

Spiritual Poetry of Velimir Deželić, Sr

The paper presents the work of Velimir Deželić, Sr (1864 - 1941), as a vice-president of the Croatian Society of St. Jerome, Zagreb, and as an important co-founder of the association - *Kolo hrvatskih književnika* (Croatian Writers' Circle) in 1913. Being a poet of expressed Catholic orientation, his literary work in former Yugoslavia was neglected. Recently, interest in his historical novels has re-emerged. This paper attempts to re-analyse and re-evaluate his poetry of Christian orientation and places this opus in the context of the late Romance period movements of expression. In particular, it examines the role and powerful reflection of Marian devotion within the spiritually-inspired poetry of Vladimir Deželić.

Keywords: Velimir Deželić, *Kolo hrvatskih književnika*, Marian devotion, poetry of Christian orientation