

## Summary

### Metel Ožegović and His Role in Hungarian Constitutional History

*Keywords:* Croatian delegate Metel Ožegović (Ozsegovics, Ossegovits, Metel), municipal rights, Hungarian language, Latin (deaconic) language, matters of dispute (Latin language, equal rights for Protestants, status of Slavonia and Rijeka), the Illyrian Movement, the Croato-Hungarian Agreement/Treaty.

The author writes of the 'Croatian issue', as the dispute between the two states, Croatia and Hungary, used to be called in Hungary. Not only that it went on in the Parliament in Pressburg / Bratislava in the first half of the 19th century, but was much discussed also amongst politicians outside the Chamber.

Croatian nuncio/ delegate to Pressburg Metel Ožegović had a distinguishing role in the dispute, particularly in the 1843 Parliament session, when

the Hungarians wanted to legalize the introduction of their language in official communication. In the lower house of Parliament in Pressburg Metel Ožegović stood against the motion and refused to speak Hungarian. He strictly kept to the advice by the Croatian Diet and proceeded in Latin. His conduct outraged Hungarian representatives from all ranks because they saw him as the main obstacle to making the Hungarian language legal. The nuncio strongly opposed other Hungarian intentions that were against Croatian municipal rights and the King declined to ratify the laws that might violate The Triune Kingdom's rights. Metel Ožegović represented Croatia in the Pressburg Assembly 1847-1848, when the eight hundred-year-lasting Croato-Hungarian union suffered a great crisis resulting in the 1848 - 49 armed conflict. Croato-Hungarian state actually did not exist over twenty years that followed (*de iure* it still existed), and then it was restored through the Croato-Hungarian Agreement / Treaty in 1868. This document regulated relations between the two countries / states. Having been reached as a political compromise, the Agreement was not welcomed by either side.