

The Academic Position of European Ethnology in Yugoslavia

THE FORMAL AND LEGAL POSITION of ethnology, European ethnology included, is rather a good one in the universities of Yugoslavia. Its real, practical position in Yugoslav society is, however, a very different thing. Here the general understanding of the subject, the indispensable moral and financial support, the number of special institutions, the research facilities in general, and the practical working possibilities for ethnologists are definitely not quite what one would wish or what they could be.

The discipline is generally called *etnologija* (ethnology, Ethnologie). Where the need for a distinction is felt, as for instance in the names of special teaching subjects or university chairs, the expression "Special", "Regional Ethnology" (University of Beograd) or "National Ethnology" (University of Zagreb) are used. Also the word "ethnography" (*etnografija*) is not uncommon, especially in the names of museums and in non-expert use. However, in all universities the official name is only "ethnology".

By the name of "ethnology" *the whole field* of the science dealing with traditional cultures of all peoples of the world is generally understood, encompassing all material, social, spiritual, historical, structural, functional, and axiological aspects of the subject. "Special", "regional" or "national ethnology" denotes that *branch* of the discipline which deals with the folk-culture of Yugoslav peoples, usually with regard also to the culture of neighbouring, Slavic or Balkan peoples. In the University of Zagreb the chair of "National Ethnology" encompasses also European ethnology as a whole, likewise in Ljubljana. "Folklore" is regarded as a special branch of ethnology, too.

In the main universities of Yugoslavia European ethnology is a *part of general ethnology*, which is an independent academic subject. Such an ethnology is taught in the universities of Beograd, Ljubljana, Skopje and Zagreb. Some ethnological teaching, as a subsidiary subject, is done also in the University of Novi Sad, and it was so formerly also in the University of Sarajevo.

There are three *independent departments* of ethnology in the Faculties of Philosophy of Beograd, Ljubljana and Zagreb. In Zagreb and Ljubljana the Department encompasses two chairs: General Ethnology and National Ethnology. At the university of Zagreb also an *Ethnological Institute* (*Etnološki zavod*) is linked to the respective ethnological department. An *Ethnological Institute* (no chair nor department) exists also at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Skopje. As a *subsidiary or optional subject* ethnology is taught in the departments of geography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Zagreb and at the University of Novi Sad (formerly also at the universities of Beograd and Sarajevo). Likewise, Ethnology of the Peoples of Yugoslavia is an optional subject in the Department of the History of Arts and in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Beograd. A *specialized subsidiary subject* of *Folk Literature* is taught in the departments of Yugoslav languages and Literatures at the Faculties of Philosophy in Skopje and Zagreb and at the Philological Faculty of Beograd.

Usual combinations of subjects vary in different universities. Thus, there is no combination possible in Beograd (ethnological students being, however, obliged to attend a number of various subsidiary subjects). In the universities of Ljubljana and Zagreb the system of two main subjects (major and minor ones, or A and B) is in use. In Ljubljana the normal combinations encompass, besides Ethnology, also Archaeology, or History of Arts, or Slavic Studies, or Sociology, or Geography, or Modern Languages, both as A or B subjects. Moreover, upon request any other combination can be approved. In Zagreb the normal combinations, as A or B subject or vice versa, are with: languages and literatures (Russian, Czech, Polish, German, English, French, Italian), Indology, History, and Sociology. But there exist various possibilities, with or without special approval, of combining any two subjects (e.g. of studying two majors at the same time) in the Faculty of Philosophy (preferred combinations with: Yugoslav Languages and Literatures, Archaeology, and Psychology) and even in other faculties (preferred: Geography in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics). In Skopje the required combination is with Geography.

In normal studies (the so called "2nd grade study"), after 4 years for major (A) or 3 years for minor (B) subjects, the students obtain a *diploma*, which is a degree qualifying

them for most normal specialist positions, even for beginner's positions in scientific research. Such is the case in Ljubljana and Zagreb. In Beograd only a diploma after 4 years (major) study is granted. In Skopje, no normal degree in ethnology is obtainable after the "2nd grade study".

There is a possibility at all universities for establishing a *postgraduate study* ("3rd grade study") in ethnology. But only in Zagreb and in Beograd has such a study been really carried out. It lasts 2 years and, after a major magisterial paper and a final examination, the student is granted a *M.A. degree* ("magistar etnologije", "Master of Ethnology").

A *doctor's degree* is awarded to mature scientific workers, after a number of published scientific papers and after a successfully defended doctoral dissertation. Ethnologists receive a doctorate in Ethnology (Skopje), or in Ethnological Sciences (Ljubljana, Zagreb) or in Historical Sciences (Beograd).

At present the *teaching staff* in Yugoslav universities is composed of the following ethnologists: in the Faculty of Philosophy of Beograd: Dr. Mirko Barjaktarović, associate professor (teaching also in Novi Sad), and Dr. Petar Vlahović, docent; in the Faculty of Philosophy of Ljubljana: Dr. Vilko Novak, associate professor; in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Skopje: Dr. Branislav Rusić, (full) professor; in the Faculty of Philosophy of Zagreb: Dr. Branimir Bratanić (full) professor, and Dr. Milovan Gavazzi, professor emeritus (teaching also in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Zagreb). There is also, at all faculties mentioned, a number of assistants engaged in various grades of teaching, mostly leading seminars, etc.

The *working possibilities* for graduates in ethnology are very small, indeed. In the first place, a graduate can do specialist work in museums, in university teaching and in research institutions. But such jobs are very rare. Before the last war the situation was somewhat better, because ethnology was taught in all secondary schools, too. Some possibilities for ethnologists are given also by folklore (song and dance) groups, libraries, broadcasting and the press. But most students are compelled to search for jobs outside their speciality (e.g. teaching their secondary subjects in schools).

There are special ethnological museums (or "ethnographical" museums) in Beograd, Ljubljana, Skopje, Split and Zagreb, and a number of larger or smaller regional and local museums have special ethnological departments or, at least, collections. At the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Beograd, there is an "Ethnographical Institute", and a small "Ethnological Institute" is at the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb. There is also an "Institute for Slovenian Ethnography" (chiefly for folklore studies) at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana. At the "Ethnological Institute" of the University of Zagreb, there is a "Centre for preparing the Ethnological Atlas of Yugoslavia". There exist also independent Institutes for Folk Art in Zagreb, Skopje and Sarajevo.

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