

Ivan Pop, *Podkarpatská Rus: Osobnosti její historie, vědy a kultury*. Praha: Libri, 2008, 311 pp. ISBN 978-80-7277-370-1.

Ivan Pop, a historian, a Bohemist and Ruthenist, published a – in his field – unique study on the region of Subcarpathian Rus. The aim of this encyclopaedical publication is to give a systematic and well-arranged overview of all prominent figures that were somehow linked to this area: statesmen, politicians, clergymen, cultural representatives and artists as well as pedagogues, scientists, military officers and many others.

The publication consists of a preface by the author and the publisher, explanatory notes on the entries, editor's note, A to Z encyclopaedia of personalities, list of abbreviations, index, glossary, bibliography and information about the author. In the index the author also mentions those personalities not given a separate entry in the encyclopaedia as they were not attached such importance as others – for the sake of entirety, only their names, date of birth and profession are listed.

The time frame for this book cannot be determined as not even the author has set one. Included are not only ancient and medieval rulers but also important figures of the nineteenth and twentieth century that in fact form the bulk of the entries. The density of the last two centuries is naturally caused by the emergence of Ruthenian national movement and the gradual growth of political mobilization. In terms of territorial scope, the author primarily focused on personalities directly coming from the area of Subcarpathian Rus; however, some other prominent figures of other origins are listed as well. The only set requirement for inclusion is relevance of the respective individual to the history of Subcarpathian Rus or the influence on the development of this historical region.

Date of birth and death (if known) is put next to every person and crucial information from his or her life together with a description of activities related to Subcarpathian Rus follow. Entries to concrete personalities are ordered chronologically. Information that the author considers to be of major importance is highlighted in bold. There is also an image next to each figure. The extent of entry of each personality depends on the accessibility of information and author's personal judgment on the relevance of the data. Again, personalities from the modern times are given priority over those from the more distant past. Personal profiles are not conceived as biographies but the author solely limits the content of the entries in information relevant to the history of Subcarpathian Rus. Readers thus cannot expect exhaustive biographical accounts that would provide life stories of each of the personalities. However, this approach offers a new perspective on activities of numerous important statesmen and stateswomen such as Maria Theresa or Edvard Beneš.

It is certainly necessary to understand this publication from the prism of the author's origins, which can cast some doubt on its objectivity. Information included is clearly very selective, as the data had to be given in a condensed manner. Nevertheless, given its uniqueness this volume is surely a valuable handbook for scholars and anyone else interested in the history of Subcarpathian Rus.

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