

Dusan Polansky

ANTONIN HORAK – GENERAL OVERVIEW

Povzetek

ANTONIN HORAK – SPLOŠNI PREGLED

Prispevek je uvod v delo Antonina Horaka in njegovo kariero kot priznanega filmskega ustvarjalca in fotografa. Vsebina se osredotoča na njegova dela, ki obravnavajo izvor Slovanov in na njegov poskus branja etruščanskih in njim sorodnih napisov na osnovi slovanskih jezikov. Cilj tega prispevka je razdeliti Horakovo delo na tri kategorije.

Kategorija 1: Teze, ki jih smatram kot napačne ali zelo malo verjetne, n.pr. predzgodovinska prisotnost Slovanov na Koreji in/ali Ameriki.

Kategorija 2: Teze, ki bi jih lahko sprejeli kot veljavne na osnovi nadaljnjih raziskav, n.pr. slovanske značilnosti v napisih v pisavi Linear B ali celo Linear A.

Kategorija 3: Teze, ki imajo znatno veljavo, n.pr. prisotnost slovansko govorečih ljudstev v pred-rimski Italiji.

Na kraju postavljam te Horakove teze, ki se zde pravilne, v okvir sodobnih idej o izvoru Indo-evropejcev, torej Kurganske hipoteze Marije Gimbutas, novejše teorije Colina Renfrewja in še novejše Teorije paleolitske kontinuitete Maria Alinei-a in novih genetskih raziskav. Prvovrsten prispevek Antonina Horaka k reševanju teh vprašanj je, da je pripisal slovanske jezike miroljubnim neolitskim poljedelskim kulturam Vzhodne Evrope.

Introduction

Antonin Horak, 1918 - 2004, lived in Zlin, the Czech Republic, for the most of his life. He graduated from Masaryk's Experimental School - secondary level education reflecting Tomas Bata's views on education. His lifelong profession was filmmaking, e.g. participation on the notable films *Cesta do Praveku*, 1955 and *Vynalez Zkazy*, 1958 as a cameraman. Later on, he created his own animated films, like *Alarm*, 1962 and *Zena Ruze Skritek Zlost*, 1969. Besides filmmaking, with his photographs of Zlin City sceneries and of co-workers in film studio, he acquired recognition as an author.

In 1970 - 1990 he was working on a specific historical theme, as an amateur, in his spare time. In 1991 he published the book »O Slovanech Uplne Jinak«, i.e. »About Slavs Totally Differently«. His book rised considerable interest in public, but was categorically and completely rejected by the academia of Czechoslovakia.

Horak's theses

In my opinion some of Antonin Horak's theses are false and inaccurate, but some other theses resonate with utmost clarity and veracity.

In each of the following lists, the Antonin Horak's theses concerning ancient history are sorted by credibility, from the least credible thesis to the most credible.

Category 1. Theses perceived as false or highly unlikely

- Equating Proto-Slavs and other Neolithic cultures worldwide, including China, Americas and Pacific islands [1] pp. 294 - 296.
- Placing the cradle of Euroasian Neolithic cultures into Central Asia, region of Amu Darya, Syr Darya rivers and Pamir mountains [1] pp. 292 - 293.
- Promulgating that Etruscans and Celts came to Europe from Africa in a form of some late migration [1] pp. 143, 281.
- Geographical expansion of Neolithic peoples as refugees from attacks by hunter-warriors tribes [1] p. 293.
- Equating the mythical Island of Atlantis with the Lemnos Island in the Aegean Sea [1] pp. 117 - 124.
- Suggesting that Central European King Samo in the 7th century AD was sent by Byzantine Empire to protect Slavs [1] p. 306.

Category 2. Theses which could be confirmed by further research

- Assigning different physiological features to his so called Cro-Magnon warrior people on one side and European Neolithic people on the other side [1] p. 281, 286.
- Assigning monogamy to the neolithic communities [1] 287.
- »Proto-Slavic«, Indo-European Satem respectively, being present in the Neolithic base in the Fertile Crescent and Nile delta [1] pp. 61 - 66.
- Acrophonic derivation of Phoenician alphabet by the use of Slavic languages [1] pp. 73 - 78.
- Acrophonic derivation of Linear B syllabic characters on the basis of Slavic languages [1] pp. 16 - 24.
- Claiming Molisane Croats in Italy to be a residuum of original Pre-Roman population, accenting Chakavian features present in Molisane Slavic language [1] pp. 137 - 138.
- Reading couple of ancient runic inscriptions on the territory of Pomerania, Bohemia, Slovakia, Hungary, Styria and Sudtirol, on the basis of Slavic languages [1] pp. 79 - 109.
- Reading Lemnos stele on the basis of Slavic languages [1] pp. 110 - 117.
- Reading part of Liber Linteus on Zagreb mummy as Slavic [1] 269 - 273.
- Reading the last sentence of Jesus on the cross - Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34 - as Slavic [1] p. 277.
- Slavic features in Linear B and Linear A inscriptions on Crete island [1] pp. 26 - 52.
- Assigning cremation burials to the Neolithic cultures in Europe, making these people »less visible« for archeologists [1] p. 287.

Category 3. Theses which have substantial merit

- Assigning Slavic languages to the Neolithic farming cultures in Europe, especially Eastern Europe [1] p. 12, 42 - 44, 53 - 56.
- Stating that descendants of Neolithic farming cultures on the Balkans, including Greece and Northern Italy, i.e. ordinary peasants, originally speaking a kind of Slavic tongues, were repeatedly enslaved by tribes of a more warring nature, e.g. serving as

an initial base of both Greek and Roman slave populations [1] for example pp. 12, 33 - 34, 148 - 152.

- Mentioning striking similarity of Sanskrit to Slavic languages and preaching the antiquity of Indo-European satem languages [1] pp. 300 - 304.
- Reading a number of Italic inscriptions, mostly from Etruscan-Villanovan territory, on the basis of Slavic languages [1] pp. 127 - 252.

Discussion

Antonin Horak had an amateur style of working, using vulgate lexical comparison. Some of his readings of ancient inscriptions don't look very persuasive, cf. for example Iguvine Tablet V [1] pp. 257 - 262, some of them, like the urn from Este region, inscription from Necropoli del Crocifisso del Tufo in Orvieto or tomb stone from Antella near Florence, look persuasive [1] pp. 130 - 132, 135, 218 - 221. But they contradict the late arrival of Slavs paradigm of spreading Slavic languages in Europe in Early Middle Ages and they challenge the linguistic reconstruction of Proto-Slavic language, especially in the constraints of timelines. Therefore not a single linguist dared to publicly admit the potential validity of some of Horak's points. This is in spite the fact, that readings like, for example, Novilara Stele [1] pp. 148 - 151, shows transliteration largely similar to the ones accepted by the mainstream linguistics, and at the same time Horak's translation gives a more consistent translation of the whole text in terms of syntax and context. Horak's reading of Novilara Stele is subject of separate paper.

Some points of Antonin Horak's book correspond to the Venetic research derived from the achievements of Matej Bor [2] in deciphering Venetic inscriptions. Most obvious is the common concentration on inscriptions found in Northern Italy, but also the resemblance of Medieval Glagolitic signs to the graphemes of Linear A and Linear B as shown by Pavel Serafimov [3], and the analysis of the Demotic middle text of the Rosetta Stone by Tome Boshevski and Aristotel Tentov [4], pointing to the hypothesis of importing Slavic-like language to Egypt by Macedonian-Greek expansion or to the possibility of Slavic-like language being present among social sub stratum even before the above mentioned expansion.

Looking for confirmed Glagolitic - like features in Linear B and Linear A inscriptions is not banned by the paradigm of the Palaeolithic Continuity Theory (PCT) [5], according to which Slavic languages widespread in the Balkans from the Neolithic onwards. Same is valid for undecyphered scripts of the Middle East, even though with a lower probability of success, keeping the main focus on the European ancient inscriptions.

The PCT paradigm permits of identifying the Neolithic Balkans and large parts of ancient Europeans as bearing Slavic languages, and to consider Neolithic Europe to be already Indo-European.

Marija Gimbutas [6] considered the Kurgan = burial mound cultures of the Pontic-Caspian steppe, approximately 5th millenium BC, to be the homeland of Indo-European speakers. An interesting point of the work of Marija Gimbutas is her distinguishing of a peaceful, rather matriarchal, Old Neolithic Europe societies on one side, and a patriarchal

warrior societies of the Kurgan horizon cultures in the Pontic-Caspian steppe on the other side [7] pp. 48, 364.

Collin Renfrew [8] p. 205 as archaeologist supposes that Indo-European language spread into Europe from Anatolia in the 7th millenium BC with the farming, two milleniums before Marija Gimbutas's Kurgans. He stressed that these settlements were peaceful and progressed with normal growth of population caused by agriculture and stockbreeding, which could support essentially more people than hunting and gathering.

Mario Alinei [9] with his PCT, as historical linguist, supplement Renfrew's theory with great stability of languages from Palaeolithic and about Slavs, as main people of Europe, stated: *»The totally absurd thesis of the so called 'late arrival' of the Slavs in Europe must be replaced by the scenario of Slavic continuity from Paleolithic, and the demographic growth and geographic expansion of the Slavs can be explained, much more realistically, by the extraordinary success, continuity and stability of the Neolithic cultures of South-Eastern Europe (the only ones in Europe that caused the formation of tells).«*

Mihael Budja [10] p 7, by archaeological and genetic researches stressed:

In order to understand better the formation and the structure of modern European paternal and maternal genetic landscape we discuss the ancestral hunter-gatherers' and farmer's population dynamics in late Pleistocene and early Holocene. Particular attention is paid to the origins and diffusions of 'Paleolithic' and 'Neolithic' Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA haplogroups in relation to 'demic diffusion' and to process of transition to farming in Eurasia. Our basic interpretative premises are:

- That the genesis of European Neolithic civilization was not linked to 'demic diffusion' of Levantine and Anatolian farmers;
- That the phylogeography of Y chromosome haplogroups I1b*, J and E do not support the model of Neolithic colonization and replacement of indigenous populations in Europe;
- That the southeast European population trajectories and the rewriting of genetic palimpsest were set by networks of social relationships and associated small-scale mobility and local and/or regional migration;
- That people, through contact provided the agency of transmission of information and incorporation of innovations such as cultigens, domesticates and ceramic technology. And these have lead to structural changes of the pre-existing social, economic and cultural phenomena with rather insignificant gene flow.

Evidently this development of demographic theories supports Horak's thesis about Slavic presence in Europe from Neolithic times on.

Conclusion

From the above considerations about the theses of Horak, a new paradigm concerning the Eastern European prehistory from the Neolithic period till the Early Middle Ages emerges:

Peaceful Slavic speaking Neolithic cultures of the Balkans and Eastern Europe were repeatedly attacked and enslaved by other Indo-European tribes of war-like culture, originating from the eastern steppes.

References

1. A. Horak, *O Slovanech uplne jinak*, Lipa - A. J. Rychlik, Vizovice **1991**.
2. J. Šavli, M. Bor, I. Tomažič, *Veneti, First Builders of European Community*, Editiones Veneti, Wien **1996**.
3. P. Serafimov, *The Origin of the Glagolitic Alphabet*, Proceedings of the Sixth International Topical Conference, Origin of Europeans, Založništvo Jutro, Ljubljana **2008**, pp. 99-117.
4. T. Boshevski, A. Tentov, *Tracing the Script and the Language of the Ancient Macedonians*, Proceedings of the Fifth International Topical Conference, Origin of Europeans, Založništvo Jutro, Ljubljana **2007**, pp. 43-64.
5. M. Alinei, *Interdisciplinary and Linguistic evidence for the Palaeolithic continuity of Indo-European, Uralic and Altaic populations in Eurasia, with an excursus on Slavic ethnogenesis*, Expanded Version of a paper read at the Conference Ancient Settlers of Europe, Kobarid 29-30 May **2003** – Forthcoming in "Quaderni di semantica", 26.
6. M. Gimbutas, *Proto-Indo-European Culture: the Kurgan culture during the 5th to the 3rd millennia B.C.*, in G. Cardona, H.M. Koenigswald and Senn (eds.), *Indo-European and Indo-Europeans*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia **1970**, pp. 155-198.
7. M. Gimbutas, *The Civilization of the Goddess*, Harper, San Francisco **1991**, pp. 48, 364.
8. C. Renfrew, *Archeology and Language*, I. Cape Ltd., London **1987**, p. 205.
9. M. Alinei, *Interdisciplinary and linguistic evidence for Palaeolithic continuity of Indo-European, Uralic and Altaic populations in Eurasia, with an excursus on Slavic ethnogenesis*, in Proceedings of Kobarid conference (2003); <http://www.continuitas.com/intro.html>.
10. M. Budja, *Who are the Europeans? Kdo smo Evropejci?* Zbornik 5. mednarodne konference, Izvor Evropejcev, Ljubljana **2007**, 7-26.

Abstract

This paper is an introduction to work of Antonin Horak and his career as a renowned filmmaker and photographer. The paper focuses on his work concerning the origins of the Slavs and his attempts to read Etruscan and related inscriptions on the basis of Slavic languages. The aim of this paper is to divide Horak's theses into three categories.

Category 1. Theses perceived as false, or highly unlikely, e.g. prehistoric presence of Slavic languages speakers in Korea and/or America.

Category 2. Theses which may be acceptable, to be confirmed by further research, e.g. presence of Slavic features in Linear B, or even Linear A inscriptions.

Category 3. Theses which have substantial merit, e.g. common presence of Slavic languages speakers in Pre-Roman Italy.

Finally, I put those theses of Horak, which are ostensibly correct, into a framework of recent paradigms about the origins of Indo-Europeans, namely the Kurgan Hypothesis by Marija Gimbutas, recent Theory by Colin Renfrew, the more recent Paleolithic Continuity Theory by Mario Alinei and new genetic researches. The premium contribution of Antonin Horak to this theme is assigning Slavic languages primarily to the peaceful Neolithic farming cultures in Eastern Europe.