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Report: Danubian Meetings of Psychologists

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REPORT

DANUBIAN MEETINGS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

September 24 – October 1, 1981

Although close to the Volga this time, it was, nevertheless, a Danubian meeting. This designation has come to be traditionally applied to “workshop” discussions of psychologists from countries through which the Danube, a European waterway, flows. However, it was not limited to psychologists from these eight Danubian countries, but contacts were established and psychologists invited from various countries of the psychological world. These Danubian meetings are attended by psychologists who want to promote and accelerate the integrating tendencies in this developing scientific domain. And this design is pursued not only in the lectures, but even more so in a particular manner in the corridors, real science lobbies. These meetings involve a week of life in common, where in contentions for psychological truths, old friendships renew and new ones form. Such was the case at three Danubian meetings of psychologists held in Czechoslovakia (Smolenice 1969, 1972, and 1974), at the fourth one in Hungary (Visegrad in 1979) and at the most recent one in the USSR (Rostov in 1981).

The fifth meeting was attended by 80 psychologists from 13 countries. They were invited “ad personam” by the organizers, the Institute of Psychology of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which cooperated in this event with the Society of Psychologists of the USSR and Yaroslavl University. The participants were ceremoniously received at the colourful Kremlin to the sounds of the famous Rostov bells with the traditional presenting of bread and salt. The opening address, given by the organizer B.F. Lomov, was followed by that of the President of the IUPS, F. Klix, the initiator of these undertakings D. Kovac, and local public officials.

The professional programme of the Fifth Meeting of Psychologists of the Danubian Countries comprised eight symposia, two evening lectures, and a round-table discussion. The orientation of the symposia was not strictly limited by the theme, but rather fell into the framework

of experimental psychology, psychophysics, psychophysiology, cognitive processes, interaction, social psychology, systems approach in psychology and miscellaneous. Thus, this involves a rather broad take from the most important domains of contemporary psychological research. Yet the programme was realized fairly representatively, for there was practically no passive participant. Moreover, the discussions always overflowed into the corridors. At one of the evening sessions, participants heard two lectures by invitation: F. Klix dealt with a micro-analytical approach to an investigation of human intelligence and D. Kovac with cooperation of paired systems in man within the context of cognitive processes and personality. The round-table discussion on psychodiagnostics was lively and judicious.

As has already been implied, the Danubian meetings of psychologists have outgrown the pure framework of professional events. This time the extramural programme involved primarily attractive sight-seeing tours of architectural monuments. The meeting itself was in fact localized in the so-called "Golden Ring" of Old Russia, in which the towns of Rostov, Yaroslavl, and Pereslav-Zalesky are true treasures of world culture.

And far more could be said that is characteristic of these informal encounters of psychologists. One feature, however, is of a major impact. It is an effort to set up a system of one single psychology, as underlined in the closing address also by F. Klix. The professional public may become convinced of it also from the proceedings which will appear in the *Psikhologichesky zhurnal* (in Russian) and in *Studia Psychologica* (in English) in 1982. At the moment, preparations are going on for the sixth such meeting to be held in Austria (in 1983 or 1984).

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