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## FOUNDATION OF THE LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL SCIENCES CASA IN DUBROVNIK: PRELIMINARY INSIGHT

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**ABSTRACT:** The library of the Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Dubrovnik was founded soon after the Institute's establishment in 1949. In addition to a general survey of the library's growth, this article traces the origins of the founding collections which include many treasured manuscripts and rare editions acquired through purchases and donations from private owners.

*Keywords:* Dubrovnik, Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, library

“The library defends itself, immeasurable as the truth it houses, deceitful as the falsehood it preserves. A spiritual labyrinth, it is also a terrestrial labyrinth.” (Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*).

Today's Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Dubrovnik was established in 1949, with a goal to complement the activity of the State Archives in Dubrovnik as a distinct institution specialised

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in the research into the history of Dubrovnik and the Dubrovnik Republic.<sup>1</sup> The gathering of a library collection followed soon after its foundation, currently housing more than 100,000 manuscript volumes, archival material and books, from rare editions to recently published materials.<sup>2</sup> More than two thousand titles dealing with Dubrovnik history form a separate collection known as *Ragusina*, provided with its own catalogue. The library fund contains valuable works from various periods, starting from the incunabulum of Livius' *Historiae Romanae decades*, printed in Treviso in 1482,<sup>3</sup> to 306 capital works of more recent Anglo-American and Italian historiography donated to the library by Bariša Krekić, professor emeritus at the University of California in Los Angeles, "one of the most significant contemporary historians of Dubrovnik, and an exceptionally influential researcher into pre-modern South-East Europe and the Mediterranean",<sup>4</sup> that is, a rich collection of contemporary Croatian and foreign historiography from the private library of the long head of the Institute, Academician Nenad Vekarić, with special emphasis on historical demography.

An adequate historical survey and description of the library and its collection have not been attempted so far, which no doubt remains to be undertaken in the future for the purpose of a comprehensive and professional evaluation of

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<sup>1</sup> A short historical survey of the Institute on the occasion of its 50th anniversary has been given by Nenad Vekarić, »50 godina Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku«. *Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku* 38 (2000): pp. 386-387. The article by Magdalena Najbar Agičić on the first days of the Institute is based primarily on the documents filed in the National and University Library in Zagreb and the material published in the *Ljetopisi JAZU*. See: Magdalena Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«. *Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku* 51/2 (2013): pp. 729-753.

I am greatly indebted to Nella Lonza for her selfless assistance and effort in the shaping of this text and in providing me with relevant sources. My thanks also go to Boris Jović for furnishing this article with illustrations.

<sup>2</sup> The collection is estimated to grow by several hundred new titles every year, due mostly to the well developed exchange network between the Institute and a host of scientific and research institutions in the Republic of Croatia and worldwide, from the United States of America to the states of the ex-Soviet Union.

<sup>3</sup> Livius Titus Patavinus, *Historiae Romanae decades*. Tarvisii: Johannes Vercellius, 1482. Also recorded are other copies of this book in Dubrovnik, in the holdings of the Scientific Library. See: Josip Badalić, *Inkunabule u Narodnoj republici Hrvatskoj*. Zagreb: JAZU, 1952: pp. 140, 225.

<sup>4</sup> Lovro Kunčević, »Donacija profesora Bariše Krekića knjižnici Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku«. *Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku* 54/2 (2016): pp. 518-519.

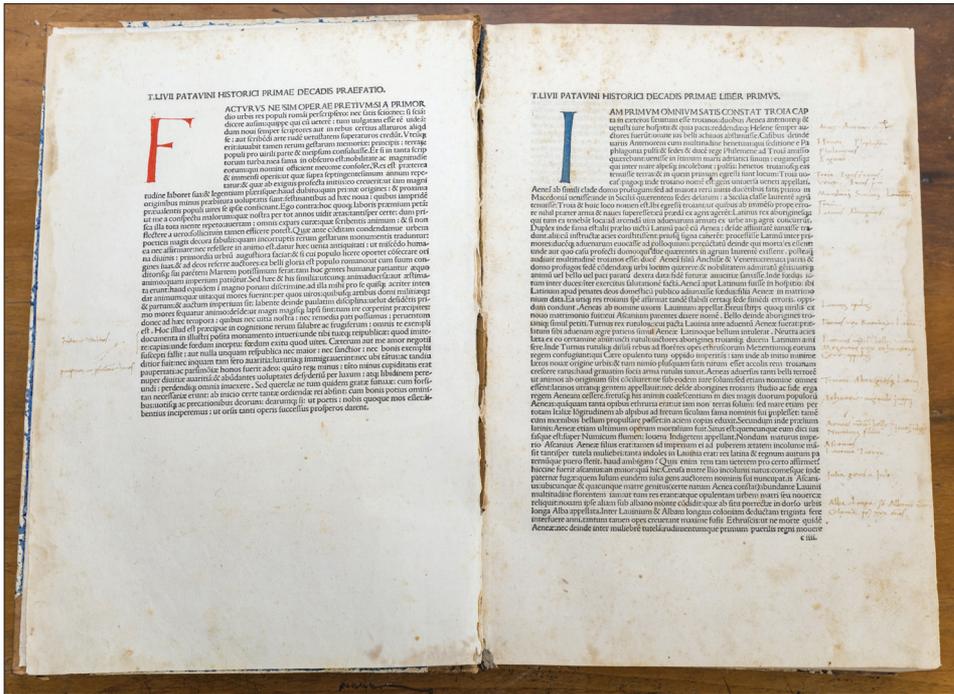


Figure 1. Titus Livius, *Historiae Romanae decades*, incunabulum, first page.

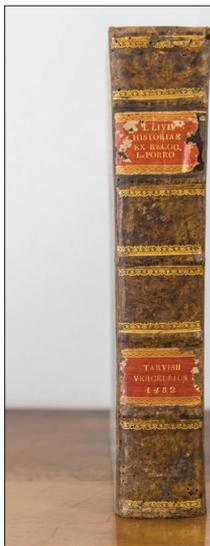


Figure 2. Spine of Titus Livius' incunabulum, *Historiae Romanae decades*.

its holdings. The aim of this article is to trace the founding collections of old books and manuscripts from the private and family libraries incorporated into the Institute's collection over the years, and by doing so, provide a preliminary insight into its treasure trove.

### *Foundation of the Institute and its first steps*

Acclaimed during the session of the Presidency of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, held on 17 May 1949 in Zagreb, were "The Rules of the Historical Institute of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in Dubrovnik", in compliance with Article 38 of the Yugoslav Academy Statute.<sup>5</sup> The institution frequently changed its name over the years, while since 1991 until the present is known as *Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku*, Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik. As one of the research units within the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, it is officially dedicated "to interdisciplinary research of the history of Dubrovnik and its broader Mediterranean and Balkan surroundings. Its main research area is the history of the Dubrovnik Republic, i.e. the period from the 14th until the early 19th century, during which Dubrovnik was an independent republican city-state".<sup>6</sup> Fruitful publishing activity, numerous scientific projects, organisation of conferences, collaboration with universities and exchange of publications with prestigious scientific institutions throughout the world are a telling testimony of the thought that "hardly anything can be written today on the history of Dubrovnik without citing the papers from the Institute's annual journals or books".<sup>7</sup>

As the Institute's future residence, the Academy decided on the Renaissance villa of the Ragusan noble family Sorgo, in Lapad, built in 1521.<sup>8</sup> In the aftermath of WWII, when the Institute was founded, the building was heavily damaged

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<sup>5</sup> *Spisi* 1/49, p. 4, archive of the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik. Here I gratefully acknowledge the advice given to me in the Institute archive by Ms Ljiljana Račić, secretary of the Institute.

<sup>6</sup> Available on <http://www.zavoddbk.org/en/about-the-institute> (accessed on 14 February 2018).

<sup>7</sup> N. Vekarić, »50 godina Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku«: p. 387.

<sup>8</sup> A fundamental art-historical study of the villa of Petar Junijev Sorgo in Lapad has been provided by Cvito Fisković, *Kultura dubrovačkog ladanja (Sorkočevićev ljetnikovac na Lapadu)*. Split-Dubrovnik: Historijski institut JAZU u Dubrovniku, 1966. Following the resignation of Jorjo Tadić, in August 1951 Academician Cvito Fisković was appointed head of the Institute (M. Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«: pp. 738-739).

and neglected. Large scale renovation followed, during which the Institute was temporarily based in the “small house” in the garden.<sup>9</sup> By June 1950 the restoration of the villa Sorgo was completed, and the Institute finally moved into its premises, where it has remained until the present.<sup>10</sup>

As the villa was not adequately furnished in the beginning, by permission of the Academy Presidency, furniture was purchased successively from the local dealers or private owners. Thus in January 1950, from Adela Negrini the Academy purchased a Louis XVI antique canapé and four armchairs,<sup>11</sup> and at the same time a decorative chandelier from the monastery of St Dominic.<sup>12</sup> These furniture acquisitions were made in much the same way as those of valuable and rare books and manuscripts, by direct agreement with private owners, or by collaboration with affiliate cultural-scientific and public institutions.<sup>13</sup>

### *Foundation of the Institute's library*

The founding of the library marked the Institute's first steps.<sup>14</sup> Only three months after its formal establishment, on the session of the Scientific Council of the Historical Institute of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in Dubrovnik, held on 19, 20 and 21 August 1949, Jorjo Tadić, head of Institute at the time, reported that “the Institute already had a certain collection of books for its library”, and that further “acquisition of contemporary literature and published series of the domestic academies of sciences” was planned.<sup>15</sup> The realisation of this project soon followed at considerable pace, thanks mostly to the support and understanding of the Academy's Presidency, headed by Academician Andrija Štampar. According to the 1951 annual report, the library's fund increased by 7,314 items.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Spisi*, 42/49. The mentioned “small house” later served to accommodate members of the Academy or foreign researchers during their visits to Dubrovnik, yet this dilapidated structure has lost this function and is in need of necessary renovation.

<sup>10</sup> *Spisi*, 160/50; *Ljetopis JAZU* 58 (1953): p. 23.

<sup>11</sup> *Spisi*, 50/49.

<sup>12</sup> *Spisi*, 47/49.

<sup>13</sup> Noteworthy in Dubrovnik is the collaboration between this Institute and the State Archives, in that certain collections within the library have remained distributed between these two institutions until the present.

<sup>14</sup> *Spisi*, 20/49

<sup>15</sup> *Spisi*, 5/49, art. 13.

<sup>16</sup> *Ljetopis JAZU* 58: p. 28.

Besides recent material, the Institute also obtained valuable books and manuscripts. This objective was motivated by the Institute's two-fold role: rare books and manuscripts were to generate new research and papers, and at the same time would be protected from further devastation, as "the book admirers gathered in Dubrovnik as if in a storage space of a ruined shop", while "the rooms designed for libraries in the better-off city households remain mostly bare".<sup>17</sup> Similar to furniture acquisitions, books and manuscripts were mainly purchased from private owners on the basis of direct agreement. Besides books, from private owners and families the Institute also purchased archival material, recorded in a separate inventory and housed at the institution.<sup>18</sup>

A special role was played by the library of a collector and famous lawyer, Baltazar Bogišić (1834-1908) in Cavtat, which includes "15,000 books and brochures, 200 journals, 66 incunabula, 164 manuscripts and 165 geographical maps".<sup>19</sup> That was the founding collection of the Institute's separate unit, today's Museum and Collection of Baltazar Bogišić in Cavtat. Namely, already by 1949 it was proposed that "Bogišić's library be moved from Cavtat as soon as possible to the Historical Institute in Dubrovnik, for the purpose of more adequate preservation and use",<sup>20</sup> the official handover being performed in 1955.<sup>21</sup> However, as early as the next year, adequate space was secured for Bogišić's collection in Cavtat, at the palace of the former local count, where it has remained until the present.<sup>22</sup>

In addition to zealous book gathering, the Institute's early years were also marked by an initiative to create a general catalogue of all Dubrovnik libraries,

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<sup>17</sup> Josip Bersa, *Dubrovačke slike i prilike (1800-1880)*. Dubrovnik: Matica hrvatska Dubrovnik, 2002: p. 187.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. manuscript inventory known as *Inventar arhiva Medini; Inventar arhiva Pozza-Gradi*, today housed at the Library of the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik, no shelfmark. A very valuable acquisition was also made for the Institute's archive—legacy of the poet Petar Hektorović and his heirs. See: M. Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«: p. 737; »III. redovno godišnje zasjedanje Skupštine Jugoslavenske akademije (27.12.1950)«. *Ljetopis JAZU* 56 (1949-1950): pp. 196-197.

<sup>19</sup> According to official data on <http://www.zavoddbk.org/en/collection-of-baldo-bogisic/> (accessed on 14 February 2018).

<sup>20</sup> *Spisi*, 22/49.

<sup>21</sup> M. Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«, p. 740.

<sup>22</sup> As noted by Cvito Fisković, mounted in as early as 1954 was the first exhibition of select manuscripts and books from Bogišić's collection in Cavtat. See: Cvito Fisković, »Predgovor«, in: *Katalog izložbe Bogišićeve zbirke iz Cavtata*, ed. Ljubo Babić, catalogue edited by Ljerka Gašparović. Zagreb-Dubrovnik-Cavtat: JAZU, 1959: p. 5.

based on the estimate that “all libraries in Dubrovnik hold around 150,000 books, not easily accessible due to incomplete and inaccurate catalogues”.<sup>23</sup> Though later abandoned, this project was conducted in consultation with Josip Badalić, head of the central Academy Library in Zagreb.<sup>24</sup> Doubtless, the restoration of the mentioned initiative would be more than welcome, as its realisation would certainly shed additional light on the initial steps in the establishment of the Institute’s library as a symbiosis of a number of small private collections from Dubrovnik and the surrounds.

*Acquisition of private collections—core of the old library fund*

Already by the end of 1949, Jorjo Tadić, head of Institute, reported that the family of Ante Politeo in Starigrad, island of Hvar, was offering for sale the archive and library of the Renaissance poet and humanist Petar Hektorović and his heirs.<sup>25</sup> The list of books in this collection was scrutinised by the literary historian Petar Kolendić, who reported that “it included slightly more than 40 books from the period before Hektorović’s death, some of which, as it appears, also contain the poet’s annotations, so that they may be considered to originate from his own private library”.<sup>26</sup> Kolendić encouraged the acquisition of these books together with the entire library of Hektorović’s heirs, more so because the Politeo family was determined not to separate the library from the archival material, “which are most interesting even for the poet himself, as they start from the fifteenth century, as well as for the history of the island of Hvar”.<sup>27</sup> It

<sup>23</sup> *Spisi*, 5/49, art. 14.

<sup>24</sup> *Spisi*, 153/50. In his expert assessment of 13 March 1950, Badalić submitted technical advice for the compilation of the mentioned central catalogue of all Dubrovnik libraries. He warned about the bad experience with the catalogue of the Franciscan library in Badija near Korčula, in which the works were entered by editor only, and thus remained virtually inaccessible to the users. On the other hand, he commended the collaboration with friar Mijo Brlek on the catalogisation of the library of the Franciscan Friary in Dubrovnik, as well as with f. Antonin Zaninović on the catalogisation of the library of the Dominican Friary. Brlek’s catalogue of the Franciscan Friary in Dubrovnik was soon published by JAZU in 1952, under the title *Rukopisi Knjižnice samostana Male braće u Dubrovniku*, book I.

<sup>25</sup> *Spisi*, 36/49. For the accounts on the library see Neda Anzulović, »O biblioteci Petra Hektorovića (1487-1572) i Petra Nisitea (1775-1866) u Starom Gradu na Hvaru«. *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 33/1 (1992): pp. 529-542 and Nikša Petrić, »Iz knjižnice Petra Hektorovića. *Ex libris Hectorei*«. *Dubrovnik*, N.S., 9/2-3 (1998): pp. 263-275.

<sup>26</sup> Cf. list provided by N. Petrić, »Iz knjižnice Petra Hektorovića«: pp. 270-275.

<sup>27</sup> *Spisi*, 36/49.

was unanimously decided to purchase the Hektorović archive and library, as a distinct collection in the Institute's library.<sup>28</sup> The acquisition of this collection is a telling testimony of an understanding of a broader regional role of the Institute, beyond that of the Dubrovnik area.<sup>29</sup>

The first to organise the archive and library of the Hektorović family was its heir, Petar Nisiteo (1775-1866),<sup>30</sup> who augmented the collection with his own manuscripts and archival material.<sup>31</sup> Following the acquisition of the Hektorović collection, a significant role was played by Stijepo Plančić,<sup>32</sup> member of staff, who compiled a three-volume *Inventory of the Hektorović archive*,<sup>33</sup> genuinely regretting "the fact that this archival remainder did not include a single manuscript of the literary production or cultural activity of the poet or of some of the later members of the Hektorović family, for it is all lost, or perhaps in possession of unknown persons".<sup>34</sup>

Personal engagement of the Institute's staff in the gathering and acquisition of books for its library was common practice, as in the case from 1952, when Ante Marinović, law historian, in a "small private library in Lapad" found and for the needs of the then Historical Institute purchased one of the oldest land surveys of Dubrovnik area, *Libro Negro del Astarea*.<sup>35</sup> Regrettably, offers for

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<sup>28</sup> It appears that on account of this decision the Hektorović library was no longer treated as a distinct, independent collection within the library of the whole institution, as result of which the books from its collection are scattered throughout the library funds.

<sup>29</sup> This topic has also been covered by the earliest monograph published by the Institute, selected records from the Kotor Archives, edited by Antun Mayer, *Kotorski spomenici: prva knjiga kotorskih notara od god. 1326-1335*. Zagreb: JAZU, 1951.

<sup>30</sup> For more on this see N. Petrić, »Iz knjižnice Petra Hektorovića«: p. 264, with bibliography.

<sup>31</sup> Nisiteo archive, divided into fifteen unbound volumes, includes correspondence, documents and author's works in various fields of social and natural sciences, while among the holdings of the Institute's library is his summary inventory (*Arhiv Petra Nisiteo*), compiled by the librarian Nevenka Kojić. N. Lonza drew my attention to the fact that from the heirs of the Nisiteo family the Archive CASA in Zagreb also made some acquisitions, whereby in 1958 two manuscripts and a Venetian edition of the work *Copioso ristretto de gli annali di Rausa. Libri quattro di Giacomo di Pietro Luccari, gentilhuomo Rauseo* (In Venetia: ad instantia di Antonio Leonardi, 1605) were purchased. Cf.: *Otkup arhivskog gradiva, knjiga i ostavština 1957-1964*, no. 2488/1957. Fund *Miscellaneous*, box 139 (SG1), vol. 4, Archive HAZU.

<sup>32</sup> Mentioned among other staff members of the Historical Institute in Dubrovnik on a list dated 7 July 1958 (M. Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«: p. 741, n. 57), but was also previously engaged.

<sup>33</sup> Stijepo Plančić, *Inventar arhiva Hektorović*, vols I-III, ed. Niko Duboković Nadalini. Hvar: Centar za zaštitu kulturne baštine, 1980-1984.

<sup>34</sup> Stijepo Plančić, »Uvodne napomene«, in: idem, *Inventar arhiva Hektorović*, vol. I: p. 5.

<sup>35</sup> Ante Marinović, »Uvod«, in: *Libro Negro del Astarea*, ed. Ante Marinović. Zagreb-Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 2005: p. 7.

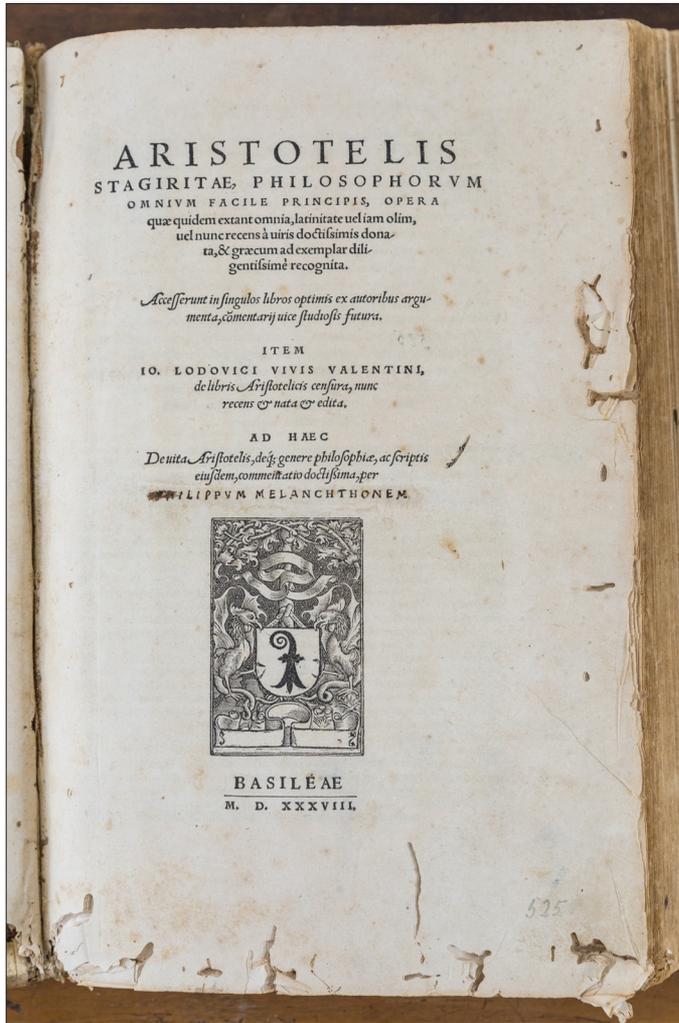


Figure 3. *Aristotelis Stagiritae opera omnia* ed. Philip Melanchthon and Juan Luis Vives. Basel: Johann Oporinus, 1538. From the Hektorović family collection, title page.

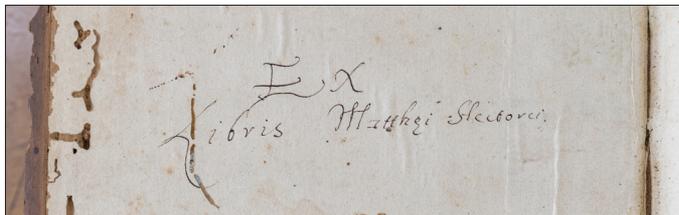


Figure 4. Verso of the title cover of the same edition, *Ex libris Matthaei Hectorei*.

the acquisition of books and archival material from private persons were not always accepted, as testified by the experience of Ante Ilijić, commissioner of the Archaeological Museum in Starigrad, on the island of Hvar. He sent a letter to the Historical Institute in Dubrovnik, dated 26 March 1950 in Starigrad,<sup>36</sup> reporting on his useful discoveries on his native island. Apparently, Ilijić found a letter from the close of the nineteenth century, undated and unsigned, containing a detailed description of bluefish fishing in the waters of Vis, imbued with specific “literary reminiscences”, as well as with a survey of “fishermen’s superstitions”. This letter marked the continuation of Ilijić’s collaboration with the Dubrovnik Institute, for in his previous letter of 18 March 1950 he reported on his discovery of the second volume of the first Dubrovnik edition of the *Dizionario Italiano-Latino-Illirico* by Jesuit Ardelio Della Bella (1655-1737).<sup>37</sup> The owner of the book was Marin Radoslavić, a local, obviously interested in the sale in which Ilijić would act as intermediary. The book being damaged, Tadić, the current head, responded that the Institute was not interested in this acquisition, whilst with regard to other documents, he recommended to Ilijić to offer them to the Archive of Zadar, as they mainly related to the islands of Hvar and Brač.

It is quite natural that the Institute purchased rare books and manuscripts from Dubrovnik and the immediate surroundings, so that the bulk of the acquisitions came from the local private collections. Given the volume and well organised condition, the library of the Bizaro family has kept a prominent place among the collections, thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of the poet, bibliophile and collector Ivan Bizaro (1782-1833),<sup>38</sup> and other members of the family. Verses have been dedicated to Bizaro’s library by “his friend and man of letters Angelo

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<sup>36</sup> *Spisi*, 122/50.

<sup>37</sup> For a succinct account on the mentioned Della Bella’s work see Miroslav Vanino, *Isusovci i hrvatski narod*, vol. II. Zagreb: Filozofsko-teološki institut Družbe Isusove u Zagrebu, 1987: p. 121, with bibliography. Considering that Della Bella’s dictionary was first printed in Venice in 1728, here Ilijić must have thought of the dictionary’s second edition (first Dubrovnik edition), published in Dubrovnik in 1785, edited by Petar Bašić. See »Ardelio Della Bella: Dizionario italiano, latino, illirico« published by the Institut za hrvatski jezik i jezikoslovlje (<http://ihjj.hr/iz-povijesti/ardelio-della-bella-dizionario-italiano-latino-illirico/14/>) (accessed on 18 February 2018).

<sup>38</sup> Having studied in Venice and Treviso, Bizaro remained in Italy for decades, and returned to Dubrovnik in 1817. The villa and estate in Brsečine near Dubrovnik he acquired through his second marriage with Nika Zuzorić. On Bizaro see: Miljenko Foretić, »Bizar, Ivan (Bizzarro, Ivo)«. *Hrvatski biografski leksikon* 1 (1983): pp. 613-615, also available on <http://hbl.lzmk.hr/clanak.aspx?id=2027> (accessed on 15 February 2018), and more recent accounts by Nenad Vekarić, »Genealoški prikaz roda Bizar«. *Pelješki zbornik* 3 (1984): 172-173, or Nenad Vekarić, *Pelješki rodovi, sv. I (A-K)*. Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 1995: p. 82.

Dalmistro, in a special poem *La bibliofilia*, printed in 1808 in Padua”, while the Dubrovnik writer Vlaho Stulli composed an epigram in Latin about it.<sup>39</sup> Prior to 1947, the Bizaro library and family archival material were housed at the Bizaro Palace in Orebić and the Zuzorić summer residence in Brsečine.<sup>40</sup> Upon initiative of the Dubrovnik Archive and its head Vinko Foretić, it was salvaged from the villa and further devastation due to war actions, and was housed in appropriate conditions, whereupon one part remained among the holdings of the Archive, and the other was taken to the premises of the



Figure 5. A part of the Bizaro collection today.

<sup>39</sup> Cvito Fisković, »Ivo Bizar i likovne umjetnosti«. *Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti IC JAZU u Dubrovniku* 17 (1979): pp. 292-293.

<sup>40</sup> For more on this topic see Miroslav Pantić, »Rukopisi negdašnje biblioteke Bizaro u Historijskom institutu u Dubrovniku«. *Anali Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku* 8-9 (1962): pp. 557-596; for introductory data on the “odyssey of the Bizaro library” p. 558 in particular.

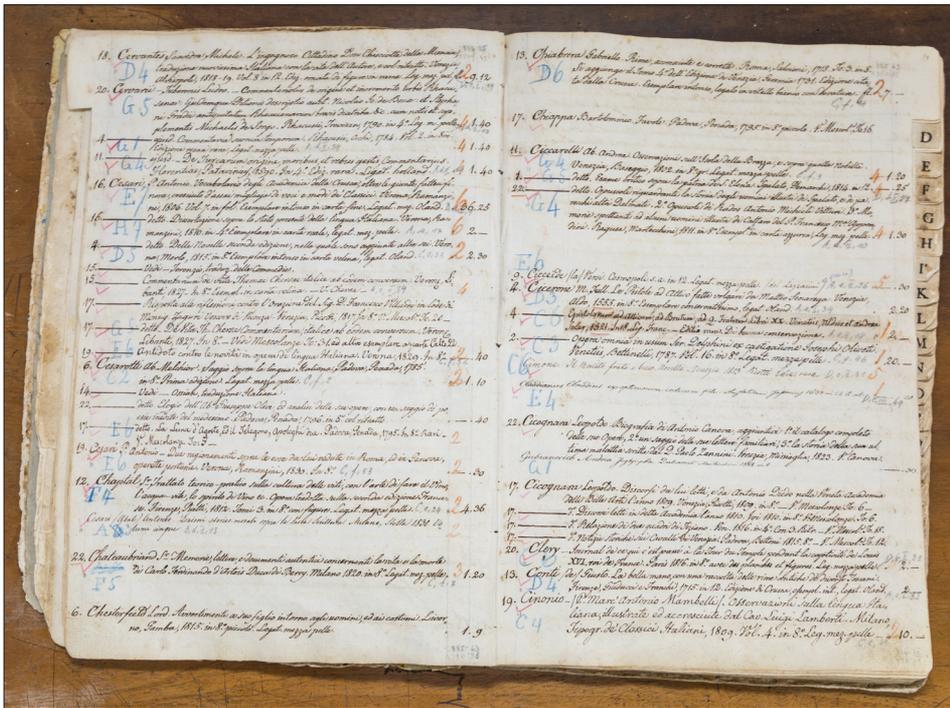


Figure 6. A page from the first catalogue of the Bizaro collection.

newly-established Historical Institute. Unlike the majority of private libraries acquired for the needs of the Institute, the books of the Bizaro collection continued to be kept as a separate collection.

Two original catalogues of the Bizaro library have survived to date. The first dates from 1820, under the title *Catalogo della Biblioteca del nobile sig. [nore] Gio.[vanni] de Biz.[zzaro] da Ragusa*, while an additional catalogue was compiled in 1843, under the title *Catalogo dei vari opuscoli raccolti da Giovanni de Bizzaro, compresi ne' suoi volumi di mescolanze*. Both contained data on the books (mainly), but also on the manuscripts.

The catalogues were extended and updated in 1859. They were compiled by several persons, from Ivan, the original owner, to his son Baldwin and other authors, and were arranged mainly in alphabetical order, by author surname. Bizaro library was renowned as one of the best private libraries in Dubrovnik of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. In addition to the earlier mentioned incunabulum *Historiae Romanae decades* by Titus Livius, its shelves contained

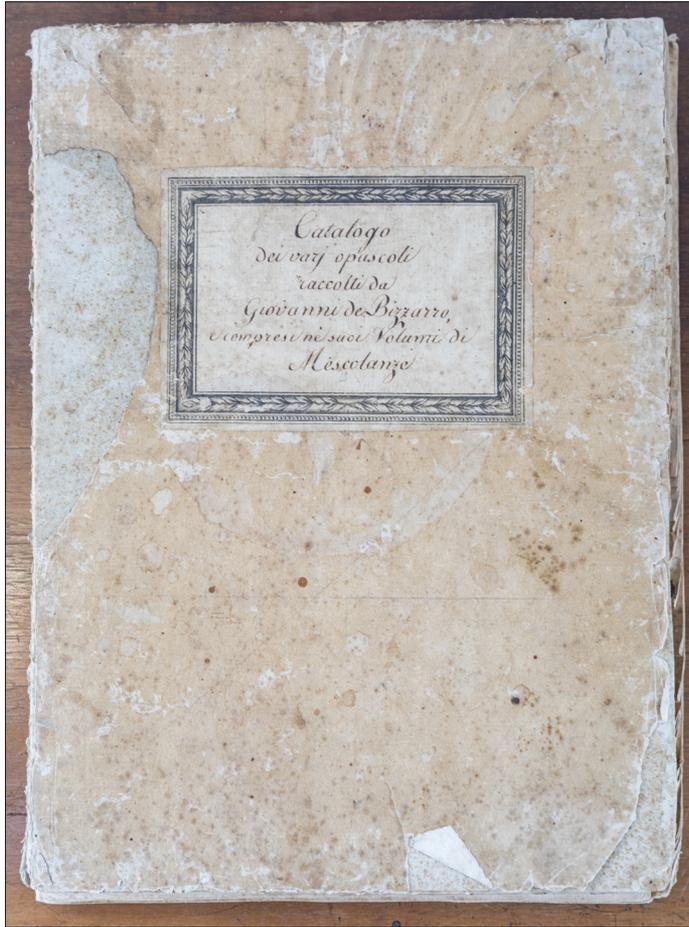


Figure 7. Second catalogue of the Bizaro collection, compiled in 1843.

the editions of the Greek and Roman classics, lexicographic manuals, legal and theological treatises, whilst among the works of domestic provenance, *Abeczevicza*, Kajkavian beginner's handbook by the Jesuit Juraj Mulih, published by Ivan Weitz in Zagreb, in 1746, occupied a special place.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Based on the copy from the Bizaro collection, shelf number A.c.II.66, Ivica Martinović prepared a reprint in 1997, with Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik and Research Institute CASA in Varaždin as co-publishers.

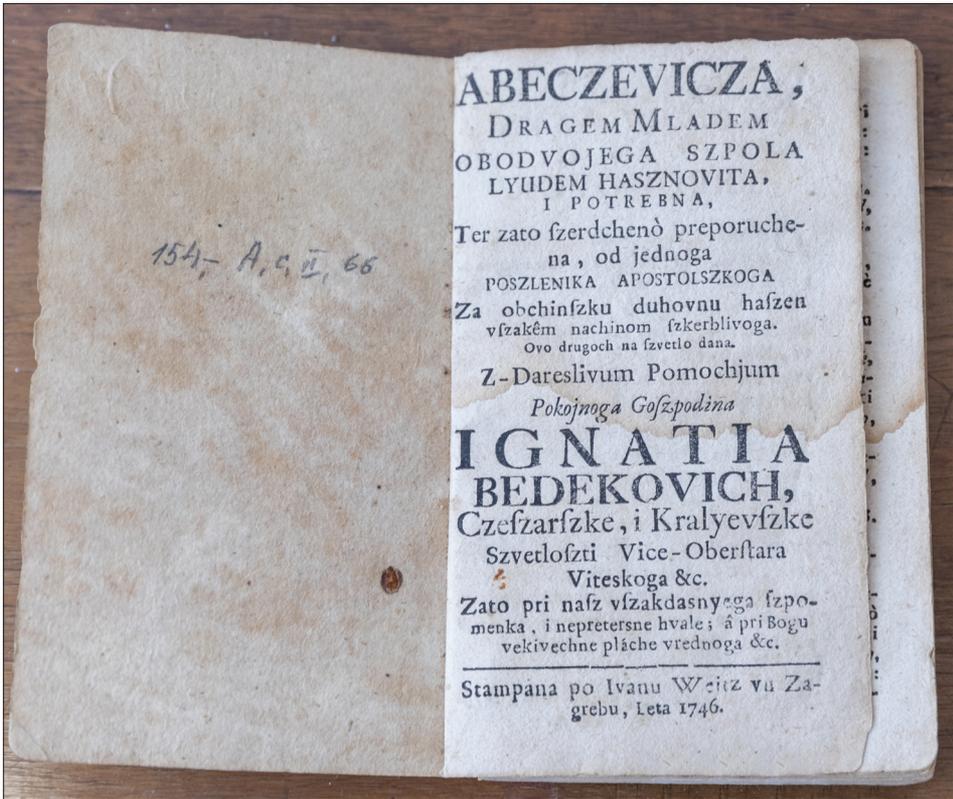


Figure 8. *Abeczevicza* of the Jesuit Juraj Muliš, title page of the original edition from 1746, bearing the shelf number of the collection of Ivan Bizaro.

The bulk of the books of the Bizaro collections have been rebound, and an *Ex libris* added, as well as sporadically recorded data on the purchase price of certain works, which were difficult to obtain.

Bizaro's manuscript collection included four manuscripts from the sixteenth century, eight manuscripts from the seventeenth century, twenty-three from the eighteenth, and thirty-seven manuscripts from the nineteenth century.<sup>42</sup> Among these are also the works of the Ragusan Latinists, represented by seven

<sup>42</sup> M. Pantić, »Rukopisi negdašnjje biblioteke Bizaro«: p. 561; Ivica Martinović, »Unpublished manuscript heritage of the Croatian latinists in the libraries and archives of Dubrovnik: preliminary report«, presented at the conference *Patrimonium in manuscriptis conservatum. Euroclassica*. Dubrovnik: Međunarodno središte hrvatskih sveučilišta, 2005.

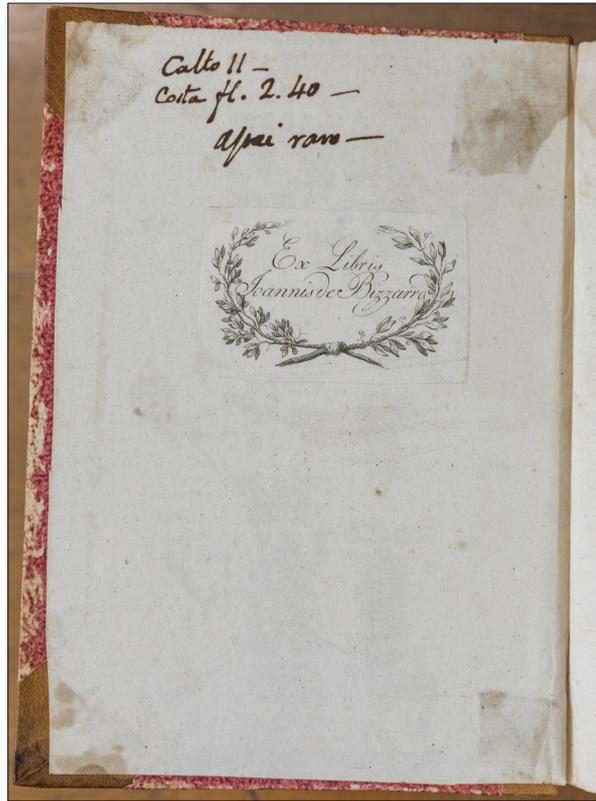


Figure 9. From the verso of the cover of the work by the Dominican Klement Ragnina, *Quodlibet declamatorium*. Venice: impressum Nicolai Bascarini, 1541. Handwritten above the *Ex libris Ioannis de Bizzarro* inscription is the price of the work, with a remark *assai raro*.

manuscripts composed within a span of a century, by the authors Vice Petrović and Vlaho Bolić from the eighteenth, to Junije Resti and Luko Stulli from the nineteenth century. Here is also a small collection of Latin poems, *Carmina Latina*, by Ivan Bizaro, autograph.<sup>43</sup>

Towards the end of 1949, by decision of Andrija Štampar, President of JAZU, 72 manuscripts from the legacy of Rafo Andrović were purchased for a sum of

<sup>43</sup> I. Martinović, »Unpublished manuscript heritage of the Croatian latinists in the libraries and archives of Dubrovnik«.

30,000 dinars,<sup>44</sup> an intellectual from the period of the French and Austrian administration in Dubrovnik, and a leading figure of the Dubrovnik Masonic Lodge.<sup>45</sup> Among documents is a series of official decrees of the French Marshal Auguste Marmont, as well as the Austrian emperor Francis I, but also two printed diplomas confirming Andrović's membership in the famous *Accademia degli Arcadi*, under the name Lisandro, as of May 1803.<sup>46</sup> Among the gathered manuscripts is also a private journal of the writer Antun Krša (1779-1838), kept from 1829 to 1833.<sup>47</sup> The list of Andrović's books includes several dozen volumes. The owner's literary pursuits are illustrated by the copies of Molière's work, printed in Amsterdam in 1684, in addition to a valuable Spanish-Italian dictionary by Lorenzo Franciosini, Italian Hispanist from the first half of the seventeenth century.<sup>48</sup>

Some of the mentioned collections provide a vivid insight into the cultural life of early nineteenth-century Dubrovnik. The connections between the Bizaro family, Andrović, Flori and Krša are manifold, in that, for example, Krša's works found their place in the library of Rafo Andrović, but also in the collection of Baldovino Bizaro, who collected Antun Krša's poems. It is likely that Rafo and his son Niko Andrović, as well as brothers Tomo and Antun Krša and Ivo Bizaro belonged to the same Masonic circle in Dubrovnik.<sup>49</sup> They also shared the same interest in the works of art: in the private painting collection of the Flori (Cvjetković) family<sup>50</sup> there were several portraits, among which those of Niko and Rafo Andrović, as well as of Countess Andrović and the members of the Krša family.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> *Spisi*, 49/49. Based on a special inventory compiled by Danica Flori, the acquisition of this material on behalf of the then Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts was made by Viktor Mohr.

<sup>45</sup> For his concise biography see Miljenko Foretić, »Andrović, Rafo«. *Hrvatski biografski leksikon* 1 (1983): p. 130.

<sup>46</sup> *Popis knjiga iz biblioteke Rafa Androvića*, documents n. 53-54.

<sup>47</sup> Originating from Orebić (Nenad Vekarić, *Pelješki rodovi (A-K)*. Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 1995: p. 370), where this lineage died out in 1879 by the male line.

<sup>48</sup> Cited incorrectly in the inventory is that his *Vocabulario espagnol e italiano* was printed in Venice in 1574, as its first edition was in Rome in 1620. See: Stefania Del Bravo, »Franciosini, Lorenzo«. *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani* 50 (1998), available on: [http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/lorenzo-franciosini\\_\(Dizionario-Biografico\)/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/lorenzo-franciosini_(Dizionario-Biografico)/) (accessed on 14 December 2017).

<sup>49</sup> Stjepan Čosić, »Luko Stulli i dubrovačka književna baština«. *Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku* 41 (2003): p. 268; Goran Vuković, »Dubrovački klasicistički krugovi«. *Adrias* 18 (2012): pp. 57-58.

<sup>50</sup> N. Vekarić, *Pelješki rodovi, sv. I (A-K)*: pp. 143-144.

<sup>51</sup> Kruno Prijatelj, »Slikari XVII. i XVIII. stoljeća u Dubrovniku«. *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* 3/1 (1949): p. 276.

Apparently, 1949 proved the most fruitful as far as the acquisition of manuscripts for the founding collection of the newly established library was concerned, for it was then that the collection of books and manuscripts of the Dubrovnik lawyer and writer Ernest Katić (1883-1955) was purchased,<sup>52</sup> containing a number of poems in Latin and Italian composed in the 1820s and 1830s. A bulk of this collection is today kept at the State Archive in Dubrovnik as a Manuscript Legacy of Dr Ernest Katić, shelf number HR-DADU 276 (old shelf number RO-270).<sup>53</sup> On the above mentioned session of the Scientific Council of the Historical Institute in Dubrovnik, held from 19 to 21 August 1949, the head Jorjo Tadić reported that “the libraries of the Bizaro family and of the heirs Dr Baldo Gradi and Dr Milorad Medini have already been acquired”.<sup>54</sup>

The collection of the politician Baldo Gradi (1865-1946), last issue of the Gradi old patrician family,<sup>55</sup> was closely linked to the library of the writer and cultural historian, politician and paper editor, Milorad Medini (1874-1938).<sup>56</sup> Namely, the Medini library had already absorbed the libraries of the Pozza and Gradi noble families, comprising 3,100 volumes (of which 200 related to Dubrovnik’s past) and 413 manuscripts.<sup>57</sup> In the *Inventory of the Medini Archive*, the librarian Nevenka Kojić singled out 35 separate documents, pertaining mainly to the author’s correspondence, whilst in the *Inventory of the Pozza-Gradi Archive* included and described are 122 documents, among which are

<sup>52</sup> *Spisi*, 49/49. The collection was purchased for an equal sum of 30,000 dinars.

<sup>53</sup> Analytical inventory of the personal fund of Dr Ernest Katić was compiled by the archivist Zoran Perović in 2012, available on [http://arhinet.arhiv.hr/details.aspx?ItemId=2\\_6313](http://arhinet.arhiv.hr/details.aspx?ItemId=2_6313) (accessed on 30 December 2017).

<sup>54</sup> *Spisi*, 5/49.

<sup>55</sup> Baltazar (Baldo) Gradi belonged to the so-called Serb-Catholic circle in Dubrovnik, and was actively engaged in politics as a secretary of the Dalmatian Serbian People’s Party. See: Nikola Tolja, *Dubrovački Srbi katolici. Istine i zablude*. Dubrovnik: published by author, 2011: p. 125; Nenad Vekarić, *Vlastela grada Dubrovnika, 2 – Vlasteoski rodovi (A-L)*. Zagreb-Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 2012: p. 287.

<sup>56</sup> Literary historian Milorad Medini also took active part in the political developments as editor of the newspaper *Crvena Hrvatska* from 1907 to 1910, and representative of the Croatian Party in the Dalmatian Parliament 1908-1918. See: Ivana Brković, »Medini, Milorad«, in: *Leksikon Marina Držića*, ed. Slobodan Prosperov Novak, Milovan Tatarin, Mirjana Mataija and Leo Raffolt. Zagreb: Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža, 2009: 491-492. A detailed account of his literary-scientific work has been provided by the recently published *Zbornik o Miloradu Mediniju*, ed. Tihomil Maštrović. Zagreb: Hrvatski studiji Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 2018.

<sup>57</sup> Cf. manuscript *Inventar arhiva Medini; Inventar arhiva Pozza-Gradi*, today housed in the Library of the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik, no shelfmark.

private letters, school diplomas, architectural plans and official proclamations of the municipal authorities, generally dating from the period of Austrian rule in Dubrovnik in the nineteenth century.<sup>58</sup>

Through Petar Kolendić, there soon followed an acquisition of books offered for sale by Marica, widow of Josip Rešetar (1854-1938).<sup>59</sup> Having graduated law from the University in Vienna in 1878, Josip (Pine) Rešetar assumed various state duties throughout Dalmatia (in 1887 he acted as district commissioner in Muć),<sup>60</sup> yet continued to promote the cultural traditions of his family as a son of coin collector Pavo, nephew of the cultural historian Josip Bersa, and brother of the famous literary historian, philologist and coin collector Milan.<sup>61</sup> The list compiled by the librarian Marija Gyra includes 118 titles, in addition to 140 titles entered in a separate list entitled “List of books of Mrs Rešetar”. The list refers to miscellaneous publications, pamphlets, newspapers and books in Italian, German and Croatian language printed from the first half of the nineteenth century (e.g. *Galleria dei Ragusei illustri*. Ragusa: Pier-Francesco Martecchini, 1841; Francesco Carrara, *La Dalmazia descritta*. Zara: Battara, 1846), to the mid-1930s, such as the treatise by Josip Bersa, »Per la storia delle chiese di Zara«. *Atti e memorie della Società Dalmata di Storia Patria* 3 (1934): pp. 1-19.

Among the library’s founding collection was also the library amassed by Vid Vuletić Vukasović (1853-1933), distinguished exponent of the autonomous movement in Dalmatia and archaeologist, who focused on the architectural historical heritage of Korčula.<sup>62</sup> The inventory contains around 300 books, published mainly in the eighteenth century. Apart from the works dealing with law and theology from the end of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, literature, history, philosophy and natural sciences are also represented, though

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<sup>58</sup> All the mentioned inventories are housed at the Library of the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik, without shelfmark.

<sup>59</sup> Decided on the session of the Scientific Council of the Institute, held in Belgrade on 8 December 1949, as recorded in *Spisi*, 36/49.

<sup>60</sup> According to the research of Niko Kapetanić and Nenad Vekarić, *Konavoski rodovi (Pi-Ž)*, vol. 3. Zagreb-Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 2003: 142.

<sup>61</sup> Genealogical data cited from the Genealogical Data Base of Nenad Vekarić (for which I am indebted to Ivana Lazarević), as well as from the *Geni* international project, available on <https://www.geni.com/people/Josip-Re%C5%A1etar/6000000033742638945> (accessed on 15 February 2018).

<sup>62</sup> N. Tolja, *Dubrovački Srbi katolici*: p. 97, also »Vuletić Vukasović, Vid«. *Hrvatska enciklopedija*, available on: <http://www.enciklopedija.hr/natuknica.aspx?id=65676> (accessed on 14 December 2017).

in lesser extent. Noteworthy among the manuscripts is the Gospel written in old Slavic, in black and red ink. The volume contains 93 pages, but is incomplete, and is assumed to date from the sixteenth century. A special folder contains around one hundred old photographs of the Dubrovnik inhabitants, along with lithographs depicting German cities in the nineteenth century.

Much later, the books from the Miočević-Rendić legacy were added to the Library collection. According to an entry by the librarian Nevenka Kojić, by the end of August 1983 the list of books bequeathed to the Library by Tija Čížek Rendić was completed,<sup>63</sup> and the books were obtained in April that year on the basis of an agreement signed with the Academy in the autumn of 1976.<sup>64</sup> It appears that the old core of this collection came from the private library of the Bishop of Trogir, Ivan Antun Miočević (1766-1786).<sup>65</sup> Interestingly, the books are accommodated in the cabinets also donated by Tija Čížek Rendić. The collection includes 680 titles, or 1,047 volumes. Among them are a few books from the sixteenth century, such as the work of Diodorus Siculus, published in Basel in 1531,<sup>66</sup> Columella's

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<sup>63</sup> Archivist Josip Gelčić was known to emphasise his gratitude to Nikola Rendić Miočević (1825-1900), head commissioner of the District Administration in Dubrovnik and court counsellor, who in 1885 "offered me a duty by which, to the best of my competence, I was to assist the gentlemen who would visit the archive of the Dubrovnik Republic", as cited at the beginning of his inventory of the Dubrovnik Archive. See: Josip Gelčić, »Dubrovački arhiv«. *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja u Bosni i Hercegovini* 22 (1910): 537. Some interesting details about N. Rendić Miočević, who came to Dubrovnik after his public service in Kotor, can be found in memories by other local people. See: Antun Stražičić, *Dubrovački koluri. Uspon i pad srbokatolika*, ed. Stjepan Čosić. Dubrovnik: Ogranak Matice hrvatske u Dubrovniku, 2018: pp. 46-47, 89.

<sup>64</sup> The grant deed on behalf of the then Centre for Scientific Research in Dubrovnik was signed on 10 October 1976 by Ilija Mitić, senior research assistant. My thanks are due to Ante Rendić Miočević, retired head of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, for the data from the family archives.

<sup>65</sup> Praising the rich and valuable library in his biography, Šime Ljubić believed that it had been lost (Šime Ljubić, *Dizionario biografico degli uomini illustri della Dalmazia*. Vienna: Rod. Lechner; Zara: Battara e Abelich, 1856: pp. 215-217). Later investigations warned about the property inventory of Bishop Miočević (which also included books) as an exceptionally significant source for the study of the Baroque heritage of Trogir and Zadar (Ivana Prijatelj Pavičić, »Izgubljena barokna baština: prilog poznavanju baroknih inventara zadarske i trogirске biskupske palače.« *Međunarodni simpozijum: Oblikovanje kulturne graditeljske baštine: aspekti, primeri, pouke. Zbornik radova. Cultural/ Architectural Heritage Renewal: Aspects, Examples, Lessons. Proceedings*, ed. Bojana Karavidić. Novi Sad: Suburbium, Petrovaradin, 2007: 53). Miočević's inventory, composed on 27 October 1786, today housed at the State Archives in Zadar as *Inventar trogirskog biskupa Ivana Antuna Miočevića, 1786*. Inventari i oporuke: XX.52. Arhiv Trogira, box no. 65. I wish to thank Lovorka Čoralić for supplying me with a photograph of the original manuscript, which she partly transcribed.

<sup>66</sup> *En damus Diodori Siculi historici Graeci, quae nunc quidem extare noscuntur opera nempe*. Basileae: excudebat Henricus Petrus, 1531.

*On Agriculture (De agricultura)*, printed in Venice in 1559,<sup>67</sup> and *The History of Italy* by Francesco Guicciardini, published in Florence in 1561.<sup>68</sup>

The mentioned examples are a worthy testimony of a symbiosis between the citizens of Dubrovnik and its area with this scientific institution. Owing, on the one hand, to the trust that the owners of private collections and their heirs showed towards the Institute, and on the other, to the understanding and determination of the Academy members to secure the necessary means for the acquisition of these valuable collections, the foundations of one of the biggest libraries in Dubrovnik were laid.

### *Conclusion*

Seventy years upon its foundation, the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik prides itself on a very rich library accessible not only to the members of this institution, but also to all those in pursuit of rare and specialised literature, despite the fact that the Institute has had no librarian for quite some time.<sup>69</sup> The most valuable part of the collection includes books dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, obtained from old private libraries in Dubrovnik and the surrounding Dalmatian area. A close study of rare editions (through available old catalogues and the *ex libris* inscriptions) allows an insight into the circulation of books and the literary and other preferences of their owners, whose reading habits may be gleaned from the notes in the margins. Many editions call for prompt restoration, the process of which could reveal older manuscripts whose fragmentary remains may be observed in places. Future research should have a final saying on the origins of certain older collections, and should also provide full valorisation of the library which, doubtless, is of national significance.

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<sup>67</sup> Lutio Giunio Moderato Columella, *De l'agricoltura libri XII. Trattato de gli alberi del medesimo, tradotto nuouamente di latino in lingua italiana per Pietro Lauro modonese*. In Venetia: per Geronimo Cauiscalouo, 1559.

<sup>68</sup> *La Historia di Italia di M. Francesco Guicciardini, gentil'huomo Fiorentino*. In Fiorenza, appresso Lorenzo Torrentino impressor ducale, 1561.

<sup>69</sup> In 1958, as many as two librarians were employed at the Institute, Ms Marija Gyra and Ms Nevenka Kojić (M. Najbar Agičić, »Okolnosti osnivanja i počeci rada Historijskog instituta JAZU u Dubrovniku«: p. 741, n. 57).

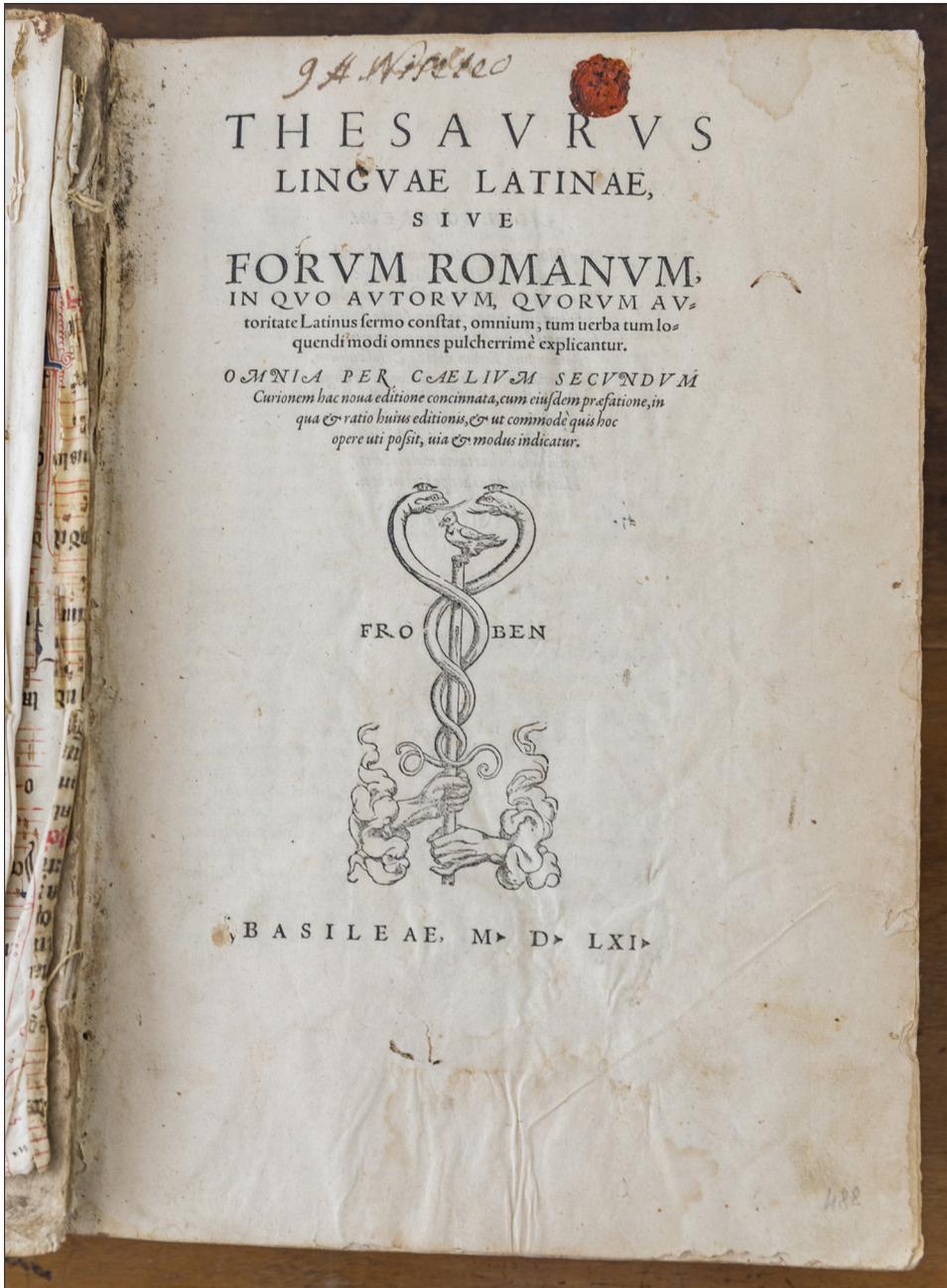


Figure 10. Caelius Secundus Curio, *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*. Basel: Froben, 1561. In the binding on the left are the remains of an older manuscript, with musical notation.



Figure 11. Current view of the so-called Neptune's room, with the central part of the library of the Institute for Historical Sciences CASA in Dubrovnik.