

## Summary

### Magda Logomer Herucina

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The case of “the last tried witch in Croatia”, Magda Logomer (otherwise known under the nickname Herucina), attracted scientific attention on the margins of research related to the cessation of the persecution of witches in Croatia. Outside of this special domain, the case was not especially interesting to scientists who studied the persecution of “witches” in Croatia. This remained the case until recently, when it again appeared on the margins of the issue of persecution and the relationship between authentic documents on the persecution of witches and popular literature. The name of the “witch” Herucina is mentioned in literature exclusively as part of the discussions on the cessation of the persecution of witches and the correspondence on this subject between senior officials of the Kingdom of Croatia and the Vienna Court, as well as in the report of the Queen’s doctor Van Swieten, which represents an important document repeatedly published in the *Obzor* newspaper containing a wealth of information for the research of the anatomy of such a procedure from a new perspective.

It is clear that this case is of interest to legal historians due to its legal ramifications as a precedent, which makes it the most important case related to the persecution of “witches” in Croatia. Magda Logomer, a citizen of

Križevci, was indicted for witchcraft in 1757. In short, her fate was sealed at that moment – as was the case with any other poor woman that found herself in the same position – via a process that included torture, seizure of assets and finally death at the stake. The chances of altering her fate and avoiding the final catastrophe were almost non-existent. However, her story was different: after the proceedings at the level of the Croatian judiciary – that is the court of the free royal city of Križevci – took their established course, her judgment was sent to Vienna for approval, as was decreed by the Croatian-Hungarian Queen Maria Theresa. Magda Logomer was also sent to Vienna soon afterwards as the Queen previously expressed her wish to meet a Croatian witch. Instead of approving the judgment, Maria Theresa took heed of the counsel of her personal doctor and legal experts and acquitted Magda Logomer on all accounts, overturned the judgment and its consequences and sent her home to Križevci under special protection. No records of “witch” trials in Croatia exist after Magda’s case, although we cannot with certainty claim that none were held. Nevertheless, her case is considered to be the ending point of the persecution of “witches” in Croatia. Little or nothing is known about her life, except the circumstances of her arrival to Vienna and the trial held in Croatia.

Our aim is to deal with the case of Magda Logomer Herucina in greater detail, as well as her persona before the trial and after her acquittal and return to her hometown on the basis of available data. We reiterate that this represents a unique opportunity to observe a trial not through dry and fact-oriented judicial documents, as was the case in other preceding known trials, but through the legal and rational analysis of a skeptical contemporary to Herucina. Although he did not publicly abnegate the offence of witchcraft, he approached it with special caution.