

INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Migration Themes* contains most of the papers from the international conference entitled »Immigrants in the Labour Movement of the Countries of Immigration, 1880—1941« held in Zagreb and Maribor between the 3rd and 5th of September, 1987, and co-organised by the Centre for Migration and Nationalities Studies (the present Institute) and the University of Maribor. Participants from eight European countries and the United States, mostly historians by profession, attended the conference. Most of their papers focused on the development and significance of the labour movement among Central European immigrants in the United States — South Slavs, Slovaks, Poles, Hungarians and Germans. Nevertheless, several papers dealt with Europe in particular, treating it either as an area of immigration or analysing the backgrounds of individual migrants or groups of migrants. Furthermore, one paper dealt with immigrants in Chile, one with New Zealand, and one participant at the conference presented his personal reminiscences on the labour movement among immigrants in Australia. The analyses of almost all participants proceeded from the immigrants themselves. Their social structure, activities and organisations, as well as their ideas, as expressed in workers' and other publications, were indicated. The relationship of domestic labour movements of immigration and emigration countries to migrants was also treated, especially in the contexts of Germany, South Slavic lands and the United States.

Papers were presented in Croatian or Serbian, English and Slovene. We reproduce them here in their original languages in accordance with the editorial practice of *Migration Themes*. In the middle of October of the last year a letter was sent to all participants asking them to forward to the Editorial Board within a month's time the final versions of their texts. Unfortunately, not all contributions arrived in the allotted time — some did not arrive at all — and this is the major reason why we have been able to publish only the greater part of them. Dr. Henry Bäck's text was an exception. Although it arrived in time due to its specific theme we have postponed its publication to the next issue of our journal. We express our apologies to the author. Depending on future possibilities the Editorial Board shall attempt to include later-sent texts in the forthcoming issues of our journal.

We wish to inform our authors and readers that the Editorial Board has organised all references cited in the texts in accordance with the system that it accepted in the first issue of *Migration Themes* in 1987.

For their help in organising and reviewing this issue the Editorial Board wishes to express its special thanks to Dr Ivan Čizmić and Dr Mira Kolar-Dimitrijević. We should also mention Josip Kumpes and Sonja Podgorelec who wholeheartedly helped the editor to arrange several hundred bibliographic units. For her great help and effort in editing the language of the English texts we thank Andrina Pavlinić-Wolf, and Jelena Mežnarić for her translation of the Slovene summaries.

The Editorial Board