

SUMMARY

CROATIAN HISTORY AND PANNONIAN HISTORY

Honouring of classical old times required from cultured Europeans from humanism and further to find out and define connection between the existing life environment and glorious classical past. Classic names of some nations and provinces, ceded by Latin which used to be lingua franca through centuries, served that purpose regardless the ethnic or geopolitical changes. In such a function was the name "Pannonia", which assumed a whole range of different meanings from ancient times to the present time. Provident Latinists have tried to distinguish in their texts when to use classical name with an old and when with contemporary meaning.

Croatian scientists-latinists, whose works belong to historical sciences, were solving some important issues from antique history of Pannonia since the end of 17th century, mostly in 18th century, and some in 19th century. The most prominent names in that work were Pavao Ritter Vitezović, Adam Baltazar Krčelić, Andrija Blašković, Matija Petar Katančić etc. Humanistic ideal was not satisfied with only defining of antique monumental heritage of a modern century. Greater parts of Europe didn't even have it. It was desirable to see descendants and heritors of the ancient inhabitants in the modern ones. According to the place of living, it was easy to find out national ancestors according to one of the basis models: aborigines who were noble opponents of the Greeks and Romans, who later became citizens of the Roman, Empire (like Macedonians,

Illyrians, Gauls, Iberians, Brits); the Greeks and Romans themselves; nations which confronted the Romans and other honourable opponents in contact with Roman civilisation. The Germanic peoples are an exemplary case.

Goths, Langobards and Franks were for more clearer and provable component in ethnogenesis of modern Europeans, but not as attractive as the older inhabitants of the same regions.

Modern Europeans were in unfavourable position according to the antique ideal, whose ancestors arrived to the classical areas even later. In such a position were the Croats and Hungarians. Hungarian tradition and history found in that antidote counting Avars and Huns in the course of national history, who were the enemies of the Roman Empire. In Croatian tradition and history non-scientific and wrong attitude developed that the Illyrians were linguistically and ethnically identical to modern Slavic population of Croatia. Different writers in different periods elaborated different versions of this attitude. Together with this characteristic false belief, since humanism we can follow the development of scientific conceptions on the old history of Croatian countries written by Croatian Latinist historians. Latin texts of that time were using Illyrian name to name Croats and Croatia. Illyrian name was applied to all the Slavs. In this article these phenomena are illustrated by the work of Matija Petar Katančić (18th century) and references regarding examples from 19th (Čučić, Gaj).