

The Forgotten Half

Portraits of Women in 19th and
20th Century in Slovenia
(A.Šelih at al., eds)

The Forfotten Half:

- 129 portraits of women, born between 1818-1920
- Written by 60 authors
- Background: Slovenska žena (1926, ed. Minka Govekar), portraits published by Janez Kajzer (Jana, 1970s), Splošno žensko društvo (2003, eds. N. Budna Kodrič, A. Serše)
- Basis for future research

The Forgotten Half

- Fields of activity/creativity: literature, music, dance, fine arts, theatre and film, education, social sciences, politics, law, natural sciences, humanities, nunhood, health care, medicine, sports, turism, supporters/Maecenas;
- Common features: they all faught to make themselves value; great majority faced prejudices, discrimination and neglect; as a rule care of their children/families by themselves, often by themselves alone

The Forgotten Half. Two women/cases

- Felicita Kalinšek(1865-1937):a nun, author of the most widespread/popular cookbook in Slovenia, more than 20 reprints, almost no personal data to be found. Is cooking a creative activity?
- Adela Žgur (1909-1992): germanist, professor, translator, of modest origins, active anti-fascist, imprisoned, frail health, contributed significantly to modern education of German and English at the Faculty of Arts, author of Deutsche Grammatik and other grammar and text books, excellent translator

Adela Žgur: did she do anything wrong as far as the public recognition of her work and personality is concerned?

- as an excellent translator she charged very little
institutions of education and culture she mostly worked for (resentment!)
- didn't care about scientific titles and statuses ("work makes me happy, that's enough")
- extremely generous (seen as an eccentricity, she offered almost all she had to people in need in general and to Bosnian refugees in particular: "I need so little")
- when retired she liked her solitude, used to listen to classical music and knitted marvelous sweaters with most complicated designs. They went unnoticed.

129 Women and Creativity

- Were they creative?
- If so, how can the lack of creative women in the history of Slovenia and Slovenians be explained? (selective mechanisms?, patriarchal context?, type of creativity?)
- The power to define, select, interpret and forget creativity

“Prešeren Awards”

- Since 1947, outstanding achievements in culture
- Gender structure 1947-2004:
- 756 awards, 103 women (13,6%) and 653 men (86,4%)
- Administration boards: 275 members, 28 women (10,18%) and 255 men (89,82%)

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

- Elected members for their outstanding achievements in sciences and arts; six sections.
- Gender structure of members, present data:
 - Full members: 76, women 2 (2,6%)
 - Associate members: 27, woman 1 (3,7%)
 - Corresponding members: 79, women 0