Marijana Jakšić
Public Library "Stefan Prvovencani", Kraljevo

DIGITIZATION OF MIODRAG M. PEŠIĆ LITERARY WORK

Abstract. In this paper the procedure of digitization of literary work of Miodrag M. Pešić, famous for translating Russian literature, is described. Pešić was the first to translate Yesenin into Serbian language. He also translated Pushkin, Chekhov, Blok, Pasternak, Turgenev, Bryusov, Lyeskov, Petrov and other numerous Russian authors. Besides translating he was writing reviews, critics, articles, novelized biographies, essays. Printed copies of these books are kept in local history department of the Public Library in Kraljevo. Their digital copies are to be found on kraljevcani.rs website. He worked as a teacher of Serbian language as well, but the longest period as a librarian. The Library in Kraljevo owns a significant fund of manuscript legacy of this author, librarian, translator.

Keywords. Miodrag M. Pešić, digitized works, author, translator.

Miodrag M. Pešić was born 7th February, 1897 in Kraljevo. He finished elementary school in Kraljevo. At the suggestion of the Žiča Eparchy, and at his mother's request, Pešić continues his education at the School of Theology in Belgrade. As an impoverished student, he was educated for free. During World War I, Milan Mitrović, Pešić's uncle, a captain at the Serbian Army's Supreme Command, took Miodrag M. Pešić along the Ibar Gorge toward Albania. In the article "Unpublished Poems" of Milutin Bojić, Pešić reads: "I remember a beautiful autumn day, Niš in 1914, and meeting Bojić; then retreat through Albania and a difficult refugee life."

In 1916 Serbian students were evacuated to France across Italy. Miodrag M. Pešić was first sent to England, for a short period of time. Serbian Government in exile, then, sent him to Russia, to a town Vladimir on Klyazma, where he finished Gymnasium. He, then, went to Moscow in 1917 and enrolled for the Faculty for History and Philology on State University.

He left Moscow for Kraljevo in 1920. On his return he received the placement of a Serbian language teacher in Gymnasium and the School for Teachers in Aleksinac, by Ministry of Education. In this new environment he was translating Yesenin and Mayakovsky, recording folk expressions and toasts. Since 1925 he lived and worked in Belgrade as a librarian in The National Theatre. The longest period of his career Miodrag M. Pešić spent as a librarian in The National Library of Serbia – from 4th April in 1928 to his retirement on 25th March in 1953. He was promoted to the "manager" in 1937 at the initiative of the Minister of Education.

He died on 30th June in 1979, in Zemun, and was burried on the New Cemetery in Belgrade.

Figure 1. Miodrag M. Pešić (1897-1979)

Miodrag M. Pešić spent his whole life studying Russian literature, which he translated very successfully. It could be stated that some of his translations are better than the original works. He translated over 50 prose and poetry books from Russian. Crucial point in Pešić's literary work was meeting Sergei Yesenin[1] in 1919. That year he also began translating Yesenin work. He published his first book on Yesenin in 1931. The book was published by the Committee for Commemoration of Fifth Anniversary of Yesenin's Death at the National University.

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[1] The bibliography records 21 books, numerous articles in different magazines and 50 years of literary work as a dedication to this poet.
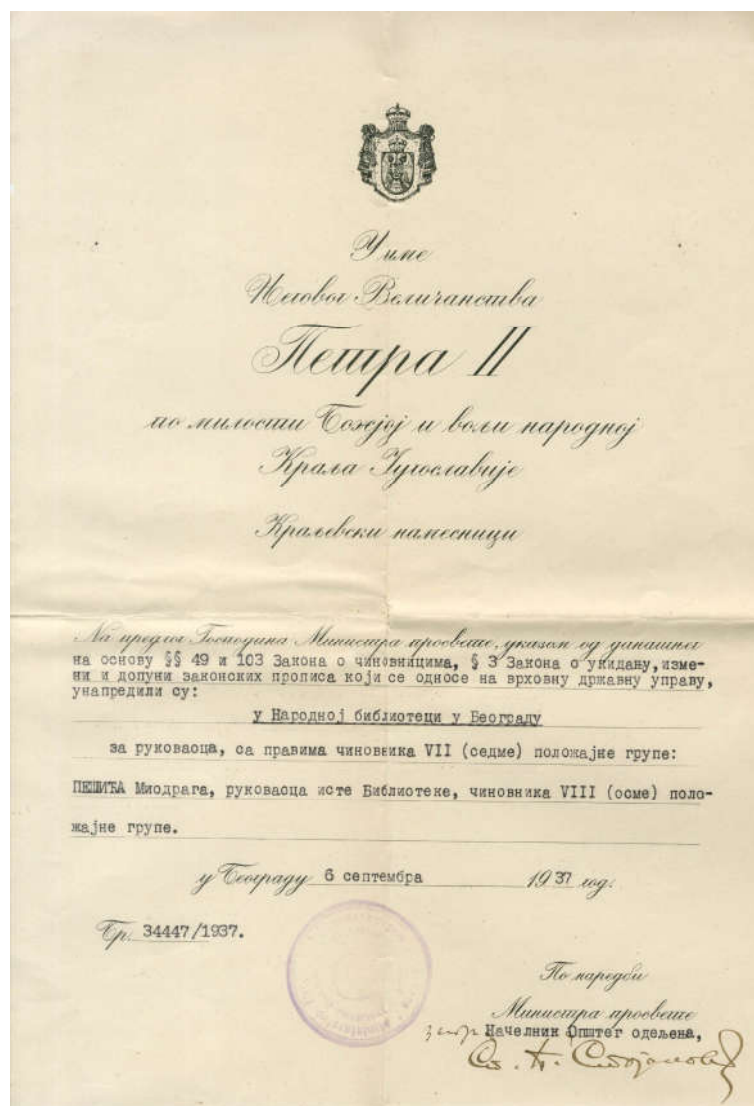
Figure 2. Promoting M. M. Pešić to the manager

Pešić was the first to translate Yesenin to Serbian language. Yesenin became the most read poet in our country, thanks to the mastery of his work. Besides being the translator, he wrote reviews, articles, critics and novelized biographies from Serbian and Russian literature. He compiled an anthology of Russian poetry "From Pushkin to Yevtushenko"[2], which represented 30 poets with over 125 poems, and he wrote and arranged Chekhov in 14 books, as well as the entire work of Turgenev in 20 books. The significant part of his translating and writing essays he dedicated to Aleksander Blok and Boris Pasternak's poetry. He edited literary magazines "Volja" and "Život", and published special editions as well. He was the editor of many piece of works. He edited the library "Ljudi i dela". The most famous Pešić works are: "Sergey Yesenin" (1931), "New Yesenin" (1933), "Isidora Dunkan Love" (1933), "Puskin" (1937), "Contemporary writers" (1940), "Sergey Yesenin: life and work" (1957), "Yesenin today" (1962), "From Puskin to Yevtusenko" (1967) and "Saloon of Russian Writers" (1970). All these works, as well as the significant manuscript legacy of this author are kept on the local history department in "Stefan Prvovenčani" Public Library in Kraljevo.

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[2] *Od Puškina do Jevtušenka: antologija ruske poezije* / M. M. Pešić, Sarajevo: Svjetlost, 1967.

Figure 3. M. M. Pešić welcomed Branislav Nušić to Kraljevo

Digitization

The first phase of digitization was to scan the entire literary work of Miodrag M. Pešić. The scanning fund was in the local history department of the Library in Kraljevo. The local history department was formed in 1976. It collects, possesses and preserves book as well as non-book material about Kraljevo and its citizens. The author of this paper came into possession of some translations by taking books from other libraries across Serbia. The total number of scanned pages is 3344, in standard resolution of 300 dpi and in jpg format. The scans are clear and can be enlarged to allow easy reading. Because the A3 scanner format allows you to scan two pages at a time, the texts are then cropped in such a way that each page is a separate picture, to which the Library's watermark is added as a type of copyright protection.

Processing and availability

The local history department of "Stefan Prvovenčani" Public Library in Kraljevo created its own unique software for processing book and non-book fund and – KNP software. KNP is a copyright protected work of advisor librarian Emilija Dimovska and computer programmer dr Goran Miodragović. The software package is in compliance with the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) for all types of material respectively. The material processed in this software could be searched according to several criteria: author, title, topic, keyword, time, place and language. The Department's collection of monographic publications is the only one processed in the Cobiss[3] system, while all other types of the fund go through the process in KNP programme. Total of 645 library units of Pešić's literary work were analytically processed and these are searchable at all mentioned criteria.

Figure 4. KNP (book, non-book material and periodicals) application

To make this material visible and available to all the users, without spatial and time constraints, it is posted on kraljevcani.rs website. On Kraljevo and Kraljevcani website the paper is searched by: keywords, title, author, place, time and language, just as it is processed in KNP software.

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[3] Co-operative Online Bibliographic System and Services

Figure 5. Digitized translation example posted on the website

Conclusion

Local history department of Libraries have the mission to make local culture heritage easily accessible to wider range of users, and to demonstrate library resources making them attractive for bigger number of potential users. The digitization process has taken a long time, starting with scanning documents, placing watermarks, entering metadata, posting online, but Miodrag M. Pešić's translation and literary work will be preserved. This is the least one library and the city he was born in can do for such a prolific writer.

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marijana.jaksic77@gmail.com