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THE EPYLLION *TOPOGRAPHIA DIVI HIERONYMI SACELLI* OF  
GILBERTO GRINEO (EDITION, TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY)

An interesting insight into the cultural scenes of Trogir and Split at the waning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century is provided by the Latin poems that during their stay in Dalmatia the Italian humanist Gilberto Grineo, rector scholarum in Trogir (1496-1499), and his son Marcantonio dedicated to members of the local intellectual elite. In a comprehensive study made in the middle of the last century, the Italian philologist Baccio Ziliotto drew attention to the Trieste manuscript R. P. 2-53 in which these poems are contained. He took, for scholars of the national cultural history in this country, with his pioneering ploughing through the occasionally hardly legible manuscript of almost 160 folios, a crucial first step, placing in the focus of his interest a segment of the poetic correspondence with addressees from Split and Trogir, including some of the leading names of the humanist scene of the time. But even Ziliotto failed to notice that behind the longest poem in the collection, Gilberto's 172 hexameter-long Virgilian epyllion *Topographia divi Hieronymi sacelli* (about 1497) there was a unique description of the pilgrimage of the leaders of the commune of Trogir to the shrine of St Jerome on Marjan Hill, a site that was at that time closely connected with the spiritual formation of the most celebrated Croatian humanist inheritor of the ideas of St Jerome, Marko Marulić. In the context of the fact that precisely at that time, the ending of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the veneration of St Jerome in Dalmatia experienced a powerful surge, one more literary elaboration of the motif of St Jerome does not amount to anything very remarkable. However, this uncommon poetic vision, devised as an encomium on Venetian rule in Trogir, is picked out from conventional examples of the occasional poetry in this area by it being Jerome himself that is transmitting to the pilgrims prophetic revelations about the forthcoming glorious battles with the Ottomans. It becomes an authentic testimony to the Dalmatian perception at the turn of the 15th century of St Jerome not only as a cultural patron but as a prime protector of the nation to whom recourse was made in the face of the Turkish menace.

The article gives a contextual and philological framework for the origin of the epyllion. The research draws attention not only to the undoubted historical motif in its background but also to a new dating for Grineo's birth (1435), gives a more precise determination of his employment in Dalmatia (Trogir, 1496-1499) and provides reasons for the hypothesis that manuscript R. P. 2-53 was mostly written by Gilberto Grineo in his own hand. The introductory study is accompanied by a complete edition of the epyllion, a Croatian metrical translation and a commentary on the text necessary for an interpretation of the complex poetic image that Grineo left for his readers.

**Key words:** Gilberto Grineo, Trogir, epyllion, *Topographia divi Hieronymi sacelli*, critical edition, commentary