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*A. SORESCU MARINKOVIĆ, Serbian Language Acquisition in Communist Romania • M. ILIĆ, Coping with Socially Sensitive Topics: Discourse on Interethnic Marriages among Elderly Members of the Serbian Minority in Hungary • M. KOVIĆ, The Beginning of the 1875 Serbian Uprising in Herzegovina: The British Perspective • P. V. KRESTIĆ, Political and Social Rivalries in Nineteenth-century Serbia: Švabe or Nemačkari • D. T. BATAKOVIĆ, French Influence in Serbia 1835–1914: Four Generations of “Parisians” • B. MILOSAVLJEVIĆ, Liberal and Conservative Political Thought in Nineteenth-century Serbia: Vladimir Jovanović and Slobodan Jovanović • P. PALAVESTRA, Young Bosnia: Literary Action 1908–1914 • S. BOŽIĆ, Serbs in Croatia (1918–1929): Between the Myth of “Greater-Serbian Hegemony” and Social Reality • L. HASSIOTIS, The Ideal of Balkan Unity from a European Perspective (1789–1945) • B. BOJOVIĆ, Eglise – société – Etat: L’Église orthodoxe serbe à la fin du XX<sup>e</sup> et au début du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle* ❧

## IN MEMORIAM

ALEX N. DRAGNICH (1912–2009)

by Miroslav Svirčević

Alex N. Dragnich was born 22 February 1912 on his parents' homestead outside Republic, Washington, a small town based on mining and logging industries. Born into a family of Serbian immigrants from Old Herzegovina (village of Morakovo near Nikšić, present-day Montenegro), young Dragnich did not begin his education until he was nine, after a truant officer showed up at his family cabin in the mountains and explained to his father that education was obligatory in USA. Although he initially did not know a word of English and despite interruptions to his education caused by the difficult times during the Great Depression, Dragnich graduated from the University of Washington in 1938, completed work on his Ph.D. thesis in 1942 and eventually received the degree in political sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1945. After the war, he taught at Western Reserve University in Cleveland (1945–47). He joined Vanderbilt University in 1950, where he stayed until retirement in 1978, having served as Chairman of the Department of Political Sciences in 1964–69, and having received the Thomas Jefferson Award for "distinguished service to Vanderbilt" in 1970. Dragnich also held the Chester W. Nimitz Chair at the Naval War College (1959–60) in Newport, was a research fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, California (1978–81), and taught at Washington University and Lee University (1982). During the 1960s he served as President of the Southern Political Science Association and Vice-President of the American Political Science Association. After retire-

ment in 1978 Dragnich became Professor Emeritus of Vanderbilt University.

During the Second World War Dragnich served as a foreign affairs analyst for the Department of Justice and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS – a predecessor of the CIA). From 1947 to 1950 he joined the US Foreign Service and served as Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Belgrade. It was during his service in communist Yugoslavia that Dragnich first found out about the Tito-Stalin split of 1948.

Alex N. Dragnich wrote several outstanding books, including his best-known textbook *Major European Governments* (1961), which is still in use worldwide. A very important book, *Tito's Promised Land: Yugoslavia* (1954), which harshly criticized the Yugoslav communist system, was published after he ended his service in Belgrade. The appearance of this book was met with a sharp reaction from the Yugoslav communist government, which declared him *persona non grata*. His next important book was *International Communism in Yugoslavia. The Myth of "Titoism"* (1958). It complemented the previous one and further denounced Tito's version of a communist regime. The book entitled *Nikola Pašić, Serbia and Yugoslavia* (1974) is especially important for Serbian historiography, because it was, and still is, the first complete biography of Nikola Pašić in English. The book entitled *Development of Parliamentary Government in Serbia in the 19th Century* (1978) discusses the beginnings of the parliamentary system

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in nineteenth-century Serbia. His other books are devoted to the political history of the Yugoslav state: from the creation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Yugoslavia in 1918 and its collapse in 1941 to its postwar restoration on a communist basis and its disintegration in 1991. These books include explanation of the Serbo-Croatian relations in Yugoslavia and especially Serbo-Albanian relations in Kosovo and Metohija. Dragnich's retirement from academia did not mean retirement from scholarly work and research. He published several books, such as *The First Yugoslavia. Search for a Viable Political System* (1983), *Saga of Kosovo* (1984), *Serbs and Croats. The Struggle in Yugoslavia* (1992), *Serbia's Historical Heritage* (1994), *Yugoslavia's Disintegration and the Struggle for Truth* (1995), *Serbia and Yugoslavia* (1998). The last book Alex Dragnich wrote, *Serbia through the Ages* (2004), is devoted to the history of Serbia. This outstanding work symbolically rounds off the impressive scholarly oeuvre of Alex Dragnich.

Alex N. Dragnich was a founding member and first president of the Society for Serbian Studies, dedicated to promoting and enhancing knowledge of Serbian culture and society throughout the North American continent, and to fostering and supporting scholarly research in a variety of fields. The Society publishes the journal *Serbian Studies*, where Serbian scholars and writers from the Serbian diaspora, and authors from Serbia and other Serb-populated lands occupy a special place.

Dragnich was a foreign member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts from 1997, member of the Privy Council of the Royal Family of Serbia, and recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of White Eagle conferred by the Crown. In 2002 he was awarded a special medal by the Yugoslav post-Milošević and democratic government for merit in improving the image of Serbs and Serbia in the United States.

Alex N. Dragnich passed away in 2009 in Bowie, Maryland, at age of ninety-seven.

ALEKSANDAR JOVANOVIĆ (1947–2009)  
*PER ASPERA AD ASTRA*

by Vladimir P. Petrović and Sanja Pilipović\*

Aleksandar Jovanović was born in 1947 in Belgrade. Having graduated from the University of Belgrade in 1970, he left for Niš to join the local museum. Five years later, he returned to his native town to embark upon a university career as a teaching assistant at the School of Philosophy. He received his MA degree in 1976, and in 1982 defended his doctoral thesis devoted to the Roman-period burial practices in the territory of Yugoslavia. He climbed the university ladder to full professorship at the departments of Classical Studies and of Archaeology of the Belgrade University School of Phi-

losophy, and he also taught at the School of Philosophy of Novi Sad University.

The bibliography of Aleksandar Jovanović includes numerous studies, contributions and monographs. The important monographic volumes such as *Jewellery in Roman Dardania* (1978), *Forms of Burial in the Territory of Yugoslavia at the Time of the Roman Empire* (1984) and two bilingual, Serbian and English, books *Serbia – Homeland of Roman Emperors* (2006) and *Essays on Antique Cults and Iconography* (2007) reflect just some aspects of his

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