

even more tragic. The greatest desire of the Portuguese king was to blockade the Red Sea, and expelled the Muslims, but in fact the Muslims were actually arrived earlier for trade. The arrival of Christians, for the Muslims, is a disaster. Looking back through history, religious conflict may have laid the hidden danger as early as five hundred years ago.

To highlight, Crowley perfectly uses his advantage as a historian in writing *Conquerors*, his well-placed academic research with writer's delicate brushwork, creating an fascinating result. Based on the tradition of chronicles, he detailed the voyages of Dias and Da Gama, the battles and conquests of Almeida and Albuquerque through narrative techniques. Crowley not only did a great job of laying the facts, but also tied characters' plots with the lifeblood of the Portuguese Empire. All of these made the book deep and readable.

»Such images, impressions, and trades left a huge and long-lasting influence on the culture, food, flora, art, history, languages, and genes of the planet.<sup>2</sup>«Portuguese created the prototype for European colonial expansion and Laid the foundation for the the Atlantic trade network, beginning the five hundred years of Western domination of the world. They pried up closed seas and broke the system of self-sufficiency in closed areas, and their persistence and perseverance built the First Global Empire, connected the world through sea power. Unfortunately, the conqueror of the sea ultimately failed to conquer the world. As »Portugal is very poor and when the poor are covetous they become oppressors<sup>3</sup>«, the great colonial empire could not escape the fate of being devoured by desire, and gradually fell down.

WANG Wenxin

**META REMEC, ED. GOZD IN LJUDJE – RAZMERJA IN ZGODOVINA (FOREST AND PEOPLE – RELATIONS AND HISTORY). LJUBLJANA: INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY HISTORY, 2023, 362 PAGES.**

The new issue of the *Vpogledi/Perspicacités* collection of the Institute of Contemporary History, titled *Gozd in ljudje – razmerja in zgodovina* (Forest and People – Relations and History), is based on the scientific symposium titled *Gozd in človek* (Forest and People), which took place at the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana in March 2022. The volume comprises thirteen contributions addressing the multifaceted relationship between forest ecosystems and people. The monograph focuses on the importance of forests for people's lives and social history, as well as on the changing attitudes towards them. The authors use new approaches to studying forests and environmental history in general, while the interdisciplinary approach allows for a holistic view of forests as an ecosystem.

In the first contribution, Alenka Kačičnik Gabrič analyses the history of forest management in the present-day Slovenian territory. The author examines the complex relationships and rights shaping forest exploitation and presents the challenges faced by landowners and easement holders. Easements represented an essential part of the economy, allowing peasants who did not own any woodland to obtain special permission from the owners of forests, which they could then exploit for their household and economic needs. Among the presented easements, the author pays special attention to a particular example, the so-called »right to flowers«. In addition to the right to high-mountain grazing, the latter also included the right to erect a wooden building on the landowner's pasture for living and sleeping during the grazing season. Peasants rarely invested in land that was not part of their farms. Instead, they wanted to profit as much as possible from their easement rights, thus often leaving the land impoverished. In this context, by presenting conflicts over the use of forests and timber, the author explores a number of disputes and legal disagreements arising from the manner of forest exploitation, regulation, and purchase by the state.

<sup>2</sup> Roger Crowley, *Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire*, New York: Random House, 2015, p.304.

<sup>3</sup> Sanceau, Elaine, *Indies Adventure*, London, 1936. p.286.

In the second contribution, Aleksander Panjek focuses on people's attitudes towards the environment and nature in the Kras region. He is interested in the relevant knowledge of peasant populations and their »wise or unwise« forest management in past centuries. The author believes that modernisation has led people to become separated from nature and caused a shift from a reciprocal to a unilateral relationship, revealing the vulnerability of habitats to humans, animals, and plants. By comparing historical sources and the (lack of) knowledge regarding the use of trees in this area, especially oak, we can perceive the various outlooks on cultivating and exploiting trees and understanding the past forms of cultural landscapes.

Based on the analysis of the business activities of the Windisch-Graetz family, one of the most prominent noble families of the Habsburg Monarchy, Filip Čuček presents the management of their Pohorje Hills estates. Forest management was predominant in the estates in Carniola and Lower Styria, purchased by Prince Weriand Alois before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Lower Styria, the Konjice landed estate consisted of the estates in Planina, Šteberk, Gornji Logatec, Jama (Predjama), Bogenšperk, Konjice, Oplotnice, Žiče, Podčetrtek, and Bizeljsko. This area was the largest and most forested of the family's landed estates. After the purchase of the estate in 1828, the first few years were characterised by modest activities. However, by the middle of the century, capitalist management led to the ruthless exploitation of this property, while the peasants' easements were gradually abolished. The author also undertakes a precise analysis of the impact of World War I on the company's business and its difficulties in the interwar period. He meticulously describes the history of the Oplotnica timber industry. Before World War II, the relentless exploitation of the Pohorje forests gradually diminished.

Dunja Dobaja's article sheds light on the educational process in forestry schools. It presents its development since the establishment of the first forestry school with Slovenian as the language of instruction in Snežnik in 1868. It was aimed primarily at the sons from poorer peasant families, who would return to their home farms after completing their education to manage them economically with their newly acquired skills. Since its foundation, the school had to face the concerns of the peasant population, who saw no point in its existence. Although it produced the first forestry experts educated in the Slovenian language, it did not exist for long. It was abolished in 1875, as it was considered to have failed in its original purpose. The young peasants were more urgently needed on their home farms, while the school was attended mainly by the sons of townspeople and officials who wanted to work on large estates or continue their studies after finishing school. After the abolition of the Snežnik school, another Slovenian forestry school did not exist until 1930 in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The author goes on to highlight the challenges arising during the establishment of the subsequent forestry schools, also in the context of the national and political tensions of the relevant period. She also touches upon the high-quality development of forestry education after the war, when the political support in this field resulted in the establishment of the Faculty of Forestry.

Nikita Peresin Meden's article presents the history of forest management in the Kras region in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a period marked by agrarian reforms and regulation of easements in the Slovenian territory. It also demonstrates the impact of laws and restrictions on the exploitation of forests and highlights the social and economic challenges that peasants had to confront. Based on individual examples, the author reveals the plight of the Kras peasants, perturbed by various forest-related prohibitions and restrictions, and describes the social circumstances of the contemporary agricultural population by illustrating the relevant forest offences. Anna Varga's research seeks to uncover information about the silvopastoral systems in Hungarian ethnography. Based on the relevant sources, the author demonstrates how silvopastoral practices represent a crucial part of the Hungarian landscape and folk culture and emphasises how knowledge of past ethnographic features can contribute to current research and developments in agroforestry. Mojca Ramšak's contribution draws on foreign and domestic sources to show how the resin and other parts of conifers can be used in traditional medicine, economy, folk medicine, and nutrition. In the past, people used spruce, larch, and pine resin for various skin and respiratory ailments, to heal wounds and treat worms in children, as well as for preventive purposes. The author gives a detailed account of the resin tapping process, its development in Slovenia, and the domestic use of resin on farms,

where resin tapping was also a source of additional income. In the Slovenian territory, industrial resin production on a larger scale was initiated after World War II, primarily in the Prekmurje region and the Dravsko Polje plain, but it did not survive due to various factors.

The economic sector, which is the subject of Nataša Henig Mišičič's contribution – sericulture and silkworm rearing in Carniola in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – also became extinct. The author focuses on two questions: how widespread was the idea of sericulture as an opportunity to earn extra income in Carniola, and why the industry was not more successful. She also seeks to answer a question related to the difficulties faced by raw silk producers. She uses the example of the Japanese silk moth cultivation (*Antheraea yamamai*) to illustrate the phenomenon of the proliferation of non-native organisms that affect the environment, the economy, and society, as well as focuses on the human factor in this process. Due to Jan Mach's experiment to cultivate this moth species in Carniola, it spread over a wider area of the eastern Alps and the western Balkans.

Meta Remec's contribution focuses on the »enemy of the state« – *the bark beetle*. It has become synonymous with a pest of alien origin, which is believed to have spread in our forests due to human interventions in the forest ecosystem based on greed and even deliberate destruction. As the natural balance was upset and monoculture forest stands were created, the bark beetle and other forest pests enjoyed ideal conditions for expansion. The first reports of the presence of the parasite in the Slovenian territory and the resulting economic damage in Lower Styria date back to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1959 report also refers to the total lack of awareness of forest owners, who failed to take action against the parasite and even laughed at expert advice. It took a long time to raise the awareness of forest owners through newspaper articles, almanacs, and even school textbooks. Several attempts were made to control the parasite, first by purely physical means such as domestic chickens, and only later, after World War II, with aggressive chemical treatments such as DDT. After the war, the authorities recognised forestry as a key industry in implementing socialism in Yugoslavia. An ideological charge was also present, as parallels were drawn between the struggle against the German occupiers and the harmful consequences of the German school of forestry – the bark beetle. Therefore, in the context of the post-war economic plans, forest pests had to be suppressed by all means, and the issue had to be resolved by 1948.

Željko Oset's contribution highlights the phenomenon of »dying forests« and the importance of environmental issues in Slovenia in the 1980s – the period when the awareness of environmental issues and problems in Yugoslavia increased markedly. Discussions regarding this issue attracted the attention of politicians, who noticed that the citizens were becoming concerned. The balance between economic interests and quality of life had to be considered. The contribution also demonstrates the attempts at solving the problems of dying forests. The public recognised pollution as a problem and was ready to take action, but financial obstacles arose. Slovenian foresters prepared proposals for rehabilitating the dying forests on the edges of the Velenje and Celje basins and in the Zasavje region. During the transition from the industrial to the post-industrial era, the marked loss of forests due to air pollution and media publications led to a more holistic and systemic approach to environmental issues.

Ivan Smiljanić's contribution focuses on the bankruptcies of timber merchants in the Slovenian territory from the end of World War I to the beginning of World War II. The author uses data from the bankruptcy files to illustrate the failure of many entrepreneurs, either due to bad business decisions or poor economic conditions and crises. Based on the preserved court files on the bankruptcies of timber merchants, he portrays the specific circumstances leading to the bankruptcies and describes how they were conducted and concluded. He presents the bankruptcy proceedings for over-indebted timber, joinery, and furniture companies, as well as for their creditors. The economic crisis of the 1930s, which caused a contraction in trade and falling timber prices, had a profound impact on bankruptcies in this economic sector. The collapses of large timber buyers also had a significant influence. The industry was among the first and most severely affected. During this period, the author recorded sixteen bankruptcies. He also focuses on the connection between the bankruptcies of the companies and their cultural and political background. Bankruptcies often represented an opportunity for political reckoning that had its

roots already in the period leading up to World War I. The author describes cases of political opponents blaming each other for companies' bankruptcies to demonstrate the opposing camp's incompetence or irresponsibility.

Miha Humar's and Matej Jošt's contribution presents the history of wood use in the territory of present-day Slovenia. The authors illustrate the expansion of the wood processing industry that, along with the forestry sector, employed 40,000 people half a century ago, only to shrink to just over 11,000 by 2020. In their opinion, some of the causes included the loss of a large part of the former common state's market after the attainment of Slovenian independence, the above-average tax due to the appreciation of the tolar, the higher taxation compared to other industries after the attainment of independence, and the inability of companies to quickly adapt to global economic changes. The authors describe the beginnings of wood processing plants in Slovenia from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the gradual rise of the industry after World War I, and the even more rapid development after World War II. They also touch upon the industry's impact on the forest ecosystem during this period. The wood processing industry peaked in the late 1970s and the first half of the 1980s. However, between then and the 2008 economic crisis, the number of people employed in the industry halved. The text is complemented by a final contribution by Marta Rendla, focusing on the development and role of the furniture and wood processing industries in the economy and society during socialism. Rendla analyses the issue using literature, statistics, and the *Les* journal. The need for large quantities of furniture increased due to post-war reconstruction and the construction of new neighbourhoods and factory and urban settlements after World War II. The industry became more important after 1957 when the authorities decided to modernise this sector with major investments and development plans. Like Humar and Jošt, Rendla also detects an inability to adapt to market changes and determines that the timber industry has faced additional ecological challenges since the 1980s.

Mihael OJSTERŠEK

### **MIRA KOLAR-DIMITRIJEVIĆ, IGOR KARAMAN. ŽIVOT, DJELO I DOPRINOS EKONOMSKOJ POVJESTI HRVATSKE, PLEJADA, ZAGREB, 2023., 240.**

Knjiga hrvatske povjesničarke Mire Kolar-Dimitrijević, *Igor Karaman. Život, djelo i doprinos ekonomskoj povijesti Hrvatske*, biografija je o povjesničaru Igoru Karamanu (1927.-1995.). Ovo djelo velik je doprinos hrvatskoj historiografiji s obzirom na činjenicu da je Igor Karaman ostavio veliki trag u hrvatskoj, ali i srednjoeuropskoj historiografiji. Također, u djelu se spominju i mnogi drugi povjesničari, što nam daje uvid u razvoj povijesne znanosti tijekom velikog dijela 20. stoljeća u Hrvatskoj. Knjiga je podijeljena na: predgovor, uvod, 13 poglavlja, zaključak, bibliografiju radova Igora Karamana, ilustracije, popis i izvore ilustracija, imensko kazalo te bilješku o autorici.

U prvom poglavlju *Obitelj i porijeklo* govori se o splitskoj obitelji Karaman koja je pripadala »višoj klasi društva«, a najviše o ocu Igora Karamana, Ljubi Karamanu, koji je ostavio veliki trag u hrvatskoj znanosti kao povjesničar umjetnosti, ali i o izazovima s kojima se Ljubo Karaman suočavao prilikom promjena režima koje su se događale na području Hrvatske tijekom prve polovice 20. stoljeća. Sljedeće poglavlje pod naslovom *Školovanje i prvo zaposlenje* autorica započinje tvrdnjom da Igor Karaman ne bi bio povjesničar srednjoeuropskog profila da se nije došao školovati u Zagreb u kojem je bio izložen srednjoeuropskim utjecajima. Naravno, ovdje se radi o mišljenju autorice, ali ono nije argumentirano objašnjeno. U ovom se poglavlju obrađuju Karamanovo školovanje, rad u zagrebačkom Muzeju narodnog oslobođenja u kojem se zaposlio s 19 godina, njegov dolazak na mjesto mlađeg muzejskog suradnika u Povijesnom muzeju Hrvatske, imenovanje na mjesto člana Komisije za restituciju pri Odjelu za kulturu i umjetnost Ministarstva prosvjete te početak rada u Državnom arhivu. Igor Karaman na nacionalnoj je povijesti diplomirao u travnju 1952. godine na zagrebačkom Filozofskom fakultetu, a radnog je iskustva, kao što vidimo, imao i prije toga.

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