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Title: 40 Years After the Birth of Religious Samizdat in Slovakia. Characteristics of the Slovak

Samizdat and its Impact

Source: Biuletyn Edukacji Medialnej

Year: 2012, number: 1(2012), pages: 129-139

Keywords: Socialism, dissent, Catholic church, samizdat

Discipline: MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

Language: ENGLISH
Document type: ARTICLE

Publication order reference (First author's office address): Terézia Rončáková, Katolícka

univerzita v Ružomberku Námestie A. Hlinku 60, 034 01 Ružomberok, Slovakia.

Abstract This study aims to provide a comprehensive examination of the phenomenon of samizdat periodicals in Slovakia. It provides a definition of the term and presents the history of samizdat with a focus on social and historical context. As part of a detailed examination of samizdat publications, the paper deals with topics such as circulation, authorship, audience, as well as technical issues related to production – from the acquisition of paper, printing technologies or forms of distribution, circulation or periodicity, to editing and content. The study also examines the attitudes on samizdat of the official Catholic Church structures, i.e. the Vatican, as well as local government authorities.