

appearing first in 1959, followed by the second in 1964. The novel was begun in 1917 in the trenches of Serbian Macedonia, serialized in the Mytilenean newspaper *Kampana* in 1923, then reworked and republished in its final form in 1930. Eighty thousand copies in nine editions were sold (a phenomenal number for Greece) and the book appeared in eight languages other than Greek (French, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, Czech, Rumanian, Hungarian, and Turkish) before it appeared in English. In spite of, or perhaps because of, its great popularity, it was removed from circulation in 1936 by the Metaxas regime, and was unavailable until the German occupation ended in 1944.

With such a history, one might have expected a work of Kazantzakian stature, replete with characters set in a heroic mode. We are, instead, presented with the statement of a simple man who details the senselessness of war through characters who, caught up by the great machine of war, are subjected to its impersonal dehumanization. Fictionalizing his own personal experiences, Myrivilis uses the pretext of a discovered cache of unsent letters. The work is handled as a series of anecdotal expressions, whose only continuity lies in the monstrous hypothesis of war itself, which overrides the pieces and ties them together irrevocably. The noncontinuous thread of events provides considerable flexibility which, however, nearly buries the slight narrative framework in expository ramblings. The value of *Life in the Tomb* lies in the presentation by an author of great sensibility of his firsthand experiences of the horrors of war. Myrivilis's framing of those experiences as a lyrical statement blending into extended imagery provides for an odd mixture which, though it is not always successful, is at times highly penetrating.

Peter Bien's painstaking translation completes the English rendition of Myrivilis's World War I trilogy. As in Bien's translation of Nikos Kazantzakis's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, this work again demonstrates the care this translator gives to the precise meaning of each phrase, care that in some instances effaces Myrivilis's own earthiness for a more polished and intellectual English.

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OPERA SELECTA: RUSSISCHE GEGENWARTSSPRACHE, RUSSISCHE SPRACHGESCHICHTE, PROBLEME DER SLAVISCHEN SPRACHWISSENSCHAFT. By *Alexander Isačenko*. Forum Slavicum, vol. 45. Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1976. 440 pp. DM 98.

Born in Russia in 1911, Isačenko was educated in Austria, where he completed his Slavistic training under Trubetzkoy. He taught for many years in Bratislava, then Olomouc, East Germany, and Prague. He spent a number of semesters at UCLA, and in recent years he headed the Slavic department in Klagenfurt, Austria, where he died in March 1978.

Isačenko's profound, quasi-native intimacy with Slovak and Czech, buttressed by a thorough practical command of standard Slovene and decades-long study of the Carinthian dialects of Austria have given him unique insight into problems of comparative Slavic linguistics and the sociolinguistic questions of developing standard languages. Teaching Russian through the mediums of Slovak, German, and Czech focused his attention on a series of problems which had been neglected both by native Russians and by non-Slavic Russists. His association with Trubetzkoy during the height of the creative activity of the Prague Linguistic Circle helped assure that Isačenko's approach to language and culture would remain fresh and critical. No dogmatist, he has successfully utilized the insights of new linguistic theories and methods. Among his published works, the most influential has surely been *Gram-*

*matischenkii stroi russkogo iazyka v sopostavlenii s slovatskim* (vol. 1, 1954; vol. 2, 1960), perhaps the best synchronic treatment of Russian available.

The present volume is a collection of thirty-two articles (twenty-one in Russian, the others in German, French, and English), reproduced by photo-offset from the various journals, Festschriften, and other collective volumes in which they originally appeared, with a three-page laudatory preface by Henrik Birnbaum. They range in date from 1935 to 1970, and in subject matter from the ambitious *Versuch einer Typologie der slavischen Sprachen*—a paper which stimulated a great many studies—to an analysis of a sixteenth-century Russian obscene curse recorded by the Austrian diplomat Baron Herberstein (who had grown up in Carinthia and knew Slovene). Some articles deal with quite technical linguistics (such as the argumentation proposing to analyze the “long soft” *šč* and *žž* of Russian as underlying *šč* and *žž*), while other works use linguistic data to illuminate cultural problems (for example, the question of the possible Irish missionary background to Moravian Christianity before Cyril’s arrival). Unlike many contemporary linguists, Isačenko is not given to theorizing without concrete data. The reader who is dissatisfied with Isačenko’s methodological treatment of a problem, or with the conclusions, will find that Isačenko has already provided most of the material needed for an alternative analysis.

These articles are informative, useful, and stimulating; one is grateful that they have been made available in this volume. Alexander Isačenko was an extraordinarily influential teacher and scholar, with competence in a range of areas that can scarcely be matched by younger Slavists. One hopes that further volumes of his selected works will be printed.

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RUSSIAN WORD-FORMATION. By *Dean S. Worth*.  
Columbus, Ohio: Slavica Publishers, 1977. xlv, 317 pp. \$11.95, paper.

Having accumulated, after “several years of work on theoretical problems of Russian wor[d]-formation,” about a thousand titles dealing with such topics as “derivational motivation, stem divisibility, productivity, the interrelations of semantic and phonological processes in derivation, morphophonemic phenomena like truncation, interfixation, and superposition, and so forth,” the compiler felt the need to devise a classificatory framework for his material, a task “tantamount to defining the field of study itself.” The effort “seemed to justify a new and more detailed search of the literature,” and the result is this classified and cross-referenced listing of some three thousand works, preceded by a twelve-page table of contents (which “can be read as a typology of topics in Russian derivation”), a nine-page introduction, and twenty-one pages of sources, and followed by a forty-six-page author index. The first several hundred publications are said to have had detailed annotations. This was discontinued because, among other reasons, “it was impossible (and in many cases, perhaps, unnecessary) to obtain all provincial Soviet publications for de visu examination.” Unnecessary presumably because the title was thought to be sufficient for purposes of classification, with no value judgment intended. This is not always true, however. N. S. Avilova’s “K voprosu o slovoobrazovatel'nykh tipakh russkogo glagola,” given on page 243 under “Verbs, General Studies,” deals exclusively with verbs in *-stvovat'* and should be listed under that suffix on page 142. “Structural Derivation in Russian,” a dissertation listed on page 2 under “Monographic Studies,” is primarily concerned with the derivation of complex sentences. The fullest coverage seems to be of work published in the Soviet Union (to mid-1973), which may have to do with the availability of the volumes, *Slavianskoe iazykoznanie, ukazatel' literatury izdannoii v SSSR*