“Pilaresque Topics” at the Annales Pilar Scientific Convention

THE ANNALES PILAR SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION — a traditional interdisciplinary and international convention organised by the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences and annually held in Zagreb — was held in the Golden Hall of the Croatian Institute of History, on 9th and 10th December 2004. The convention was entitled QUO VADIS HRVATSKA? IDENTITET — MODERNIZACIJA — EUROPSKA OBZORJA (QUO VADIS CROATIA? IDENTITY — MODERNIZATION — EUROPEAN HORIZONS) and was dedicated to the 130th anniversary of Ivo Pilar’s birth (1874 — 2004). The Programme and Organisational Committee was established (V. Lay, S. Lipovčan /chairman/, Z. Matijević, V. Mihaljević, N. Pokos, I. Rogić, I. Šabunic /secretary/, V. Šakić, Z. Zeman). At the beginning of the Convention, the distinguished theologian, publicist, translator and laureate Bonaventura Duda was presented with the Annales Pilar Scientific Award for 2004. Scientific papers were given by thirty five participants (two of whom were from abroad — Slovenia and Austria). Three sessions were held, the second of which was completely dedicated to Ivo Pilar. Papers on Ivo Pilar were given (in chronological order) by Stepan Matković, Jure Kristo, Zoran Grijak, Zlatko Matijević, Ivan Markesić, Vine Mihaljević, Mira Kolar and Krešimir Belošević.

Ivo Pilar — “Persona Non Grata”

As part of its documentary series, the Croatian television shot a thirty-minute film on Ivo Pilar in cooperation with the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences (Zagreb); the Croatian Institute of History (Zagreb); Arts and Crafts Museum (Zagreb) and the National and University Library (Zagreb). The text for the film was written by Srečko Lipovčan, Zlatko Matijević and Stjepan Matković. The TV script editor was Stjepan Količ, a reputable television producer. Pilar’s life was presented in a historically authentic and artistically impressive way: his childhood in Zagreb, education in Vienna and Paris, his years-long life in Bosnia and Herzegovina and return to his native city where he died a tragic — never fully explained — death. The film was shown on Croatian national television (HTV) channel 1, on 21st June 2004. (Z. M.)


Until 1990 and especially after 1945, the life and work of Ivo Pilar was one of the “taboos” in Croatian public life and was only occasionally a lexicon entry. Croatia’s independence and circumstances created by the process of its democratic development, opened possibilities for eliminating the then “forbidden” topics. Earlier studies of Pilar’s life and work comprised first works of the reputable historian Mladen Šlab and several more popularly presented editions of Pilar’s opus. A more detailed, continuous and more significant period of studying Pilar’s life — both in terms of quality and quantity — began...
with the Institute of Social Sciences. It was founded in 1991 and in 1997 was renamed, bearing the name of Ivo Pilar ever since. After the convention and the exhibition organised by the Institute at the end of 1999, a decision was made to establish a publication which would provide space for encouraging researches and publishing results. The Institutes’ authorities decided to found GODIČNJAK PILAR — Prinosi za pročuavanje života i djela dra Ive Pilara / THE PILAR ANNUAL — Contributions to the Life and Work of Ivo Pilar. Marking the 10th anniversary of the Institute, the first volume was published in November 2001 (267 pages, editors: Srečko Lipovčan and Zlatko Matijević). It comprised the following sections: Predgovor (Foreword); I. Kritički uvidi u Pilarove znanstvene i stručne interese (Critical Insights into Pilar’s Scientific and Professional Interests); II. Političke koncepcije i angažman (Political Concepts and Commitment); III. Na putu prema monografiji i kritičkom izdanju Pilarovih djela (Heading towards the Monograph and Critical Edition of Pilar’s Works); IV. Građa (Materials) V. Prilozi (Appendix). The authors of the texts are M. Kolar, S. Matković, V. Sakic, D. Pavličević, Z. Grijak, S. Lipovčan, B. Jurčijević, B. Jančičković, M. Klemenčić, N. Pokos, S. Matković, M. Kolar, J. Kristo, Z. Grijak, Z. Matijević, B. Jančičković, S. Lipovčan, Ž. Holjetić (see this issue’s ‘Bibliography of Works on Ivo Pilar’). As it is noted in the Foreword, the editorial board was aware that it was the beginning of the process of studies.

A year later the second volume was also published consisting of Predgovor (Foreword); I. Kritički uvidi u Pilarove znanstvene i stručne interese (Critical Insights into Pilar’s Scientific and Professional Interests); II. Političke koncepcije i angažman (Political Concepts and Commitment); III. Na putu prema monografiji i kritičkom izdanju Pilarovih djela (Heading towards the Monograph and Critical Edition of Pilar’s Works); IV. Građa (Materials) V. Prilozi (Appendix). The authors of the texts are I. Rogić, A. Paveskićović, M. Klemenčić, N. Pekos, S. Matković, M. Kolar, J. Kristo, Z. Grijak, Z. Matijević, B. Jančičković, S. Lipovčan, Ž. Holjetić (see this issue’s ‘Bibliography of Works on Ivo Pilar’). Particularly rich are the published materials with indispensable commentaries of the editors (see this issue’s ‘Newly-Published Materials on Ivo Pilar / since 2002’). We would like to emphasise that Pilar’s famous treatise Secesija (Secession) from 1898 is reprinted in the Appendix.

In both volumes of the Annual, 27 scientific works, studies and essays are published — more than in all preceding years! The first ‘windows’ on the world of the completely unresearched aspects are open (the genesis of the Southern Slavic Question, Pilar — social psychologist, political commitment, etc.). Perfectly aware of the growing need for a more intensive study of Pilar’s life and work — especially in the light of new, almost unresearched fields of his various interests — the Institutes’ scientists concluded that, as a substitute for the existing annual publication, a journal should be published at least twice a year to research Pilar’s life and work. Besides the Croatian, there would also be an international edition. However, three years have passed since those ideas were conceived: you are holding the first issue of the journal in your hands. (sl)

“The Pilar Topic” in Hrvatska revija

Hrvatska revija has been a journal of the oldest Croatian cultural institution Matica hrvatska since 1842. It was founded in 1928 and its new edition was started in Buenos Aires in 1951. It has been published in Croatia again since 1991 and has been a quarterly since 2001. In the first issue of 2005 (1/2005), the issue’s topic (pp. 20-66) chosen by the editorial board, comprised several texts on Ivo Pilar entitled “Uvijek iznova Sudländ” (“Always Again Südland”) with the editorial by M. Klemenčić. Richly illustrated, the texts were written by Srečko Lipovčan (“Portret Ive Pilara; O nastanku Južnoslavenskog pitanja i sudbini prvoga ‘bečkog’ izdanja” / “A Portrait of Ivo Pilar, On Emergence of the Southern Slavic Question and the Fate of the First/Viennese/Edition”); Stepan Matković (“Razmišljanja Ive Pilara i R. W. Seton-Watsona o južnoslavenskom pitanju” / “Ivo Pilar’s and R. W. Seton-Watson’s Thoughts on the Southern Slavic Question”); Zlatko Matijević (“Političko djelovanje Ive Pilara u predvečerje propasti Austro-Ugarske” / “Political Activities of Ivo Pilar on the Eve of the Breakdown of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy”); Jure Križić (“Ivo Pilar i hrvatska politika u Bosni i Hercegovini” / “Ivo Pilar and Croatian Politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina”); and Vlado Šakić (“Uvid u Borbu za vrijednost svoga JA — avdio u Pilarova psihologiju” / “An Insight into The Struggle for the Value of One’s Self — An Introduction to Pillar’s Psychology”). Although scientifically founded, the texts are popularly written to be more easily approachable to wider circles of interested and educated readers. (sl)

“Following the Bosnian Path of Ivo Pilar and the Path of the Franciscan Province of Bosna Srebrena”

Marking the 15th anniversary of its establishment, the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences organised an excursion to Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 14th to 16th September 2006. The purpose of the tour was to learn about the past of the Franciscan province of Bosna Srebrena, especially the Franciscans’ endeavour to preserve their religious and national integrity both during five hundred years of the Ottoman Rule and in today’s, “post-Dayton” Bosnia. Parts of Bosnia, connected with the life and work of Ivo Pilar, were also visited.
On the first day of our study tour, we visited Banja Luka where we received a warm welcome from Mgr. Franjo Komarica, Bishop of Banja Luka. The intention of this meeting was to emphasise the importance of both protecting the Croatian minority in the region and difficulties of everyday life encountered by the Croatian community. The Bishop Komarica and his guests visited the Trappist Monastery and the Marija Zvijezda Church, both impressively witnessing the presence of the Roman Catholic church in the region. Then followed a visit to the Shrine of St. Ivo in Podmislajce and to the city of Jajce. In the city of Jajce the Guardian of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Luke, Father Niko Petronic, showed us around the renovated Monastery, seriously damaged during the war in the 90s. He proudly presented the Monastery’s museum collection also comprising the bones of the last Bosnian king Stjepan Tomasevic. A sightseeing of the old city of Jajce was also organised. Jajce is famous for its catacombs, i.e. cemetery chapel, the Tower of St. Luke and St. Mary’s Church. In the evening of the same day the parish priest Drago Pranjevic received us into the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s Assumption in Dolac (Travnik). Zlatko Matijevic, Ph. D., a guest of the Ivo Pilar Institute and an employee of the Croatian Institute of History, held a lecture on Ivo Pilar’s role in establishing the “Croatian National Community” and Archbishop Stadler’s attitudes towards the Community. Then followed a dinner party with the mayor and the president of the Employers’ Association in the city of Vitez.

The next day we continued our tour through the Franciscan province of Bosnia Srebrena. Our hosts were the Fathers Mirko Majdanjac, from the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Ghost in Fojnica and Ilja Bozic, the Guardian of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Krajjeva Sutjeska. We saw the most precious pearls kept in these Monasteries: libraries, treasuries and painting collections. At least let me mention the important document “Ahdnama” kept in the Franciscan Monastery in Fojnica, the original Fojnica Armorial Roll and 31 incunabula kept in the Monastery’s library in Krajjeva Sutjeska. Besides visiting the Monasteries in Krajjeva Sutjeska and Fojnica, in Visoko we also visited the Franciscan classical grammar school whose work was described by the Fathers Niko Josic, the Monastery’s Guardian, Ivo Radman, the school’s principal, Josip Bicic, the first prefect, and the former longtime professor Ignacije Gavran (see the picture below).

The following day we continued our study tour towards Sarajevo where we met our host — the Franciscan province of Bosnia Srebrena. An account of its history was given by the Father Miron Sikiric. Then we met the representatives of the Monastery, Franciscan Theological Studies, and the Institute of History of the Franciscan province of Bosnia Srebrena: Slavko Topic, the Guardian, Mile Babic, the Head, and Marko Kramatic, the Head of the Institute. After Zlatko Matijevic’s lecture on Ivo Pilar’s life in Sarajevo, all attendees were addressed by the Head of the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences Vlado Ziko. Miron Sikiric was awarded a medal with the image of Ivo Pilar in recognition of the Bosnian Franciscans’ efforts to preserve religious and cultural identity of the Croatian Roman Catholic community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Having said goodbye to our guests, we visited the Monastery of St. Francis and “Napedak”, the Croatian Cultural Association in Sarajevo. Our study tour ended with a visit to the St. Frances Roman Catholic School in Tuzla.

(I. Zenec)