

Soviet Achievements in the Sphere of Linguistics and Literature

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appeals to a written source ('Als wir lesend', 'ich han gelesen', and so on). It is highly probable that he used a *catena* or collection of *exempla* arranged under headings, like *La Tabula Exemplorum*, because his anecdotes tend to come in groups of two or three, according to the subject. Thus, two of them (nos. 2, 3) both refer to the veneration of the Sacred Name, which was, incidentally, a very popular theme in the fourteenth century. He tells no stories of contemporary miracles and eschews tales that end with an *exemplum terribile*. He avoids the sensational and concentrates on the moral anecdote.

Marquard's stories are always of a serious and edifying character. Unlike some Franciscans, he is never vulgar or coarse, he refrains from playing to the gallery. He was a loyal son of his Order, well versed in its traditions and legends. In his various works he frequently quotes famous Minorites, such as Alexander of Hales, Bonaventura, Neccam and Bartholomæus Anglicus. This may seem natural enough, but we find that Johann Bischoff, who was almost a contemporary, cites few Franciscan authors and rarely mentions the name of St Francis. But it is evident even from the passages reproduced above that Marquard was not intolerant. The days of violent controversy between the two Mendicant Orders were over. He freely quotes the great Dominican mystics and is in fact their disciple.

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SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPHERE OF LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE

Science, like all other branches of the national economy, works in accordance with a strict plan in the Soviet Union. A five-year plan for the department of literature and language of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. was adopted this year (1946).

Before describing the plan, I will enumerate the scientific institutions which are to carry this plan into effect. The Academy's department of literature and language comprises a number of research institutes, such as the Institute of Language and Thought which bears the name of the great Soviet linguist and historian, Maar; the Institute of the Russian Language; the Institute of Oriental Studies; the Institute of Literature (Pushkin House) and, finally, the Maxim Gorky Institute of World Literature.

An extremely wide and varied range of questions is covered by these institutes. Soviet linguists work on the compilation of various dictionaries (modern and historical), and maps showing the distribution of dialects. Our plan calls for the publication of a series of monographs on the major problems of linguistics, such as the study of general philology both in foreign countries and in the Soviet Union, modern comparative grammar, and so forth. An extremely important question is the compilation of dictionaries reflecting the full wealth of the languages. A large orthographical dictionary has almost been completed by Academician S. Obnorsky, which will show the entire lexical wealth and variety of the modern Russian language.

Over sixty languages are spoken on the territory of the Soviet Union. Every measure is taken by the Soviet Government to preserve the riches and specific features of the languages of the small nationalities, some of which do not number

more than a few thousand or even hundred! For instance, the North Chukotka Peninsula is inhabited by the Yuits, of whom there are not more than 1300. Along the banks of the Siberian river Yenisei live the Ketami (1400 persons), in distant Kolyma (north-east of the U.S.S.R.) you will find Yukagirs, who do not exceed 440 in number. Regardless of the small populations, Soviet scientists study the culture of these peoples, compile dictionaries of their languages, help them to overcome their backwardness.

Recently Professor Yakovlev visited South Sakhalin which has again become Russian land. Since ancient times, this land has been inhabited by the Ainos; the Japanese tried to annihilate the Ainos, evicting them from the Kuril Isles, and this people, which was not numerous to begin with, was gradually dying out. Now, under Soviet rule, they are surrounded by attention and care. There is no doubt that the Soviet Government, Soviet scientists and, in particular, linguists will do everything to facilitate the restoration and development of the national culture of the Ainos.

The author of these lines recently returned from a trip to Daghestan in the Caucasus, where a base of the Academy of Sciences, comprising several departments, was opened.

Daghestan is a multi-lingual republic, its people speaking thirty-six different dialects, the majority of which have only developed a written literature since the establishment of Soviet rule. At the same time, mention must be made of the comprehensive research now being conducted into the language of the Ossetians, another of the Caucasian nations. This language is of great scientific interest, having much in common with other Caucasian and East European languages, in particular with Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian and Abkhasian. A study of the Ossetian language throws light on much in the history of languages. The historical dictionary of the Ossetian language, compiled by Professor V. Abaev, is the first attempt at a thorough analysis of the lexicology of the Ossetians carried out on the broad basis of the cultural-historical development of the people.

A grammar of one of the most complicated Caucasian languages, the Abkhasian language, is now being worked out by Professor N. Yakovlev. It is planned to have this work published in 1948.

M. Saidov, an Avar scholar, is planning to complete a detailed grammar of the language of his fathers by 1948. Existing works on the Avar language are short and to some degree obsolete. M. Saidov's grammar is complemented by an outline of the history of the Avar written language which dates back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Mention must also be made of the work of Azerbaijan archaeologists and linguists. The remnants of the ancient city of 'Sabail' have been found near Baku; the secrets of this city were hidden for many years by the Caspian Sea, but this summer the sea receded, revealing the stone walls of the city with half-erased, ancient inscriptions on it. Already the first results of research here have yielded much valuable data. We may now assume that 'Sabail' is the ruins of ancient Baku. The history of Azerbaijan runs into no less than thirty centuries!

The Soviet people were always profoundly interested in the achievements of foreign literature. The plan of research work to be carried out by Soviet linguists calls for the compilation of monographs on American, English, Spanish, Italian and Scandinavian literature.

In particular, the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. is publishing a major work entitled *The History of American Literature* in two volumes. This monograph includes chapters on the works of Hawthorne, Washington Irving, Fenimore Cooper, Beecher Stowe, Jack London, Theodore Dreiser, Upton Sinclair and others.

At the end of 1947, the 400th birth anniversary of the great Spanish writer Cervantes will be widely celebrated in the Soviet Union. It must be said that the last comprehensive research into the works of Cervantes made in Western European literature, i.e. a book by the Spanish academician Américo Castro, appeared more than twenty years ago—in 1925. The Russian scholar Professor K. Derzhavin is planning to publish a large monograph on Cervantes next year. Naturally, an important place in this monograph is held by the great work of Spanish literature, *Don Quixote*. The plan of the monograph provides for a comprehensive critical review of modern interpretations of *Don Quixote*.

A large monograph will be devoted to the English novel of the end of the nineteenth century. This will draw a pen-picture of the development of English literature in the period after Dickens to the beginning of the twentieth century. Special attention will be paid to the influence of Russian literature on the English novel (Turgenev, Tolstoi, Chekhov, Gorky).

Soviet scholars attach great importance to a study of the culture of the Eastern peoples. None of the existing dictionaries of Hindu, one of the most important languages of India, is scientifically compiled. Within the next five years a study will be made in the U.S.S.R. of Indian fiction and scientific literature. A large Hindu-Russian dictionary is being published.

A study is also being made in the Soviet Union of the Mongolian chronicles *Sagan-Seuen*, one of the most important and authoritative sources on the history of Mongolia.

Academician A. S. Kozin is completing his work of editing an epic trilogy, *The Secret Legend*, *Djangariada* and *Heseriada*, in an edition of nine volumes. The above-named epics deal with different epochs in Mongolian history, including that of Genghis-Khan.

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