

DOMINICAN CHURCH OF ST. MARY IN POŽEGA AND THE QUESTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ORIGINS OF THE EARLY 13TH CENTURY MENDICANT CHURCHES Belonging to Provinciae Hungaricae Ordinis Praedicatorum in Croatia

SUMMARY

The analysis of the nave floor plan of today's St. Lawrence church in Požega, which has an unusual deviation of its south wall, indicates that this deviation comes from a complex geometric construction of the project. This resulted in a floor plan that directly relates the church in Požega with the main church of the Hungarian Dominican Province in Buda. According to this, we can say with certainty that its construction took place in the middle of 1250s, shortly after the construction of the St. Nicholas church in Buda. This is associated with the rule of Queen Maria Lascarina, wife of King Béla IV, in Požega. Another detail of the nave's architecture, a thick part of the south wall and traces of the former transverse wall above the arch, indicates that the church was first built as a preaching hall with a three-part choir. This is the oldest example of this type of the early mendicant architecture. Four other examples come from the Croatian side of the Adriatic coast, built by the end of the 13th or at the beginning of the 14th century - one Dominican and two Franciscan churches in Dalmatia and one Franciscan church in Istria. The dimensions of the church are determined by the dimensions of the project square of 11.4 m, which defines the width and height of the nave. It is mentioned as the nave height value that was set

as a rule at the 1228 Chapter of the Order in Bologna. The same dimensions are found in the case of the nave width of the first phase of the oldest preserved Dominican church in Croatia, the St. Mary Magdalene church in Čazma. Built before 1242 as a ducal church, and later that year expanded to twice the original size as a royal construction, the Dominican church in Čazma as a typological model (with one nave in the form of a simple hall and a choir that has a square, that is short rectangular, floor plan), together with the dimensions of its basic floor plan formation, had the foremost influence on the formation of the basic Dominican order church type in the same province built in Dalmatia from the 13th century, first in Split, then in Zadar and Trogir. Later, it was established as the basic type, from the 14th to the 17th century for all Dominican and Franciscan churches along the Adriatic coast.

Keywords: mendicant architecture, Gothic single-nave three-apse churches, construction of floor plans with canonical rectangles, St. Lawrence church in Požega, St. Mary Magdalene church in Čazma, St. Margaret church in Split, Hungarian Dominican Province, Queen Maria Lascarina.