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## **PER ASPERA: A LATIN-SLOVENIAN DICTIONARY 113 YEARS IN THE MAKING (1894–2007)**

*Abstract:* Even at the European level, few books have been so long in the making as the great Latin-Slovenian dictionary. The central figure and driving force behind it was its editor-in-chief, the Slovenian philologist, pedagogue and lexicographer Fran Wiesthaler. The dictionary took 113 years to finalise, passing through the hands of two editors, three teams and over seventy collaborators. Comprising six volumes of altogether 4,166 pages and over 48,000 entries, it is the most ambitious enterprise of Slovenian classical philology.

### **1. PRECURSORS**

While the Slovenian lexicography of the classical languages lacks the rich tradition of certain other European nations (German, French, Italian etc.), the territory of present-day Slovenia witnessed lexicographic activity as early as the Middle Ages, as attested by preserved dictionary manuscripts. Some budding attempts at Slovenian dictionaries of the classical languages are found in the work of the Slovenian Protestants, who were the first to translate the Latin lexicon into Slovenian. The *Abecedarium* (1550) by Primož Trubar, for example, renders 86 words in Slovenian; Sebastijan Krelj furnished his 1566 *Children's Bible* (*Otročja biblija*) with the first short Latin-Slovenian list, comprising 24 words; Adam Bohorič accompanied his Latin-German-Slovenian abecedarium, *The Ljubljana Primer* (*Elementale Labacense*), with a glossary, *A Word List of Three Languages* (*Nomenclatura trium linguarum*), which was designed for studying the Latin lexicon with the aid of Slovenian or German. Last but not least, there was Jurij Dalmatin with his *Register* to the Bible translation.

A special place in the history of Slovenian lexicography is held by the German humanist and polymath, Hieronymus Megiser (1555–1619). Of his published works (over 40), the most important for the

Slovenian language and literature are: (a) *A Dictionary of Four Languages* (*Dictionarium quatuor linguarum*), a German-Latin-Slovenian-Italian dictionary, the first to have compiled systematically a large portion of the Slovenian lexicon (first published at Graz in 1592, it contained 8,575 words), and (b) *A Multilingual Treasure Trove* (*Thesaurus polyglottus*), published in Frankfurt in 1603, which included c. 8,500 Latin and 10,445 Slovenian words. Megiser's dictionaries served as models for later lexicographers as well, most notably for the following three. Matija Kastelec (1620–1688) compiled a Latin-Slovenian dictionary, originally titled *Dictionarium latino-carniolicum*, which remained unpublished. This dictionary was complemented and prepared for publication by Gregor Vorenc; the latter's work, however, remained in manuscript as well. A separate dictionary, *Dictionarium trilingue*, was undertaken but left unfinished by the Capuchin friar Hippolytus of Novo Mesto, a Slovenian grammarian and religious writer, whose real name was Janez Adam Gaiger (1667–1722).

Another lexicographer to be mentioned is Sebastijan Žepič, who taught the classical languages in Croatia and published, together with Mirko Divković, Matija Valjavec and Franjo Petračić, a Latin-Croatian dictionary (*Latinsko-hrvatski rječnik*) in 1881; in addition, he co-edited the Divković dictionary for schools (*Latinsko-hrvatski rječnik za škole*, Zagreb 1900).

## 2. BEGINNINGS

The most pressing educational issue for the Slovenians during the Austro-Hungarian rule was the issue of Slovenian as the teaching language. Both Slovenian teachers and politicians had fought a long time, ever since the revolution of 1848, to enable the Slovenian senior high school ('gymnasium') students to study the school subjects in their native Slovenian tongue, although the official teaching language was German. This was particularly relevant for Latin and Ancient Greek, which were allotted as much as 45 per cent of the lessons in the curriculum. The Austrian government assented, but only on condition that the Slovenian teachers provided the necessary textbooks themselves, including the dictionary. In the case of Greek, no textbook or handbook was available in Slovenian until the beginning of the 20th century, so it continued to be taught in German. For Latin, by contrast, suitable textbooks and teaching materials were gradually provided by the Slovenian teachers, but all attempts at a Latin dictionary failed. In the 1890s the problem acquired political dimensions as well. The issue of a Latin-Slovenian dictionary, as the last obstacle to the

establishment of Slovenian in the teaching of Latin, was even discussed in the Carniolan provincial diet; at the invitation of Slovenian delegates, the high school principals put forward the names of the teachers willing to participate in the project.<sup>1</sup> The work on the Latin-Slovenian dictionary was to be organised by an elected board which included five esteemed Slovenian classical philologists: Fran Wiesthaler as head, Maks Pleteršnik, Rajko Perušek, Ljudevit Lederhas, and Lovro Požar. They drew up a scheme of work and gathered collaborators; the chosen head of the project and editor-in-chief was Fran Wiesthaler. It was agreed that the dictionary compilers should model their work on the Latin-German dictionary by Joseph Maria Stowasser and on the Latin-Croatian dictionary by Sebastijan Žepič, taking into account other comprehensive Latin-German dictionaries as well (Freund, Georges, Heinischen, Klotz). For scholarly and pedagogical reasons, however, the dictionary should not be a mere translation but a relatively independent work in its own right.

The project, which initially included 13 participating philologists, was launched in December 1895. The original plan was for the dictionary to include the lexicon of the Latin classics, from the early period to Late Antiquity; at the request of several priests and lawyers, it was subsequently expanded to include the Vulgate, numerous Christian writings, and legal texts. The plan was approved by the then provincial government,<sup>2</sup> but trouble was soon afoot: some of the collaborators were forced to give up the task for reasons of health, while others found themselves unable to reconcile it with their professional duties. As a result, the work progressed slowly, the brunt of it falling on Wiesthaler himself.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, he was even exempted from pedagogical duties and granted a study leave to work on the dictionary, which was a rarity at the time.<sup>4</sup> By 1906, the handwritten material was mainly ready, and the editor-in-chief was able to begin the redaction process.<sup>5</sup> The year 1913 brought the prediction that the dictionary could go into print within a year, despite the exorbitant printing costs expected.<sup>6</sup> In

<sup>1</sup> Hriberšek (2005), 168–175; 303–308.

<sup>2</sup> ODZK, vol. 36 (1896), 244–246 (the annual report on the activity of the Carniolan provincial diet between January 1 and the end of December 1895).

<sup>3</sup> Pajk (1900), 10; *Latinsko-slovenski slovar*. SN 1871, no. 137; Hriberšek (2002), 88–90; Wiesthaler (1896/97), III–VI + 1–38; LSZg 25 (1897), 127; NALj, P no. 481/46, Legacy of Dr Franc Jere.

<sup>4</sup> ODZK, vol. 40 (1900), 204 (the annual report on the activity of the Carniolan provincial diet between October 1, 1898, and the end of September 1899).

<sup>5</sup> SN 1906, no. 69 (report on a poll on Slovenian textbooks); Ilešič (1910), 475; Ilešič (1911), 568; Ilešič (1912), 484.

<sup>6</sup> Ilešič (1913), 553.

July 1914, Wiesthaler finished the editing process and requested that the dictionary be published, but the publication was prevented by the outbreak of World War I.

The post-war financing of the project was undertaken by the diocese of Ljubljana, on the initiative of the Ljubljana bishop, Anton Bonaventura Jeglič. At the suggestion of his colleagues, the editor-in-chief decided to preface the dictionary with an outline of the historical development of the Latin language, written by Dr Josip Tominšek, one of the most eminent Slovenian philologists.<sup>7</sup> The preparations for printing took about two years, as this was one of the largest and technically most varied printing jobs undertaken in Slovenia up to that time. The original plan was to print two dictionaries at the same time: a larger scholarly edition with a print run of 1,500 copies and a smaller school edition (approximately half its size) in 2,000 copies. The year 1923 saw the printing and publication of a test volume, which included the entries from *A* to *extimesco*, to elicit a professional public opinion of the project.<sup>8</sup> In 1923 and 1924, however, the damage caused by floods reduced the Ljubljana diocese to such financial straits that it was obliged to withdraw its subsidy for the printing costs. By 1925, when the printing was brought to a halt, 31 pages of the introduction and 63 printer's sheets of the dictionary (entries from *A* to *facilis*) had been printed. The editor, Wiesthaler, did not live to see the publication of his life's work: he died on January 26, 1927.

After Wiesthaler's death, the dictionary passed under the auspices of the 'Friends of the Humanist High School' Society (Društvo prijateljev humanistične gimnazije),<sup>9</sup> whose pillar was the Slovenian pedagogue, Greek scholar and Bible translator Franc Jerè. He applied for subsidy in June 1929 to the then Yugoslav government<sup>10</sup> and to several foreign foundations (Carnegie, Rockefeller), but to no avail.<sup>11</sup> In 1935 the printed material, which had been waiting at the printer's for 10 years, was assembled into the first 200 copies;<sup>12</sup> by

<sup>7</sup> Izvestja DSP (1919), 2; 16; 22; 32–33.

<sup>8</sup> Wiesthaler (1923).

<sup>9</sup> The 'Friends of the Humanist High School' Society, modelled on its Austrian counterpart, had as its primary objective the preservation of humanist education and culture in the interbellum period, especially the continued instruction in Latin and Greek at the Slovenian high schools. See Hriberšek (2004).

<sup>10</sup> NALj, P no. 481/46, Legacy of Dr Franc Jere – Report on the Wiesthaler dictionary sent to Minister Korošec (June 11, 1929).

<sup>11</sup> The Fifth Epistle by the 'Friends of the Humanist High School' Society (Ljubljana, October 1, 1931), 8.

<sup>12</sup> The Seventh Epistle by the 'Friends of the Humanist High School' Society (Ljubljana, March 1935), 15.

1940 the Society, aided by the Ljubljana bishop Gregorij Rožman, had bought the rest of the dictionary manuscript from Wiesthaler's heirs<sup>13</sup> and suggested that the work be continued by Dr Fran Bradač, a university professor at the Ljubljana Classics Department,<sup>14</sup> while four eminent scholars were suggested as project supervisors and assistants: Professor Dragotin Oštir, Professor Milan Grošelj, Josip Osana, and Anton Sovrè (the last two were high school teachers in Ljubljana). The project was interrupted by another war in the spring of 1941. On April 28, 1941, the diocesan St Stanislav's Institution – the residence of the dictionary's guardian Franc Jerè – was seized by the German army. All teachers had to vacate the premises within an hour; of all the precious materials kept in his apartment, Jerè took only the crate containing the Latin dictionary manuscript, which he gradually revised during the war, preparing it for publication.<sup>15</sup> After the war, he was directed by Bishop Anton Vovk to hand over the manuscript, along with the printed copies, to the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA),<sup>16</sup> where the manuscript continued to gather dust for 40 years. Why? There were a number of reasons. Firstly, the Academy never amassed the financial means to continue working on the dictionary because priority was given to other projects. Secondly, after World War II, the subjects of Latin and Greek grew increasingly suspect and persecuted; the year 1958 even witnessed the abolition of classical high schools in Slovenia, the only former Yugoslav republic to have taken such measures. And, thirdly, the postwar regime had little sympathy with cultural enterprises of this kind.

### 3. THE RENAISSANCE OF THE DICTIONARY

The renaissance of the dictionary dawned in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the Slovenian publishing house Kres decided to revive this large project, despite the publishing and financial risks involved.<sup>17</sup> The first issue to be settled was the copyright held by the Slovenian Catholic Church. In contrast to the state institutions, whose

<sup>13</sup> The Ninth Epistle by the 'Friends of the Humanist High School' Society (Ljubljana, June 1938), 15.

<sup>14</sup> NALj, P no. 481/46, Legacy of Dr Franc Jere – Report on the Wiesthaler dictionary sent to Minister Korošec (June 11, 1929).

<sup>15</sup> Manuscript collection of the SASA Library, R 80/2 – Letter from Fr. Jere to the SASA (August 20, 1949).

<sup>16</sup> NALj, P no. 481/46, Legacy of Dr Franc Jere – Letter from Bishop Vovk, dated July 30, 1949, no. 2111; P no. 481/46 (September 27, 1946; General Secretary Fran Ramovš).

<sup>17</sup> The publisher's address: Založba Kres d.o.o., Dunajska cesta 158, SI-1000 Ljubljana; e-mail: info@zalozba-kres.si.

financial support for the dictionary project was outrageously scarce, significant aid was provided by the then Slovenian metropolitan archbishop, Dr Alojzij Šuštar, who recognised the exceptional importance of the project and allowed the publisher to use the dictionary materials, both the printed and handwritten ones, to prepare a new edition; moreover, he refused all financial reimbursement, and continued to offer moral support to the project for the rest of his life.

According to the first optimistic predictions, all six envisaged volumes of the dictionary were to appear before 2000, that is, at the rate of roughly one volume per 1.5 years. Given the required support from the pertinent institutions and an unslackening pace of work, this would have been feasible; unfortunately, the plan was hindered by the scarcity of the state funding. The brunt of the financial burden fell on the publisher, and the project was beset by financial difficulties until its completion at the end of 2007.

The year 1991 marked the beginning of the first volume out of the envisaged six. The publishing house gathered the first team of collaborators, three university students of Latin on the point of graduation: Bronislava Aubelj, Ksenija Geister, and Renata Hrovatič. Under the supervision of two esteemed Slovenian philologists, Professor Erika Mihevc Gabrovec and Professor Kajetan Gantar, a member of the Slovenian Academy, they set to work, which included copying, revising and updating the dictionary material already printed (the entries from *A* to *facilis*). Their method and guidelines of work are described by Professor Gantar in his *Preface* to the first volume of the dictionary, including the main dilemma faced by the new team: should the printed text be preserved in the original form and merely reprinted? Again, should the handwritten material be copied and published without revisions? Or should both be updated? Adopting the latter course, the team took four years to process the entries from *A* to *ex*, publishing the first two volumes by 1995 (the *A–Col* volume in 1993 and the *Coll–Ex* volume in 1995). At this point, the three team members graduated, found regular employment, and terminated their collaboration.

Late in 1997 the project was taken over by a new team, headed by the author of the present paper. The team's first task was to expand and unify the guidelines for processing the dictionary material, to regularise the abbreviations, and to adjust the digital layout. The first team's task had been made far easier by the fact that they were revising a text which had already been printed, published, and carefully proof-read by the editor, Wiesthaler. The rest of the dictionary (the letters

*F–Z*), by contrast, was preserved in a manuscript which had undergone a single revision – the editor's corrections and additions to the imperfect manuscript materials obtained from his fellow workers. The copyists of the handwritten materials for the third volume were engaged by the publisher, while help with the fourth volume was solicited by the new editor-in-chief from the undergraduates studying Latin at the Classics Department of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. The initial concern about their response to this additional workload soon proved unjustified; there were as many as 26 student volunteers. Substantially relieved by their help, the professional members of the team were able to focus on the more demanding tasks, such as revising, expanding, unifying and updating the dictionary materials. By the completion of the project in 2007, when the sixth volume was published, over 60 undergraduates had assisted in its preparation.

The Latin entries and Latin examples presented little difficulty; the greatest problem in treating the handwritten material was the archaic language of the Slovenian equivalents, explanations, and translations of quotations. The Slovenian used by the original dictionary compilers belonged to their own era, which made it about a hundred years old. In the meanwhile, the language had undergone so many changes that this archaic idiom, unless brought up to date, would have posed the greatest difficulty to the dictionary users and severely reduced the usefulness of the dictionary. Thus it was necessary to modernise the Slovenian lexicon, while some old-fashioned expressions were retained as being of interest to both translators and linguists. Without the revision and modernisation of the Slovenian lexicon, the dictionary would be difficult and often well-nigh impossible to use.

The handwritten dictionary material is preserved on approximately 27,000 scraps of paper. Written by various hands (depending on which author was responsible for a given letter), most of them also contain editorial notes by the editor-in-chief, Wiesthaler. Since the handwritten materials remain valuable documents and objects of interest to researchers of the Slovenian language, they were returned to the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts on completion of the project in 2007.

#### 4. THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Of the characteristics of the dictionary, the following may be foregrounded:

(1) Originality. – With little aspiration to novelty or independence, the Wiesthaler dictionary largely drew on the extant foreign dictionaries. At the time of its compilation, originality was out of the question: the Slovenian teachers working on it were far too preoccupied. A project on this scale was further precluded by the meagre funding, for the government, enthusiastic at first, later showed a complete lack of interest. Thus the dictionary was compiled by drawing on and adapting foreign dictionaries, which was the only possibility for the Slovenians to acquire a dictionary in a reasonable time. The primary source of lexicographic material was the *Ausführliches lateinisch-deutsches Handwörterbuch* by Karl Ernst Georges, which remains the standard Latin-German dictionary to this day; it served Wiesthaler as the source of most entries, as well as the model for their presentation and style of citation. In addition, the dictionary compilers arguably leant on the following:

- (a) *A Latin Dictionary* by Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short, which is itself based on the English translation of a German dictionary of Latin, written by Wilhelm Freund (*Wörterbuch der lateinischen Sprache*);<sup>18</sup>
- (b) *Lateinisch-deutsches Wörterbuch* by Friedrich Adolph Heinichen;
- (c) *Handwörterbuch der lateinischen Sprache* by Reinhold Klotz;
- (d) the German, French and English encyclopedias available at the time.

A particularly valuable aid proved to be the *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (ed. P.G.W. Glare). This dictionary, easily the greatest achievement of Latin lexicography in the last 100 years, greatly speeded up the work with its comprehensiveness, accuracy, and clarity, as well as its innovative approach to the dictionary entries.

In terms of its time-span, the dictionary includes lexicon ranging from the oldest records written in the Latin language, such as the *fibula Praenestina*, to pagan and Christian texts of Late Antiquity, which were added later. Wiesthaler's selection of authors is wide but not all-embracing, presumably based on his expectations of what might be required for school use or professional work. His treatment of the church writers is limited to the lexicon of some of the key Christian authors, a fact which may be attributed to the lack of time as well as to the concept of the dictionary, for these authors' lexicon was origi-

<sup>18</sup> Translated into English by E. A. Andrews.

nally excluded. The authors omitted include some geometers, some postclassical authors and grammarians, and some authors whose work is preserved in scanty fragments. However, since the present publication is the very first edition of the dictionary, its defects and mistakes may hopefully be corrected in one of the subsequent editions (in book or electronic form), while the missing entries may be published as a supplement. The scarcity of time enabled only three proofreadings: an editorial, a linguistic and a final one, while the ambition to read the text four times at least was foiled by the lack of both time and collaborators.

(2) Etymologies. – Many of the entries were furnished by Wiesthaler with detailed etymologies, tracing their development from Indo-European to Latin as well as their relation to other ancient and modern languages (Greek, Greek dialects, Sanskrit, Italic and Germanic languages, Slavic languages, especially Slovenian, Lithuanian etc.). All etymologies have been preserved but revised according to the recent findings of the discipline. In addition to the standard etymological dictionaries of Latin and Greek, great help has been provided by the two Slovenian etymological dictionaries: *Etimološki slovar slovenskega jezika* by France Bezljaj and *Slovenski etimološki slovar* by Marko Snoj.

(3) Synonyms. – The meanings of the entries and sub-entries are expanded with synonyms for the benefit of users and translators, often surpassing the number of synonyms provided in other European dictionaries of Latin. The dictionary gives suggestions rather than instructions. For example:

strīdor -ōris, *m* vsak nečist, brneč glas = cvrčanje, brnenje, piskanje, sičanje, sikanje, žvižganje, bučanje, šum, šumenje, šumljanje, vršanje, vršenje, drskljanje, prasketanje, pokanje, pokljanje, brenčanje, škripanje, rožljanje, hrup, hrupenje, hrušč, hrup, hrumenje, delanje (zganjanje) hrupa (trušča), kričanje, vriskanje, vpitje, vreščanje, šumotanje, hreščanje, ropot, ropotanje, grmenje, grmot, grmotanje, žvenket, žvenketanje, žvenkljanje, žuborenje, žubor ipd.

(4) Latin examples. – To spare the users the time-consuming search through the original Latin texts, many entries have been expanded with a number of Latin examples, which run to thousands in the six volumes.

(5) Slovenisation of terms and names. – Since the comprehensiveness and precision of the dictionary were expected to make it a

fundamental study aid for classical philology, as well as for its cognate and auxiliary disciplines, it was necessary to Slovenise or suitably adapt the technical terminology, numerous terms and names (*unimammae*, *Quodsemelarripides* etc.). All ancient names and their adjectival derivations are Slovenised.<sup>19</sup>

(6) The encyclopedic nature of the dictionary. – Many entries surpass lexicographic standards. A number of technical terms (e.g. from the domain of politics, such as public functions; of religion, such as priestly functions, festivals, rites; of army life, such as army organisation or military ranks – *consul*, *tribunus* etc.) are treated almost as fully as in reference encyclopedias. Names, too, tend to be treated more exhaustively than in other dictionaries; a case in point is the entry (name) *Sulpicius*, listing as many as 24 representatives of this patrician *gens*, men and women, each with a brief characterisation. Geographical items, such as the names of cities and other settlements, regions, rivers, mountains etc., are often accompanied by their modern names.

(7) Citation. – The references are limited to authors, without citing the work or precise location within the text. This method, adopted by the original compilers from the Georges dictionary, is preserved because detailed references would considerably increase the length and size of the dictionary.

(8) Exceptions. – Unusual grammatical forms, manuscript variants, and other exceptions are included in the notes on the individual entries. The dictionary likewise encompasses those words and forms which are marked in the original texts with the *crux philologica* as *loci desperati*.

(9) Accompanying studies. – The last volume is furnished with four accompanying treatises. Dr Matjaž Babič outlines the history of the Latin language in antiquity, while the editor, Dr Matej Hriberšek, presents the history of Slovenian and European lexicography of the classical languages; the history of the Wiesthaler dictionary; and, finally, the key guidelines and principles for processing the lexicographic material, as well as a detailed account of the work done from the revival of the project in 1990 to its completion in 2007.

(10) Labour of love. – The Latin-Slovenian dictionary is the second largest lexicographic project in Slovenia ever. Not a state-funded project, it was prepared by a handful of enthusiasts without a

<sup>19</sup> In principle, the Slovenian rendition takes into account the rules laid down in the latest Slovenian orthography manual, *Slovenski pravopis*, published in Ljubljana in 2001 (it was consulted for the preparation of the final two volumes), but they often required complementation and elaboration.

single hour of study leave, outside their regular working hours, in their spare time and at night.

(11) Electronic aids. – Our work was facilitated by the electronic editions of classical texts and dictionaries, which have begun to appear over the last 20 years. Some of the key collections are the PHI (Packard Humanities Institute), TLG (Thesaurus Linguae Graecae), BTL (Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina), CLCLT (Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts), and Patrologia Latina, while the electronic dictionaries include the digitised Georges Latin-German dictionary, published in the Digitale Bibliothek collection, the digitised Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie *Greek-English Lexicon*, etc. Without these aids, the work would have taken much longer to complete, with far poorer results.

(12) Copyright. – The copyright holder for the dictionary is the Kres Publishing House, which had revived the project. On the other hand, since the work invested – the modernisations, revisions, numerous additions authored by the editor-in-chief – makes the dictionary an authorial work in its own right, too, the editor-in-chief wished to prevent all unauthorised interference with the dictionary material. An agreement was accordingly signed with the publisher, prohibiting all interference with the dictionary material without permission.

(13) Prospects. – The Kres Publishing House is planning to publish the entire dictionary in digital form, much as a digital version of the Georges Latin-German dictionary has been published in the framework of the ‘Digitale Bibliothek’ project (Band 69). In addition to greatly enhancing its usefulness, this digitisation will afford an opportunity for corrections, additions, and further improvement. Moreover, what is highly desirable (and has already been discussed) is the publication of an abridged edition in a single volume, to provide the Slovenian users with a professional dictionary in addition to the comprehensive scholarly one; the final task will be the preparation of a student dictionary.<sup>20</sup>

(14) Collaborators. – The project of the revised Latin-Slovenian dictionary brought together several generations of Slovenian philologists. Throughout the seventeen years of its duration, from the beginning in 1990 to the conclusion in 2007, its honorary supervisors were

<sup>20</sup> For the purposes of high-school lessons and undergraduate studies, the Slovenian students use two adapted school dictionaries: *Latinsko-slovenski slovar* by Fran Bradač, first published in 1926 and still reprinted in a revised and updated edition, and *Priročni latinsko-slovenski slovarček*, which was prepared and published in 2003 by a group of Slovenian high-school teachers of the classical languages, coordinated by Dragica Fabjan.

two Nestors of Slovenian classical philology, Professor Emerita Erika Mihevc Gabrovec and Professor Kajetan Gantar. The dictionary was revised, updated and expanded by their students: Bronislava Aubelj, Renata Hrovatič, Ksenija Geister, Matjaž Babič, Pavel Češarek, Martin Benedik, Breda Čop, Kozma Ahačič, David Movrin, Aleš Maver, Nina Vuk, Kristina Tomc, and Matej Hriberšek as the editor-in-chief. Special thanks are due to all the students of Latin who participated in copying the handwritten materials; the project could never have been completed without their help.

(15) The Latin-Slovenian dictionary and the *Latinsko-makedonski rečnik*. – The year 2001 saw the publication of *Latinsko-makedonski rečnik* by Valerij Sofronievski in Skopje. In contrast to the Latin-Slovenian dictionary, which was prepared by a numerous team, the Macedonian tome is the work of a single author. It is to be commended for its economy, which enhances its usefulness, bringing with it all the qualities of a study reference book. These virtues qualify it as a suitable model for the envisaged single-volume student dictionary.

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To sum up the statistics of the Latin-Slovenian dictionary:

- the dictionary was 113 years in the making (from 1894 to 2007);

- passed through the hands of two editors, three teams and over 70 collaborators;

- comprises six volumes of altogether 4,166 pages and 48,588 entries: (1) *A–Col*, 1993; (2) *Coll–Ex*, 1995; (3) *F–K*, 1999; (4) *L–Perf*, 2002; (5) *Perg–Sic*, 2005; (6) *Sid–Z*, 2007);

- encompasses the Latin lexicon ranging from the oldest records (7th century BC) to c. the 6th century AD, and includes 141 authors and text collections (with the exception of various glossaries, itineraries, epigraphic inscriptions, several Christian writers, and the medieval Latin lexicon).

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## SUMMARY

A Latin-Slovenian dictionary, modelled on the German and English dictionaries most widely used (Georges, Lewis-Short), was begun by Fran Wiesthaler and his fellow workers in 1894, its publication having been set by the Austro-Hungarian government as the main condition for introducing Slovenian as the language for teaching Latin at high schools. Despite the chronic political and financial hardships, it was roughly completed as early as 1914, but the lack of funds and the outbreak of World War I prevented its publication. After the war, preparations for publication were resumed thanks to sponsors, but the work came to a halt in 1925, and 1927 marked the demise of the editor, Wiesthaler. Nine years later the first volume (entries *A-facilis*) came out, only to be followed by another pause, which lasted more than fifty years. The project

was revived in the early 1990s by the Kres Publishing House, who gathered collaborators to continue the work. It was completed in 2005 with the publication of the sixth, final, volume. Further plans include an abridged study version for less demanding users, a CD edition, and a reference dictionary for school use. The Latin-Slovenian dictionary is the most ambitious enterprise of Slovenian classical philology, the second largest lexicographic project in Slovenia, and one of the most comprehensive classical language dictionaries in Europe.