

Bogoljubni nauk by Zoričić and its sources

The most comprehensive work of moral theology written in Croatian in the 18th century is *Bogoljubni nauk* (1784) by Fra Mate Zoričić. An impressive 1538 pages remain, addressing all the various *casus conscientiae* which were possible at the time of writing. Apart from providing a detailed insight into the moral state of Croatians of the period (a tendency to the occult, infanticide, various forms of adultery, the tendency of merchants to cheat their customers, the way the concept of “otherness” was understood), the work contains a wealth of Croatian scientific terminology (for instance, *conscientia* is *grizodušje*). It also provides an insight into how scientific works of the time were produced (156 expert authors were cited, in a total of 965 citations). This immense “learning” becomes considerably less impressive as a detailed analysis reveals that in the writing of *Bogoljubni nauk* Zoričić referred almost entirely to a single work – the *Examen ecclesiasticum* by Felice Potestà – and only marginally to *Medulla theologiae moralis* by Hermann Busenbaum and *Istruzione e pratica pei confessori* by St Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori.

Key words: Mate Zoričić, *Bogoljubni nauk*, moral theology, casuistry