

Call for Papers

Print Culture in Croatia: The Canon and the Borderlands

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Guest editors:

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The study of books and printing has moved beyond the study of books as technological artifacts, carriers of literary canon or aesthetic objects to include the production, circulation and use of print materials in diverse social, political, and economic contexts. This total history of the book has become an interdisciplinary arena of scholarship at the forefront of cultural history research.

The special issue of the Croatian Library Journal, a refereed international journal, is soliciting manuscripts for a topical issue to be published in the fall 2005 that focuses on print culture in Croatia based on primary source materials. Innovative research and theoretical approaches are encouraged. The issue is meant to explore the concept of the print tradition on the borderlands, as continuities and discontinuities at the boundaries of the Croatian national print culture.

The research of print culture in Croatia has traditionally been in the function of the study of a national literary canon focusing on the Croatian vernacular, the native print tradition during the hand-press era, and Croatian participation in the centers of European book trade. Although Croatian print tradition is a participant of a larger European tradition of print culture, it also represents a field of interaction between the East and West and the breeding-ground of European Orientalism. We would like to explore a perspective that reorganizes the canon.

We seek contributions in the following areas:

- Writing cultures / reading cultures
- Counter-systems and propagandist uses of print (censorship, Croatian Protestant books, underground publishing)
- Croatian vernacular and literatures in German, Italian and Latin
- Visual genres / textual genres
- Orality / literacy
- Regional publishing (Dubrovnik, Slavonia, Dalmatia)
- Periods: Catholic Reformation, Protestant publishing, the Napoleonic times
- The Ottoman as Other
- Publishing and the marketplace
- Print as social action
- Censorship (Habsburg, Venetian, Communist, etc.)
- Official publications and the privileged regimes of truth
- Popular and elite print
- History of bureaucracy and printed forms
- The printed book and its digital representation

Examples of the contributions we seek will focus on diversity of culture and hybridity of traditions (oral / literate), traditionalism / progressivism, regional and linguistic multiplicity, localization (East/West; periphery/center, diaspora), colonialism – perspectives that cannot be contained within a single determinant of language or unity of space. We also seek contributions that will capture a diversity of genres and popular print culture. For example, we are interested in studies of ephemera, textbooks, prayer-books, print genres that have been shaped in and re-shaped the oral tradition, almanacs, music publishing, the circulation of images, counter-system publishing. The national literary tradition organized around a national vernacular prevents seeing the networks of print resulting from a multi-lingual tradition produced in a multi-lingual arena of the Habsburg Empire with multi-lingual readership, niche publication, etc. Works in German, Italian, and Latin, together with the Croatian vernacular are representative of the print culture in Croatia as are its links to the Venetian, Habsburg and Ottoman context of production, distribution, and use of print. Through the notion of borderlands as framework for examining print culture in Croatia, we want to demonstrate how national tradition can become an “ideal type” for an emerging comparative and cross-cultural approach to book history.

Papers in Croatian or English are invited for Volume 48 (3/4 2005) of the journal.

Submission deadline: March 15, 2005

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Manuscript guidelines:

Please refer to the journal website at <http://www.hkdrustvo.hr/hr/izdanja/kategorija/vbh/>.



Vjesnik bibliotekara Hrvatske is the official journal of the Croatian Library Association. It is refereed and it is internationally indexed and abstracted.

The journal is issued in hard and electronic copy.