

Maria Mirtschin: Report on Three Generations of the Stone Mason and Sculptor Family Petschke – A Sorbian Middle Class Family Torn between Support for their National Identity and Loyalty to the State as Citizens 1850 to 1950

The central focus of this article is the Sorbian stonemason and sculptor family Petschke. The representatives of the first two generations contributed to the promotion of the Sorbian language and identity through their professional work, which involved the erection of Sorbian monuments and memorial plaques, and the creation of Sorbian texts in the public spaces of Bautzen and its surroundings. Through their economic interests, receiving commissions from both private individuals and public bodies, they were closely linked to the German majority culture, so their activities developed under changing social conditions in that area of tension between support for Sorbian national interests whilst conforming politically. Taking part in Sorbian national activities, which were offered in the urban context in societies, was a matter of course for the representatives of the first two generations, coming as they did from the Sorbian Catholic milieu of the Radibor Diaspora. The representative of the third generation, who was the first one to complete an academic education, thus enabling him to cross the threshold to become an independent sculptor, found himself in a different social situation. But he did not express an explicit engagement with his Sorbian identity.

Keywords: Sculptor, stonemason, Sorbian middle classes, craftwork, Sorbian craftsmen, cemetery art, graves, building sculpture, monuments

Thomas Menzel: Canonical Morphological Complexity in the Sorbian Language

This study presents the approach developed by Greville Corbett of canonical inflection complexity as an instrument for evaluating inflective complexity. The comprehensive typology of complexity relationships, developed in CORBETT (2015) using the example of a number of very different languages, is here applied to the inflective system of just one language, the Upper Sorbian literary language – comparing it with that of Lower Sorbian. The impressive diversity of complexity relationships, which characterizes Corbett’s model, can even be detected within one single Slav language.

Keywords: inflection complexity, linguistic typology of Sorbian, inflective irregularity, inflection paradigms, motivated vs. morphemic complexity, synthetic vs. analytical inflection forms

Walter Wenzel: The Tribal Name *Besunzane* in a New Light

The tribal name *Besunzane* has repeatedly been the subject of academic investigation, the last example being an unpublished study by Bernd Koenitz. He firstly brought into his reflections the form *Phesnuzi*, first registered in the Bavarian Geographer (around 850), but up to now mostly overlooked, without however giving in our view a convincing evaluation of both pieces of evidence. We have made however the following deductions: Old Sorb. **Běžunčane* ‘the people of *Běžunk*’ and Old Sorb. **Běžunci* ‘the *Běžunks*, the

people of *Běžunk'*. The same formation structure is shown by the name of the neighbouring tribe, the *Dziadoszanie* in Lower Silesia, around 850 *Dadosesani* and *Thadesi*, Old Pol. **Đadošane* and **Đadoši* 'the people of *Đadoš*, the *Đadošs*'. The name of the *Milzane* may have developed along the same lines, Old Sorb. **Milčane* alongside **Milci* 'the people of *Milk*, the *Milks*'.

Keywords: Old Sorbian Language Area, onomastics, tribal names, landscape names

Peter Schurmann: Rudolf Lehmann and his Research on the Sorbs/Wends. Between Political Domination and Detachment

Rudolf Lehmann was a local historian of German origin who worked the most intensively and in the most varied of contexts with the development of the Sorbs/Wends in Lower Lusatia in his time. This high level of interest, open-mindedness and tolerance towards the Sorbian/Wendish ethnic group derived from his long-time contacts with representatives of the Western Slavonic nation, whose interests he supported in his Lusatian homeland on occasion, even after 1933. At the same time, working on the project "Monograph of the Wends" in the second half of the 1920s, he felt obliged to "support scientifically the public perception of the Wends and the Slavs as primitive and the legitimacy of the victory of a superior German culture." Lehmann was not able to withdraw from this programmatic line, certainly not under National Socialism, after he took over as chairman of the Lower Lusatian Society and was responsible for overseeing the publication of its journal. From 1937 he used this medium to support the idea proclaimed by Nazi institutions, devised specifically for Lusatia, of the "idea of a 'racially pure' German homeland", in which "all memory of the ethnic-cultural autonomy of the Sorbian ethnic group [...] was to be expunged from collective memory".

He was not able to free himself from this conflict even after 1945. On the one hand he tried to prove "that Lower Lusatia had never been forcibly Germanized", with the possible exception of the National Socialist period. On the other hand he did not stop working academically on the history of the Sorbs, even after he had left the GDR. After the Second World War the Sorbs had tried win him over as an academic colleague and university lecturer. But he, as a result of his experience with National Socialism and his fundamentally conservative point of view, was consistent enough "not to provide support for Sorbian political endeavours", especially since he regarded the "artificial inflation of support for the Sorbs" in the GDR as pointless.

Keywords: Sorbian institutions, German-Sorbian contacts, research on the Sorbs/Wends, history of Lower Lusatia, monograph on the Sorbs, the Wendish question, assimilation, Germanization policy, re-Sorbianization, Weimar Republic, NS-regime, GDR, East-West conflict

Wolfgang Kessler: Jan Pětr Jordan and Croatia-Slavonia 1840–1848

Jan Pětr Jordan (1818–1891) saw in Illyrianism, which Ljudevit Gaj represented in the "Three Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia und Dalmatia", a model of confessional and lin-

guistic unity for the Sorbs of Lusatia. In his journal “Slavonic Diaries” (Slawische Jahrbücher) Jordan condemned the Magyarization of the Slavs in Hungary, the politics of the Hungarian estates and their “linguistic battle” in Croatia-Slavonia. But the expected support from Gaj in his activities as a Slavist clearly did not materialize, even if some attention was given to the Lusatian Sorbs in “Danica”, the cultural-literary supplement to the “Illyrian” newspaper edited by Gaj. Czech journalists mostly provided the material for this. In 1846 Jordan planned to go and live in Croatia or Slavonia and to publish a pro-Slav, German-language newspaper there in Zagreb or Osijek, and to set up a bookshop and printing works. He travelled in the autumn of 1846 to Slavonia and Croatia, to Southern Hungary and Serbia, but his hopes of a new beginning in the Slav South soon proved to be illusory.

Keywords: Ljudevit Gaj, Illyrianism, Jahrbücher für slawische Literatur, Kunst und Wissenschaft, Jan Pětr Jordan, Kingdom of Croatia, Leipzig, Magyarization, Osijek, Slav reciprocity, Kingdom of Slavonia, Sorbs, Southern Slavs, Zagreb

Anja Pohontsch, Wito Böhmk: On the Integration of the Sorbian Bibliography into other Digital Information Systems

The Sorbian Bibliography is a specialist bibliography with a broad spectrum of themes. The high level of specialist literature in Sorbian studies means that it deserves to qualify as an essential part of a bibliography of Slav studies. The last printed edition of the Sorbian Bibliography appeared in 2008 (for the years 2001–2005), each edition encompassing five years. Since then its users have had to rely in their search for literature in Sorbian studies on the electronic version, which however is limited in what you are able to access, both technically and in its content. As a result of the migration to other digital information systems of data relating to bibliographical entries from the Sorbian Bibliography, other paths have emerged, which enable specific searches for specialist literature to take place on the Internet. Some of the Internet portals are presented in greater detail in this article, amongst others, the South-West Association (SWB), the Slavonic Portal of the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin – Prussian Cultural Collection, as well as the Bibliographical Data Bank of Slavonic Linguistics in iSybislaw.

Keywords: Sorbian Bibliography, Sorbian studies, Lusatia, library associations, Internet

Fabian Jacobs, Lutz Laschewski: On the Island and Beyond. On the Spatial Constitution of Sorbian Culture

An attempt is made in this article to sketch out an understanding of culture, which enables us on the one hand to develop a spatial perspective and on the other hand to understand cultural identity as a dynamic phenomenon. Such understanding provides us with a starting point to understand the change in Sorbian contemporary culture in modern society and at the same time to formulate guidelines for action in relation to cultural praxis (the work and politics of identity). Culture derives from giving meaning to a linkage of social events occurring in a chronological sequence, according to our theoretical reflections on

a dynamic understanding of culture. As a result of placing and structuring such locally connected events the cultural space is constituted as a space of social relationships. Paul Nedo in his study of 1965 examined the origins of the construct of a Sorbian “ethnic island” and considered its usefulness when placed against the background of social change. This island mentality determines to this day the public discourse surrounding the Brandenburg Sorbian/Wendish Law and the Saxon Sorbian Law, which becomes clear especially in relation to their understanding of spatial and cultural concepts. Our study illustrates this theoretical perspective using three characteristic phenomena.

It is argued in the discussion that the dynamic perspective outlined offers an opportunity to grasp and understand the change in Sorbian culture, as both the cognitive elements of culture and the institutional, material conditions, as well as the relationship between individual praxis and the collective, can be considered. This may also make it possible to treat the need for cultural security, not only symbolically, but also to translate it into effective strategies for action.

Keywords: Reproduction of culture, space, praxis, time, Sorbian area of settlement, Sorbian culture, networks, island