

PALI BUDDHIST STUDIES IN THE WEST

Russell webb

11. Yugoslavia

The credit for fostering an interest in Pali Buddhism lies with one man—Bhikkhu Nāṇajivako.

Born 1915 in Zagreb as Cedomil Veljačić, he studied at the local university where he obtained his Ph.D. in Greek and Indian philosophy in 1939. After the War he entered the diplomatic service and was posted to Rome and Bonn. Whilst in the latter he studied Pali and Sanskrit and even contributed an article to the journal of Les Amis du Bouddhisme, *La Pensée Bouddhique* ("Le Bouddha et Kant", Vol. IV, No. 1, Paris, January 1951). His were the first translations from the Pali into Serbo-Croat and these, together with general articles on Buddhism, subsequently appeared in Yugoslav periodicals.

Dr Veljačić returned to Zagreb in 1961 to become a lecturer in Indian philosophy and then, from 1963, a visiting professor to Banaras Hindu University for two years. Thereafter, he crossed to Sri Lanka and received ordination in 1966 as Bhikkhu Nāṇajivako. In his hermitage at Pallepola, near Matale, he continued writing in English and Serbo-Croat, employing Western Existentialist terminology to clarify Theravāda thought. Apart from translations (see below), his best known work to date is *Filosofija istocnih naroda* ("History of Oriental Philosophy", Zagreb 1958) in two volumes. In the first tome an extensive survey of Buddhism is given together with translations of the Sāmaññaphala, Pottḥapāda, Kevaddha and Cūlavēdalla Suttas and extracts from the Milindapañha. He has now "retired" to Nuwara Eliya.

In Yugoslavia itself many, if not all, of the lecturers in Indology are "pupils" of Dr Veljačić. And these are centered mainly on Zagreb University which has become the centre for Oriental studies. At the Department of Indology, Prof. Radoslav Katičić teaches Sanskrit and Indian literature. A course in Pali was introduced in 1973 by Mrs Rada Iveković who obtained her Ph.D. from Delhi the previous year for her thesis, "The Problem of Soul in Pāli Buddhism", which was published under the title, "Early Buddhist Thought", five years later with two short extracts appearing in previous issues of this journal: "Suññatā-Anattā" (I, 3, 1976) and "Misconceptions about Buddhism" (III, 1, 1978). In collaboration with Ven. Nāṇajivako she has also produced a general survey of *Indijska i iranska etika* (Sarajevo 1980).

In 1974 Dr Iveković transferred to the Department of Philosophy and succeeded Dr Veljačić to teach Indian philosophy, including Buddhism, whilst her former position was filled by Mrs Ruzica Čiĉdak-Chand (who obtained a Ph.D. at Bonn the same year for her thesis on the Sāmajātaka). Original Pali texts are prescribed and students are expected to master the history of Buddhism in India together with Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit literature. Unfortunately, virtually all the recommended textbooks are in English or German.

Elsewhere, Mrs Vlasta Pachiner teaches Sanskrit at Ljubljana University whilst Sinisa Stojanović endeavours to interest others in Buddhist psychology at Nis University.

Although students are encouraged to cultivate original theses, none have been published by (the external) commercial houses. However, a large number of books and articles have appeared. Apart from Veljačić's two-volume study (see above), the most notable are "Old Indian Literature" by R. Katičić and "A Thousand Lotuses" edited by Mrs Vesna Krmpotic. The former comprises a detailed history of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit literature whilst the latter is an anthology of Indian literature translated from European sources. Dr Čičak-Chand has also produced a dissertation to illustrate Buddhist influence on a native poet: *Indija u djelima Tina Ujevića* ("India in the work of Tin Ujević", Zagreb 1976). Translation from the Pali Canon by Boris and Rujana Kren have appeared in Belgrade and Zagreb periodicals. An independent study, *Druga znanja* ("Other Knowledges", Belgrade 1975) by Dusan Pajin, dealt with Buddhism as part of the Indian meditative traditions.

It is worth noting that some of the lecturers and writers mentioned above have also delivered public lectures and even given radio talks.

Translated Texts and Anthologies

Iveković, Rada: "Riječi nauke" ("Words of the teaching"—from the Dhammapada; *Kolo* 10, Zagreb 1969)

"Buddhičstika pālijska književnost: Jātaka" (Buddhist Pali literature: three Jātaka stories", *Encyclopaedia Moderna* 17, Zagreb 1971)

"Problem apsoluta u buddhizmu" ("The problem of the absolute in Buddhism"—with translation of the Māra Sutta, S XXIII, 1; *Praxis* 3-4, Zagreb 1973)

Kren, Boris: "Izvesnost Buddhine riječi" ("The Certainty of Words" with D 1, 22 and M 118; *Ideje* 5-6, Belgrade 1973)

"Plemenita istina o izviranju bola" ("The Noble Truth of the Arising of Pain" with D 15; *Encyclopaedia Moderna* 24, Zagreb 1973)

Kren, Rujana: "Riječi u stihu" ("Words in Verses"—Sn I 11, II 2, 10, III 8, 9 and IV 1; *Forum* 9, Zagreb 1975)

"Buddhin poetični izričaj" ("The Buddha's poetical words" with S I 13, 19, 62, 64, 67, 76 and IV 21; A II 4 ii, III 11 vi; Sn I 2, IV 5, 15—*Dometi* 11, Rijeka 1976)

Krmpotić, Vesna: *Hiljadu lotosa* ("A Thousand Lotuses", Belgrade 1971). Includes the Dhammapada.

Veljačić, Cedomil: "Život i nauka Gotama Bude" ("The life and teaching of of Gotama the Buddha"—the enlightenment and First Sermon from the Mahāvagga; *Republika* 1, Zagreb 1956)

Filosofija istočnih naroda (I—"Indian Philosophy", Zagreb 1958, repr. 1979). Includes a chapter on Pali Buddhism and translations of D 2, 9, 11, M 44 and extracts from the Milindapañha.

"Pjesma o nosorogu" ("The Rhinoceros"—Sn I, 3; *Telegram* 356, Zagreb 1967) "Tālaputo: pjesma vlastitom srcu" ("Tālaputo: a poem to one's heart" from the Theragāthā; *Kolo* 6, Zagreb 1968)

"Iz rane buddhističke lirike" ("From early Buddhist lyrics", *Telegram* 484, Zagreb 1969)

"Nekoliko sporednih tema u Buddhinu stavu prema religiji" ("Some controversial points in the Buddha's attitude towards religion"—with S XXII 61, 86, 89, 95 and XXIII 1-12; Zagreb 1971)*

"Tri Buddhina govora" ("Three discourses of the Buddha"—S XXII 60; *Encyclopaedia Moderna* 20, Zagreb 1972)*

"Buddhin govor o plodu isposničkog života iz zbirke dugih govora" (The Buddha's talk on the fruits of a recluse's life"—D 2; *ibid* 24, 1973)*

"Problem nistavila u buddhističkoj filozofiji" ("The problem of nothingness in Buddhist philosophy" with M 121 and S XLI 7; *Praxis* 3-4, Zagreb 1973)*

"Buddhini govori o religiji" ("The Buddha's talks on religion"—an introduction with M 95 and Sn I 12; *Dometi* 11, Rijeka 1976)*

Pjesme prosjaka i prosjakinja (Sarajevo 1977). A selection from the Thera-therīgāthā.

N.B. Veljačić's translations of D 2, M 95 and 121, S I 3 and a selection from the Thera-therīgāthā were also duplicated at the Cetiyagiri Aranna, Pallepola, near Matale, Sri Lanka, between-1970-72.

General Studies

Dvorniković, Vladimir: *Hrist, Budha, Sopenhauer* (Zagreb 1925). Includes one third on Buddhism documented from German sources including Nyanatiloka's anthology, "The Word of the Buddha".

Ivekovic, Rada: *Knjizevnost pāli* ("Pali Literature", Dept of Inodolgy, Zagreb University 1969)

"Milinda i Nāgasena" (*Knjizevna smotra* 16, Zagreb 1973)

Problem sopstva i apsoluta u ranom buddhizmu "The problem of self and the absolute in early Buddhism", Dept of Philosophy, Zagreb University 1974)

"Rani buddhizam" ("Early Buddhism", *Forum* 4-5, Zagreb 1974)

Rana buddhistička misao ("Early Buddhist Thought", Sarajevo 1977)

Katičić, Radoslav: *Stara indijska knjizvnost* ("Old Indian Literature"—Buddhist section pp. 147-213; Zagreb 1973)

- Pandeya, R. C.: "Metafizički temelji buddhističke teorije spoznaje" ("Metaphysical foundations of the Buddhist theory of knowledge", *Praxis* 3-4, Zagreb 1973)
- Stojanovic, Jovan: "Buda" (*Misao*, Belgrade 1924). The first serious article on Buddhism in a Yugoslav magazine.
- Stojanović, Sinisa: "Budistički model meditacije" ("The Buddhist model of meditation", *Gradina* 1-2, Nis 1974). Considered inaccurate and misleading.
- Suchy, Jos: *Uvod v Buddhizem* ("An Introduction to Buddhism", Ljubljana 1921)
- Veljačić, Cedomil: "Djāna, apstraktna umjetnost buddhističke meditacije" I ("Jhāna, the abstract art of Buddhist meditation", *Praxis* 1-2, Zagreb 1967)*
- "Apstraktna umjetnost buddhističke kontemplacije" II ("The abstract art of Buddhist contemplation", *Praxis* 5-6, Zagreb 1969)*
- "Fenomenologija mističkog dozivljaja s buddhistickog stanovista" (Phenomenology of the mystic experience from the Buddhist point of view", *Praxis* 1-2, Zagreb 1970)
- "Oldazak u beskućnike" ("Leaving the world", *Kolo* 9, Zagreb 1971) *Budizam* (Belgrade 1977). Collected essays comprising those marked * above
- Razmeda azijskih filosofija* ("The Medians of Asian Philosophies", 2 vols., Zagreb 1978). I includes "Jainism and Buddhism" and II includes "The Development of Buddhist Philosophy—the basis of the cultural-historical unity of Asia".