

**Jonathan Osmond: Horst Schlossar. Pupil of Otto Dix, painter of Sorbian life, Socialist Realist und army artist**

The career of the Dresden-born artist, Horst Schlossar/Šlosar (1903–1964), began in the Weimar Republic, continued during the Third Reich and the Soviet occupation and concluded in the German Democratic Republic. These convulsions in Germany's twentieth-century history are reflected in his work. This article sets out for the first time to integrate and evaluate the hitherto disparate facets of Schlossar's life and work. Individual paintings and groups of works are analysed in respect of their connections to New Objectivity, Socialist Realism, reception of the German visual heritage, official commissioning of artworks, and the cultural life of the Sorbian population in the south-east of the GDR. A partial reconstitution has been achieved of Schlossar's production before 1945, followed by: his depictions of Dresden after the bombing; the family portraits in the style of his professor, Otto Dix; the establishment of socialism; the political posters; the portrayals of Sorbian rural costume; the historical works; the agricultural and industrial development of Lusatia; and Schlossar's collaboration with the National People's Army. Particular attention is paid to significant pieces such as the large mural "Reconstruction" (1949) in Schloss Radibor and "Peasant Delegation to the 1st Socialist Artists' Brigade" (1952/53), Schlossar's most frequently exhibited and reproduced painting. On the basis of official documentation, press reports, personal correspondence, exhibition catalogues, and the artworks themselves, Schlossar's political and cultural engagement in the life of the Sorbian population and the GDR is documented. It is contended that his works incorporate references to earlier German images and that the apparently naïve style of his figurative paintings and graphics was a deliberate attempt to connect art with the concerns of the working population.

**Leoš Šatava: Ebenen der modernen sorbischen bzw. Lausitzer Identität**

Die grundlegenden sozialen, politischen und ökonomischen Wandlungen an der Wende vom 18. zum 19. Jahrhundert blieben auch in der Ober- und Niederlausitz nicht ohne Widerhall. In dieser Hinsicht lassen sich einige thematische Aspekte hervorheben, vor allem der sprachlich-kulturelle und der ethnische Bereich, die einander freilich jeweils durchdringen. Was den slawischen Anteil in den Lausitzen nach 1800 betrifft, so erwiesen sich die Veränderungen als ambivalent: Einerseits beschleunigten sie die Transformation der Sorben zu einem modernen Ethnikum und ermöglichten eine relativ erfolgreiche „nationale Wiedergeburt“, zugleich aber förderten sie die sprachliche und kulturelle Assimilation.

Man darf feststellen, dass die sorbische „Fallstudie“ ein höchst interessantes Beispiel im Rahmen der sog. Wiedergeburtbewegung abgibt. Die Tatsache, dass in den Lausitzen bis heute die Minderheitssprache lebendig ist, spricht für sich und lässt die Frage nach der Zukunft offen. In welchem Maße das Phänomen des „Lausitztums“, das sich vornehmlich auf die kulturellen Elemente stützt, auch künftig ein tragfähiger Bestandteil der lokalen und der internationalen Entwicklung bleiben wird, ist heute noch nicht vorherzusehen.

**Ines Keller: In the Battle against Destruction. The Revitalisation of Sorbian Traditional Costume in Horno**

The Sorbian area of settlement has been severely affected by the mining of lignite since the 1920s. The example of the village of Horno/Rogow in Lower Lusatia is used to illustrate what effects the change in the landscape have had on the region, the people

and in particular the Sorbian way of life. Horno had to give way to lignite mining and was demolished in 2005. Economic interests were given priority over the interests of the Sorbian minority. Despite compulsory resettlement and the loss of their original home village it can be established that the battle against demolition had a long term positive effect amongst the Sorbs, in that they returned to an interest in the history of their village and the region, which had been strongly influenced by Sorbian cultural traditions, and to the customs, costumes and the language. The employment of Sorbian cultural traditions during the protests against the destruction of the village led the inhabitants to engage more actively with their Sorbian past and to practise once again in the present day Sorbian customs and traditions in their new village.

**Petr Kaleta: Poles and Polish themes in the journals “Łužica” (1921–1937) and “Serbski Student” (1919–1937) during the interwar period**

This text analyzes the presentation of Polish literature and culture among the Sorbs of Lusatia under the new conditions of the Weimar Republic. It is divided into two basic parts, the first one is devoted to *Łužica* and the second one to the new journal of the Sorbian students called *Serbski Student*. In both journals, less space was devoted to Polish topics than in the pre-war journal *Łužica*.

The main role in this journal was played by the painter, writer and journalist Měrćin Nowak-Njechorński, who first popularized Polish issues during the years 1926–1928 in the journal *Serbski Student* through his articles and short translations, and later through extensive reports from his own travels. In the journal *Łužica*, where he wrote about Polish issues during the years 1927–1928, Nowak’s enthusiasm for Poland is also evident in the translations of the Polish writers Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer and Stefan Żeromski, as well as from one travelogue. Another significant figure was Ota Wićaz, whose translations published in *Łužica* in the years 1930–1935 familiarized the Sorbs with the work of the Polish poets Julian Ejsmond, Jan Kochanowski, Maria Konopnicka, Lucjan Rydel, Antoni Lange and Adam Mickiewicz. In addition, in 1936 he selected translations of fairy tales by Ignacy Krasicki. In the 1930s, *Serbski Student* discovered another Polonophile and the future significant Sorbian writer Anton Nawka, who published contributions on Polish topics during the years 1934–1936.

**Anja Pohončowa: The Use of Proper Names in Upper Sorbian**

The written and spoken use of proper names for groups of people, institutional names and product names in Upper Sorbian from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the central focus of this essay. It examines both names translated into Sorbian of German groups of people, institutions and products, as well as those of Sorbian groups of people, institutions and products. It was possible to establish variants and duplications of names, which occur in the form of shortened names, abbreviations or syntactic constructions (consisting of common nouns). Names of Sorbian institutions or associations frequently appear without the attributive adjective “serbski”. In spoken language it is possible to observe the strong influence of colloquial language on the names of German institutions, which is reflected in the use of words cited in German and hybrid compounds with a German term first and a German loan word (adapted phonetically and morphologically) as the second term. Variants and duplicates with playful or pejorative connotations are typical of spoken usage, some of which are restricted to individual usage. Many names are given a playful character through wordplay, by using expressions, which sound similar.

### **Walter Wenzel: Onomastic Contributions to the Settlement History of the Dobrilugk Monastery**

This essay contains an analysis of the Slav and German place and personal names of the area under investigation in order to come to conclusions about the settlement history of the former monastery of Dobrilugk. The findings of Slav archaeology are taken into account in this process. According to evidence from place names and archaeological finds the area of the lower Kleine Elster was settled relatively late by the Sorbs, as the Slav place names of the monastery area do not belong to the oldest groups. Inhabitants' names ending in *-ici* and the names of the group *Kosobudy/Žornosěky* are therefore missing, the *-jane*-names are only represented by Dollenchen.

The German place names can generally be regarded as typical of the period of eastern settlement. There is a preponderance of names ending in *-dorf*, followed by those ending in *-aue*. Those Slav personal names studied from the middle of the 16th Century from the seminary are similarly very different from the names of central Lower Lusatia. The picture provided by German personal names, in this case surnames, around Dobrilugk, is determined by names from terms describing their trade and office. A table provides exact information about this. In an evaluation of settlement history the quantitative relationship of the Sorbian to the German share of the population is illustrated by means of a map. The German inhabitants are in the majority. From the evidence of the place names there were Franks among the German settlers, but the majority came from the Low German language area. Dutch settlers played an important role in the cultivation of the land.

### **Heinz Schuster-Šewc: The Sorbian Language – its Origins and Linguistic Status**

The Sorbian spoken today in Upper and Lower Lusatia is what remains of an earlier extensive Old Sorbian dialect area between the Elbe/Saale rivers in the west and the Bober/Queis rivers in the east. It was not a uniform language, but was divided up into Sorbian proper, represented by the Upper Sorbian language type, with clear links to the former south-eastern branch of Proto-Slavonic, and an adjacent, relatively broad transitional strip in the north-east bordering on the former Lechitic language. Here the actual Old Sorbian tribes, which advanced down the Elbe from the Bohemian basin, met the Lechitic tribes. This resulted in a kind of hybrid language, which formed the basis of the later Lower Sorbian language.

### **Gunter Schaarschmidt: Historical Phonology, Spelling Reform and the Change of *o* > *ó* in Lower Sorbian**

The Lower Sorbian spelling reform of 1995 reintroduced the letter *ó* that had been eliminated from the alphabet in the reform of 1952. However, this reintroduction, intended primarily as a pedagogical device to serve as a cover symbol for the phonetic realization of the phoneme /*ɔ*/, differed in some important respects from the practice of writing *ó* in Ernst Mucke's thesaurus of 1911–1928 and of his grammar of 1891 as well as from the wealth of data presented in the Sorbian Linguistic Atlas (1965–96). The present study assembles dialect data in one particular environment of *ó*, viz. , PK\_ *l* (where PK = peripheral consonant), that show the phonemic relevance of *ó* in that environment in addition to other environments arising due to the loss of *l* and to analogy. These data as well as Mucke's retention of *ó* in the environment PK\_ *w* < *l* serve as evidence to show that *ó* was not immediately delabialized here after the change of *l* > *w* but served as a trigger to restructure the Lower Sorbian vowel system.