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WITH CIRCUMSPECTION ABOUT STIJEPO BENEŠA
AND HIS VERSIFIED SAYINGS

The reason Stijepo Beneša (about 1545-1608) has never been devoted very much work is simple: although the eighteenth-century biographers said that he had »collected Illyrian proverbs and offered them as a gift to Lujo Saračić, imitating Manutius and Erasmus«, these compositions were never identified. References were made to *Adagia Illyrica* only in occasional accounts when it would be said that Beneša had left a manuscript *Pjesni u slovinski jezik složene* [Poems written in Croatian language], mentioned in the *Rjecsoslòxje* [Dictionary] of Joakim Stulli (Dubrovnik, 1806). The paper considers and rejects inaccurate statements made about Beneša, and then directs attention to a copy of versified sayings that was made in the first half of the 17th century by Oracio Mažibradić. These proverbs have been attributed to various authors, but it has never been mooted that Beneša's sayings might have been preserved in Mažibradić's manuscript. A new edition of the versified sayings to be found in the manuscript of Oracio Mažibradić (Research Library, Dubrovnik, MS 467/1) is given in the appendix.

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