

*In memoriam*

**ZLATA BLAŽINA TOMIĆ**  
(5 January 1926 – 29 November 2021)



Last November the Institute for Historical Sciences of CASA in Dubrovnik sadly acknowledged the passing away of Zlata Blažina Tomić, medical historian and author of two books published in the Institute's series.

Dr Blažina Tomić was born in Sremska Mitrovica on 5 January 1926, but grew up in Požega and later studied in Zagreb. Having graduated from history and Latin in 1967, she moved with her family to Canada. From 1970 to her retirement in 1991 she was a librarian of the *Osler Library of the History of Medicine* at the McGill University in Montreal. As emphasised in the *Memories* published in the *Osler Library Newsletter* 136 from 2022, she is credited for the development of its collections, notably for the acquisitions for the old and rare book collection. While engaged in the library, she successfully pursued her research career, receiving a Master's Degree in 1981 from the McGill University with a thesis "Historical Development of the Laws and Regulations Concerning Public Health in Dubrovnik (Ragusa) from the 13th to the 15th Century", and a PhD in 2001 from the University in Zagreb. A revised and expanded version of her dissertation was published by our Institute in 2007 under the title *Kacamorti i kuga: utemeljenje i razvoj zdravstvene službe u Dubrovniku* (Cazamorti and the Plague: Founding and Development of the Health Office in Dubrovnik). This study, for the first time, relied on the valuable sources regarding the activity of health officials kept in the State Archives in Dubrovnik, primarily the oldest extant book from the first half of the sixteenth century. Following in her own footsteps but also probing into the issues of quarantine and other preventive measures implemented by the public health office of Dubrovnik, she and her daughter Vesna Blažina co-authored the book *Expelling the Plague: The Health Office and the Implementation of Quarantine in Dubrovnik, 1377-1533*, published by the McGill-Queen's University Press. Scholarly public welcomed both books with undivided approval and great interest. In her last days, she zealously prepared the material for yet another publication *Knjiga gospode zdravstvenih službenika 1500-1530 / Libro deli Signori Chazamorbi 1500-1530* (The Book of the Gentlemen Health Officials 1500-1530), again with the Institute as publisher. Sadly, she did not live to see its publication in the last days of 2021, as she passed away on 29 November 2021.

Throughout her career, she kept in touch with her native land and the University of Zagreb where she completed her studies, she was the first vice-president of the *Almae Matris Croaticae Alumni* in Quebec (1990-1995), selflessly helping her homeland in need and her fellow scholars.

She will be remembered by her wide and versatile knowledge, as well as her deep commitment to scholarship, for which she managed to find time despite her library activities, even later, in her elderly years. Although she entered scholarship at a fairly mature age, she succeeded in eclipsing many of her colleagues and spreading the word about the achievements of public health of ancient Dubrovnik.

Nella Lonza

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## Reviews

Danijel Džino, *From Justinian to Branimir. The Making of the Middle Ages in Dalmatia*. London-New York: Routledge, 2021. Pages 258.

By the end of 2020 Routledge published a book by the Croatian historian Danijel Džino entitled *From Justinian to Branimir. The Making of the Middle Ages in Dalmatia*. Although employed as a senior lecturer at the History and Archaeology Department of the Macquarie University (Australia), he also focuses on topics relating to the Croatian geographical space. He is an expert in the history of ancient Rome, late antiquity and early Middle Ages, primarily with regard to the space of the former Roman Illyricum. In this respect, he mainly focuses on the fitting of the “local” Illyricum (primarily Dalmatia and Pannonia) into the “global” framework of the Roman Empire and the ensuing post-Roman world.

Within this context he has shown special interest in the issues regarding the shaping of local identities in Dalmatia between the seventh and ninth century, which he thoroughly examined in his (as he puts it) “postmodern deconstruction of the existing metanarratives”, the book *Becoming Slav, Becoming Croat. Identity Transformations in Post-Roman and Early Medieval Dalmatia* (2010), in the edition of the renowned Brill publishers. However, after “postmodern deconstruction” he shifted his focus to a most recent (as he puts it) “metamodern attempts to re-establish new historical narratives on the still smouldering ruins of postmodern deconstructions” titled *From Justinian to Branimir. The Making of the Middle Ages in Dalmatia*, under review here. It should be noted that he is also the author of the books *Illyricum in Roman Politics: 229 BC – AD 68* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and *Rimski ratovi u Iliriku. Povijesni antinarativ* (Školska knjiga, 2013), along with a series of essays. He is equally devoted to archaeological research, within which the project “Varvaria/Breberium/Bribir” (2014–2019) should be emphasised, as it is of relevance to Croatian public.

The book consists of a short introduction and seven chapters which chronologically follow the shaping of social and political circumstances in the province of Dalmatia from the 30s of the sixth century to the 90s of the ninth century. In the Introduction (pp. 1-5), the author provides a brief outline of the fundamental assumptions (with which we shall deal later in the text) and a short survey of each chapter. In the first chapter, *Dalmatia in Time and Space* (pp. 6-27), he provides the reader with an overview of Dalmatia as a Roman *longue-durée* geopolitical construction, which has retained its relevance to the present, and still serves as a framework of regional and historical identification of contemporary population. In a Braudelian approach, he also offers a natural-geographical overview of the space of Roman Dalmatia, aimed at introducing the topic to the readers, who should mainly be sought in the international historiographic circles due to its publication in English. In so doing, he believes that the “local” Croatian historiography ought to be better included into “global” historiographic trends and paradigms. Furthermore, he underlines that the problem lies not only in the “local” character, but also in the fact that foreign authors have paid little attention to the history of Dalmatia because of the language barrier. However, over the last fifteen years the number of accessible publications in English relating to the history of ancient and early-medieval Dalmatia has increased, thus eliminating the rational pretext for the neglect of the results of Croatian historiography on behalf of international authors.

In the second chapter, “*An Old Woman’s Summer*”: *A glimpse into late antique Dalmatia* (pp. 29-59), he metaphorically defines the period from the mid-fifth to the early seventh century as “an old woman’s summer”, starting from the standpoint that Dalmatia, owing mainly to its natural location, was generally spared from the incursions of the Germanic and Hunnic warrior tribes

during the fifth century. Džino claims that the province was entirely under Ostrogoth control between 493 and 535, when Eastern Roman army conquered Salona and established control over the province without serious devastations. The period of relative stability and economic prosperity continued under eastern emperors until the start of the seventh century, although the beginnings of deeper social changes may already be traced in the course of the sixth century.

In the third chapter, “*Winter is Coming*”: *Signs of deeper social changes in sixth-century Dalmatia* (pp. 60-89), the author warns about the material evidence that testifies to social changes, that is, to the “forthcoming winter” (allusion to the popular TV series *The Game of Thrones*). This is revealed by a prevailing burial practice of row-graves, as well as the emergence of intramural graveyards. A radical change in the burial practice is manifested in the reuse of the prehistorical burial mounds, in which the author, tracing similar cases in other provinces, sees the elite of these societies in an identity crisis. This leads to an assumption that by emphasising continuity with the past and the use of raised mounds the members of the elite wished to maintain the current status in society by stressing their own social uniqueness. Similarly, on the basis of scarce extant data on the usurpations in the Salonitan (arch)bishopric at the end of sixth and early seventh century, the author detects a social hierarchy in crisis, whilst he is sceptic regarding the assumption about demographic drop in the province caused by Justinian’s plague and the presumed climate changes, arguing that neither material nor written sources confirm this.

“Winter” did not fall upon Dalmatia because of the arrival of the imaginary hordes of Slavic barbarians, but as a result of the imperial policy. Namely, in the fourth chapter, *The collapse of Byzantine Dalmatia* (pp. 90-106), Džino assumes that in the 20s of the seventh century Eastern Roman authority abandoned much of the province and withdrew to the coastal cities and their hinterland or, more likely, closer to the centre of power in Constantinople during the war with Persia and Avar-Slavic incursions into European soil. It is difficult to say whether this developed as a process or happened instantaneously, but it certainly produced radical social changes in a space devoid of imperial administration and protection from the potential Avar incursions. In the author’s own words, one is able to trace “the simplification of social networks, depopulation, the abandonment of many sites, the shrinking of urban life, even the death of some coastal cities” (p. 90). These issues are covered more extensively in the fifth chapter, *After the apocalypse: Dalmatia after 620* (pp. 107-146).

In Chapter Six, *Clash of the empires and the Treaty of Aachen (775–812)* (pp. 147-171), Džino places the arrival of large Slavic groups to the space of Dalmatian province within the context of the Frankish-Avar conflicts from the end of the eighth century, and the ensuing conflict between the Frankish and Eastern Roman (Byzantine) empires in the early ninth century. Originally, this thesis was formulated and put forward by Lujo Margetić in a long treatise “Konstantin Porfirogenet i vrijeme dolaska Hrvata” (Constantine Porphyrogenitus and the time of the arrival of the Croats) from 1977, which, expectedly, was frowned upon by contemporary historiography and archaeology. The thesis is based on a simple fact that the preserved material and written evidence bears no witness whatsoever to any Croatian or Slavic migration in the seventh century. Although in his book *Becoming Slav* Džino was far more sceptical regarding the thesis on Croatian (Slavic) migration by the end of the eighth century, it appears that now, under the burden of the new (and old) historical and archaeological results, he acknowledges it as the most plausible. Namely, over the last four decades the mentioned thesis has been additionally elaborated in many different aspects, so today there is a rich collection of data which makes it appear quite sophisticated. Here it should be noted that the credit for this achievement primarily rests on a team gathered around the exhibition *Hrvati i Karolinzi (Croats and Carlings)* organised in 2000 (M. Ančić, M. Jurković, A. Milošević, N. Jakšić, Ž. Rapanić and others). This group was determined to change the paradigm by shifting the

focus from the Byzantine to Frankish influence in the shaping of the Croatian dukedom in the ninth century.

However, Trpimir Vedriš did self-reflectively investigate the ideological background of the project *Hrvati i Karolinzi*, prompted by the commentaries of some of his foreign colleagues that it was an “ideologically charged project” see his essay in the book of proceedings *Migration, Integration and Connectivity*. By stressing that the Carolingian paradigm was undoubtedly “a child of its time” (the context of the establishment of independent Republic of Croatia and everything that came with it, that is, the shaping of a new discourse on identity as opposed to that of the former Yugoslavia), Vedriš argues that at work here is something that induced all actors, whether they agree with the thesis or not, towards a different and profoundly fresh rethinking of early-medieval Croatian history. Similarly, with time the original team relaxed its overly biased view of the role of Franks, and in the recent collaboration with younger or middle-generation of researchers (T. Vedriš, I. Basić, H. Gračanin, M. Petrak and others) reassessed Eastern Roman (Byzantine) influence in the eastern Adriatic and its hinterland. I shall take this opportunity to add that one should accept the fact that this project, like many others that rely on the (re)construction of great historical narratives (as in the case of Džino’s “metamodern reconstruction”), undisputedly possesses an ideological dimension. Actually, this is something that should be perceived as legitimate, because if we have benefitted from postmodernism in one thing it is that “the neutral” does not exist, since every standpoint is ideological, including the one to which we are increasingly disposed for some (subjective) reason. Therefore, one cannot argue that a specific project is ideologically neutral, whereby another is ideologically impregnated. Of course, this does not imply that every historical discourse should be seen as equally significant and grounded, quite to the contrary. On the bottom line, it only seems that ideology is more easily discerned “on the other side of the fence”.

Regardless, let us return to the sixth chapter of the book under review. In sum, Džino in principle accepts the narrative on the arrival of Slavic warrior groups (“violence specialists”) at the end of the eighth and early ninth century, and their crucial role in creating new power structures and socio-political architecture of the Dalmatian dukedom in the context of complete emulation of the Carolingian social models. Ninth-century social changes led to the foundation of the Croatian dukedom, that is, kingdom from the tenth century, and a similar situation in its basic parameters has been perpetuated through much of the Croatian Middle Ages. This primarily concerns the construction of new political institutions and local political networks, organisation of counties, introduction of *curtis* as economic units, (re)Christianisation, as well as the use of Christianity as fundamental ideological paradigm for the legitimisation of the new elite and the forming of a “Christian Monarchy” headed by Croatian ruler. It should be noted that Carolingian models were also emulated by the political entities which formed after the dissolution of a single Carolingian Empire (888), such as Hungary or Poland. It is the forming of the Dalmatian, that is, Croatian dukedom in the ninth century that Džino examines in the last chapter, *Tempora domini Brannimero* (172-196). Namely, it is assumed that by the end of the ninth century, that is, by the end of the reign of Duke Branimir, the process of the (cultural) shaping of the Middle Ages in the former Roman province of Dalmatia was completed, which had a fundamental impact on all the later social and political processes. New processes have permanently transformed the landscape of the province of Dalmatia, and the effect of these changes can, to a certain degree, be traced all the way to the present.

In this context Džino repeats his view expounded in the book *Becoming Slav*, according to which in the course of the ninth century at least two distinctive (ethnic) political groups changed on the throne of the Dalmatian dukedom, the Guduskani (dukes Borna and Ladislav) and Croats (dukes from Mislav thence after), also harbouring doubts about the Croatian identity of Duke

Branimir. Namely, prompted by a find of a stone fragment on which Branimir is unusually referred to as *dux Clavitnorum*, Džino considers an intriguing possibility that the ethnonym concerns the space of the Livno county (*Cleuna*), and that Branimir, by his gentile affiliation, was primarily *dux Clavitnorum*, and by territorial authority *comes* (or *dux*) of Dalmatia. As for now, this seems to remain in the domain of speculation. In any case, in the violent conflicts between different Slavic war groups over the domination within Dalmatian dukedom, the political group of Croats prevailed and with time that space transformed into the “kingdom of Croats” (*regnum Croatorum*), from the start of the tenth century ruled by a *rex*. In the *Conclusion* (pp. 197-199), the author outlines his fundamental views and research results.

Although in his book *Becoming Slav* Džino placed emphasis on the shaping of local identities, starting from postmodern theoretical frameworks (e.g. “postmodern deconstruction”), in the here reviewed monograph he tended to focus on more recent archaeological finds or reconsideration of extant written sources with an aim to buttress his basic assumptions, formulated now in a compromising form, which is perhaps more acceptable than the one in *Becoming Slav* (let us recall the “metamodern reconstruction”). In sum, Džino argues that material sources do not support the assumption about large-scale Slavic migrations in the seventh century, that is, he argues that the identities of local groups in Dalmatia witnessed redefinition as a response to the altered historical circumstances (the abovementioned imperial evacuation of Dalmatia probably during 620s), and not (only) because of the arrival of larger Slavic groups - which actually entered the scene in Dalmatia not earlier than the end of the eighth and early ninth century.

Džino argues that even if no evacuation of most of the Dalmatian province had ever taken place at the beginning of the seventh century, for which he finds a direct and illustrative parallel with the fate of Britain in the early fifth century, the process of the making of medieval society would not have been halted, but would probably resemble that in post-Roman Italy or Gaul. In this respect, he ironically states that the often merely imagined “barbarians” did not lead to the social collapse of Dalmatia in the seventh century, but that such an outcome was a direct result of the political decisions of Constantinople. In the context of the war with Persia and the latent Avar threat, Dalmatia had simply become a financial burden. In this light one should recall the famous Avar-Persian siege of Constantinople in 626.

This book may be understood as Danijel Džino’s attempt at reconciliation between the migrational and transformational thesis. In other words, he argues that Croatian early Middle Ages cannot be monopolised by the Slavs and Croats, and that social changes should be attributed to various factors (both internal and external), and within this framework future research should examine the role of domicile population and a series of proofs regarding direct continuity of life in the province of Dalmatia. In this respect, Džino assumes that Salona was completely abandoned by the 60s or 70s of the eighth century, and not, contrary to the generally held assumption, in the first half of the seventh century. All in all, this is an essential contribution (like *Becoming Slav*) to the understanding of the beginnings of the early medieval period on the territory of the former province of Dalmatia and the ensuing Croatian Kingdom, regardless of whether the author’s arguments meet approval or not. Danijel Džino poses questions regarding old issues from a new angle and in so doing contributes to the creation of new historiographic dynamics.

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*Izvori za historiju srednjovjekovne Bosne. Ispisi iz knjiga notarijata Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku 1370-1529* [Sources for the History of Medieval Bosnia. Transcriptions from the volumes of *Diversa Notariae* in the State Archives in Dubrovnik 1370-1529], vol. 1-3, eds. Esad Kurtović and Almir Peco. Sarajevo: Institut za historiju Univerziteta u Sarajevu, Bošnjački institut – Fondacija Adila Zulfikarpašića i Historijski arhiv Sarajevo, 2021. Pages xxii + 1351.

Esad Kurtović, distinguished medievalist and professor of medieval history at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University in Sarajevo, continues with his meticulous research into the heritage of medieval and early modern Bosnia and Herzegovina by publishing archival material from the State Archives in Dubrovnik (Ragusa) as a source for the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has already prepared three important editions in the series “Sources for the history of medieval Bosnia”, that is, “Transcriptions of archival material for the history of medieval Bosnia”. So far, the series has included *Ispisi iz knjiga zaduženja (Debita Notariae) Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku 1365-1521*, vol. 1-2 (Sarajevo: Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine, 2017), *Ispisi iz knjiga Kancelarije Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku 1341-1526*, vol. 1-3 (Sarajevo: Institut za historiju Univerziteta u Sarajevu i Historijski arhiv Sarajevo, 2019) and *Lamenta de foris, IV (1419-1422)* (Sarajevo: published by author, 2020), and his latest endeavour, based on more than two thousand valuable records from the archival series *Diversa Notariae*. On this occasion, he shared the burden of editorial responsibility with Almir Peco, senior assistant at the Department of general and national medieval history of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo.

Generations of researchers in the Dubrovnik archives have been well acquainted with the *Diversa Notariae* archival series, officially described on the ARHINET website of the national online system for the description, interpretation and management of archival material, as a “fund of general character, very important for obtaining information on the Dubrovnik public and private life, but also its political, economic and cultural aspects. The fund contains, for example, construction contracts, contracts regarding the supply of architectural stone elements, contracts regarding the commission of statues and paintings and other objects that fall within artistic craftsmanship, etc. The notary office recorded documents (debentures, dowries, sales and purchases, powers of attorney, testaments, agrarian contracts).” Within this framework we review the documents compiled and published in this edition, with emphasis on the economic and social history of medieval Bosnia and Herzegovina in the light of the relations with the inhabitants and state institutions of the Dubrovnik Republic. The material has been selected from 90 volumes (vol. 9-100), with the exception of volume 31, considering that its content had been previously published.

In a short “Introduction” (pp. xi-xiv, accompanied by the translation into English and Italian, pp. xv-xxii), through several basic remarks, a dedicated reader is introduced to the language (dominantly Latin, and to a lesser degree Italian), the script (the advanced Gothic script, whereby every scribe in the period under consideration distinguished himself by some specific features and habits to which he adapted the script), as well as the material on which the documents were originally written (first paper, and in the later period it was always parchment, both materials being fairly well preserved and only partially restored). In the “Introduction”, the editors also provide a short description of the critical apparatus they applied in the publication of the texts, marking sporadic damage of the leaves, of the text itself and foliation with square brackets, while curly brackets were used to mark the elements distinguished by the scribes. In order to avoid the edition being overly long, the texts written in the Cyrillic script were omitted with an explanation that they were relatively rare or had already been published elsewhere.

Each selected document is separately numbered. All three volumes are continuously paginated from 1 to 1013. Indexes, published at the end of Volume Three, are compiled according to page

numeration of the edition itself. Documents are arranged in chronological order, with an additional division by the volumes of the *Diversa Notariae* series. At the end of each individual transcript the original shelfmark of the document is enclosed, including the number of volume and the leaf of its location. Documents are accompanied by the relevant regesta, and certainly noteworthy is the compilation of very exhaustive indexes in the Appendix (vol. 3, pp. 1199-1351). Also published is the already customary selection of ten photographs of the documents (*Diversa Notariae*, vol. 10 - vol. 26), in the Appendix (vol. 3, pp. 1189-1198).

In addition to the content of the published documents, the reader is bound to be drawn by the indexes. Embraced by the general term Index is the index of personal names, geographical names and the valuable subject index. It is subdivided into several separate sections, with the aim of bringing together everything that might attract a reader interested in economic history, legal history or the history of everyday life.

This subdivision is somewhat confusing as similar subjects tend to overlap. Therefore, a better and simpler solution would have been to create a unified, general index, with the measures for dry weights, length and fluid weights, or money units and rates presented in separate tables. On the other hand, a small glossary of typical terms appearing in the centuries-long notary office and hundreds of drafted contracts would have been very useful in the presentation of the voluminous archival material. Minor quibbles aside, the editors certainly deserve great credit for the Herculean labour to present the select material more transparently.

Documents vary in length. The majority of documents have up to ten lines, but there are some that extend up to several pages (e.g. no. 335, pp. 151-171; no. 679, pp. 385-403; no. 819, pp. 490-493; no. 922, pp. 559-564; no. 1566, pp. 929-931; no. 1984, pp. 1173-1175). The latter include more complex issues, such as the settlement of accounts upon dissolution of partnership, lease of family property in co-ownership or the demarcation of estates between Bosnian magnates and citizens of Dubrovnik. These cases are rare and untypical as opposed to the abundance of issues from everyday life of petty merchants, artisans, farmers raising livestock or cultivating land, who settled their issues with the assistance of state notaries, or even the judges of the Dubrovnik Republic.

The bulk of documents pertain to long-term labour contracts between the apprentices from the Bosnian and Herzegovinian hinterland and their employers in Dubrovnik. These data will certainly prove useful in the future research of the history of the Ragusan crafts and the status of young, apprenticed newcomers as one of the most vulnerable categories in the society of that time. The second group of documents pertains to various joint ventures between the inhabitants from either side of the border, contracting provisional partnerships to facilitate the supply and delivery of diversified goods, which testifies not only to the dynamics of the borderland relations, but also to common activities, whereby livestock farming and trade dominated over crafts and manufacture. This discrepancy would, no doubt, be even more noticeable should a comparison be made with similar activities in which the Ragusans engaged with their overseas partners.

Equally telling are the data on various infringements and violations of the signed contracts that were known to take place, along with crimes for which the injured party demanded satisfaction by relying on the authority of the Ragusan government and inviolability of contract. Sadly, far less data are provided on the social connections between Ragusans and the inhabitants from the hinterland, such as marriage contracts. It appears likely that the answer to these questions lies in other archival series which are yet to be investigated and published in the same manner.

Some inaccuracies in the transcription may be explained by inadequate knowledge of certain details from the history of Dubrovnik. Hardly can it be that in 1498 as Archbishop of Dubrovnik, instead of Giovanni Sacchi (according to his biography written by the Dominican Serafino Razzi

in the second half of the sixteenth century, also cited in the sixth volume of the collection *Illyricum Sacrum*) Johannes de Venetiis is mentioned, whose representative Benedetto Cambi from Florence employed Dragna from Ljubomir as maid (document no. 1508, p. 899), when it is common knowledge that after mid-fourteenth century the Venetians could not be elected as heads of Dubrovnik Church, as repeatedly decided by the Ragusan councils. Although such inaccuracies will not escape an attentive expert eye, they do not mar the huge editorial effort.

This work, published in only 200 copies, is originally intended for the professional circles. They always welcome editions of this kind because they expedite the time-consuming research process and save a lot of effort.

In the "Introduction", the editors critically remark on the negligence of the national scientific institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina towards valuable archival material, expressing surprise that "the most significant material for the history of medieval Bosnia in the State Archives in Dubrovnik has not yet been transcribed, microfilmed nor housed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, so as to be accessible and available to the scholarly public, lovers of antiquities and the education system" (p. xi), stressing the essential "role of historical sources in the identity of modern European and world states" (p. xii). Nonetheless, bearing in mind the huge volume of the edition before us, and especially the fruitful work of Professor Kurtović and his colleagues over the years, it is clear that the interest of the public and scholarly circles in the books of this kind is inherent, and only in the immense number of preserved documents lies the reason why archival material regarding the medieval history of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the State Archives in Dubrovnik has not yet been analysed in the form desired by the editors of this book. This leaves us only to wish them a successful fulfilment of their goal.

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Luca Sorgo, *Memoriae. Dnevnik Luke Sorkočevića (1781-1782)* [Memoriae. Journal of Luka Sorkočević (1781-1782)]. Edited, transcribed, translated and commented by Katja Radoš-Perković. Zagreb: Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti. Odsjek za povijest hrvatske glazbe, Hrvatsko muzikološko društvo, 2021. Pages 552.

The series *Sources and documents on music*, published by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Department for the History of Croatian Music and Croatian Musicological Society, has recently seen a third edition of primary sources. This relevant research contribution comprises a historiographical and critical analysis, transcription and translation of the journal accounts of the Ragusan composer and diplomat, Luka Sorkočević, dating from the second half of 1781 and early 1782. The publishing of this, in terms of cultural and heritage significance, valuable document in a professionally edited volume will doubtlessly give a fresh impetus to the researchers addressing intellectual, cultural and political history of the Late Enlightenment at the Habsburg court during the reign of Joseph II, and especially the issues pertaining to the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Dubrovnik and the political elite of Vienna. Despite the fact that Katja Radoš-Perković, who transcribed and translated the original document, and also authored the introductory study, should be credited for much of the editorial work, behind this endeavour is a carefully selected team of scholars, whose professional knowledge contributed to the high quality of this edition. In addition to the editorial board consisting of Vjera Katalinić, Koraljka Kos and Stanislav Tuksar, the publication of Sorkočević's journal owes much to a succession of scholars and experts in the political, cultural and intellectual aspects of that period, of whom Ivana Horbec, Ivan Cavallini, Teodora Shek Brnardić, Vladimir Brnardić, Marko Medved and Nella Lonza should be mentioned. With their collaboration, the edition before us represents a major step forward in terms of scientific evaluation of the journal legacy of Luka Sorkočević, which, until recently, has been studied only fragmentarily and not always according to academic standards.

Vjera Katalinić signs the Foreword (pp. 7-10), in which she draws attention to the extensive research process within the project *Umreživanje glazbom: promjene paradigmi u "dugom 19. stoljeću" – od Luke Sorkočevića do Franje Ksavera Kuhača* (Musical Networking: Changes in the Paradigm in "the Long 19th Century" – from Luka Sorkočević to Franjo Ksaver Kuhač) that preceded the edition of Sorkočević's journal. Katja Radoš-Perković is the author of the Introductory Study (pp. 11-23), informing the readers about the main features of the original document, which was a result of Sorkočević's diplomatic mission to Vienna, where he was supposed to establish direct contact with Emperor Joseph II and the high representatives of the court, and his journey back to Dubrovnik via Graz, Celje, Ljubljana and Rijeka. Additionally, the author has presented the research on the contextualisation of the manuscript, as well as the methodology of its transcription and translation which included consultation of other primary and secondary sources relating to Sorkočević's mission, reconstruction of technical details surrounding the creation of the journal entries, such as the term of his diplomatic mission, along with uncertainties and problems regarding the transcription and translation of the text. Both contributions have been published in Croatian and English, which further adds to the possibility for international reception of this edition.

Since the volume provides a parallel transcription of the original in Italian (pp. 26-226) and the translation into modern Croatian language (pp. 27-227) it is also more accessible to a wider readership. Furthermore, Sorkočević's style is appealing to a modern reader, making his diary an interesting read about the social life of the political elite of the late eighteenth century. Journal entries dated between 1 September 1781 and 24 January 1782, contain the author's views regarding commercial relations, material culture of the Viennese court, as well as his evaluations of the character of European diplomatic representatives with whom he established contact. *Popis osoba s tumačenjima*

(List of names with basic information, pp. 228-258) and its version in English (pp. 229-259) is the fruit of the abovementioned professionalism and expertise of the research team behind this edition, making this appendix indispensable for future research. In terms of volume, the facsimile of Sorkočević's manuscript occupies the bulk of the edition (pp. 261-537). The manuscript is kept in the State Archives in Dubrovnik, shelf mark HR-DADU-62, and as of recently is also accessible on microfilm. The final section, *Kazalo imena* (Index of names, pp. 539-550), is yet another welcome addition which confirms the edition's excellence in terms of egdotics, and the benefit it provides for the research into wide-ranging areas, from the history of musical culture, diplomatics and international politics.

The fact that the edition is bilingual, that is, introductory texts and the apparatus are published in both Croatian and English, is of special importance for the positioning of Croatian culture and intellectual history in the European context, as well as for the international popularisation of the research trends in Croatian academic community. With this edition, the potential for the future study of topics from the cultural, political, intellectual and social history by far surpasses the hitherto individual interests in musical culture from the musicological aspect. First-hand account of the social life of the elites and diplomatic procedure is but one aspect of Sorkočević's journal, which already at first sight calls for an in-depth analysis. The editors' goal towards research creativity in the future scientific interpretations of Sorkočević's legacy, which is here exemplified in the best possible manner, may be satisfied only through continuous popularisation of modern research trends and the application of new theoretical and methodological concepts in the field of intellectual and cultural history, which are ever more present in the Croatian academic community. This provides solid ground for an optimistic perspective regarding the future interpretations of the network of Sorkočević's diplomatic contacts, interactions between political actors at Habsburg court, non-material—dance, musical and procedural—cultures, travel-account aspects of Sorkočević's manuscript, to mention but a few of the possible research paths. Lastly, this volume gives us reason to hope that useful and methodologically developed practice of publishing original documents regarding music in this series will continue, because such projects are of invaluable importance for the academic community, Croatian cultural heritage and broader readership in general.

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