamente la influencia mutua de los elementos de la religión católica y de los cultos indios originales, mediante las fiestas que llevan señas de expresión teatral. De allí deduce lógicamente que un dualismo similar penetra también en las obras dramáticas populares y espectáculos de contenido laico, y presenta toda una serie de ejemplos concretos.

La última parte refleja la importancia del teatro popular indio en la sociedad mexicana actual. Su papel principal, consiste, según Galich, en incorporar, naturalmente visto desde el punto de vista de las condiciones actuales, los valores tradicionales en el amplio contexto social. No tratar solamente de conservarlos, sino crear una base cultural que fuera capaz influir en el proceso del propio desarrollo histórico.⁴

El estudio de Manuel Galich, que hemos tratado señalar aunque sea brevemente, es un importante aporte al estudio de la sobrevivencia de las antiguas tradiciones precolombinas⁵, en condiciones de la vida actual de México.

1. Manuel Galich, o. c. pág. 4.

2. P. ej. José de Acosta, López de Gomara, Bernardino de Sahagún, F. Alva de Ixtlilxóchitl, F. Alvarado Tezozomoc y otros.

3. En checo se publicó por primera vez en el año 1978 en el manual de textos de Fr. Vrhel y O. Kašpar, Textos de Iberoamérica nativa I. Literaturas precolombinas.