

Conceptual horizons of catholic critique on Miroslav Krleža

In line with the terminology devised by Stanko Lasić, author of the most comprehensive review so far of the critique on Miroslav Krleža, who classified the catholic critique under “nationalist centre“, the author of this paper decided to also address this critique as a separate centre of critique, due to its volume and intensity (especially in the period between the two World Wars). The paper attempts to present the fundamentals, directions and objectives of catholic critique in the said period. The critique is classified into two sub-centres: Circle of Maraković (*Marakovician*) and Circle of Lendić (*Lendician*).

Both sub-centres encompass a range of religious, philosophical – ethical and axiological in particular – and political critical observations and objectives. It is evident that the two paradigmatic approaches converge at the point of the criticism of Krleža’s routine negation of Croatian spiritual and literary tradition and his “metaphysical pessimism”, a(nti)theism, social decadence and the “literary Marxism”. They differ in perception of Krleža as a writer. Maraković and his fringe supporters find merit in Krleža as a writer, while Lendić and *Lendician* sub-centre exclude him from the Croatian literary tradition.

Keywords: Miroslav Krleža, Ivo Lendić, Ljubomir Maraković, catholic critique