

vement, cultural activities and charitable endeavours.

The book is well researched and organised. It provides basic information about religious communities and refers to sources and secondary literature which can aid future researchers with information. The synthesis of information gathered through field research, interviews with communities' representatives and the analysis of the communities' publications, fills in the gaps in the existing literature. The reader is not burdened with less relevant details (within the framework of this study) but the book points a more inquisitive reader to additional sources.

The study is informative and interdisciplinary in nature. It inspires dialogue between the society and religious communities as well as dialogue in the area of different interests of religious communities and within themselves.

With regard to the subject matter, the study will be of primary interest to those who entertain academic interest in study of religion, sociology, history and theology; also to university lecturers and their

students. The style is both scientific and popular, pregnant with useful information and easy to read, and is thus accessible to a wider readership, particularly to the readers who are interested in the area of religion.

The book is an invaluable contribution to a better knowledge about different religious communities on the Croatian scene with its Roman Catholic majority, particularly as it gives an outline of new religious communities at the end of the twentieth century, often influenced by global and European integrative social processes. The book might be of help to the European Union as the basic source of information about religious communities and religious freedoms in Croatia.

The book *Religious Communities in Croatia* is a scholarly and succinct treatment of the Croatian religious setting at the beginning of the twenty first century which contains all relevant information about religious communities registered in the Register of religious communities in Croatia.

Stanko Jambreč

Translated by Davorin Peterlin

Gene S. Whiting

Zrinski, Međimurje i reformacija [Zrinski, Međimurje and the Reformation]

Bogoslovni institut, Zagreb, 2008., 304 pages.

Gene S. Whiting, the author, an American living in Čakovec and writing in Croatian, wrestles with the demanding and still insufficiently researched topic of the relationship between the Zrinski family, Međimurje and the Reformation. In his study, he uses

numerous primary sources (145 titles) as well as older and more recent secondary literature (532 titles). Some primary sources are published in the Appendix in the original language and in Croatian translation. In the body of the study, the author refers

to these sources and works which were often used by Croatian scholars, but does not stop there. He includes relevant, but less well known, archival material in his study as well as Croatian and other less accessible, but significant, cultural and historical works, especially those in Hungarian.

In addition to the Preface and Conclusion, the study consists of five chapters and contains three visual illustrations, thirteen other illustrations and indexes of names, places and terms.

In the first chapter entitled An introduction to the Background of the Reformation, the author surveys the historical and socio-cultural context of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Europe and Croatia.

The second chapter is devoted to Nikola Zrinski IV. In addition to the historical-genealogical insights about the Zrinski family, particularly about the first and second wives of Nikola Zrinski IV, Katarina Frankopan and Eva Rosenberg, the author presents the results of extensive research in familial, friendly, religious, cultural and political connections of individual members of the Zrinski family. He pays special attention to Ivan Ungnad III and the printing house of the Biblical Institute in Urach under his management.

In the discussion about the children of Nikola Zrinski IV, which is the focus of the third chapter, the author follows the Protestant religious and cultural thread in the lives of Juraj IV and his brothers and sisters against the background of their marriages.

Other connections between the Zrinski family and the Reformation are discussed in the fourth chapter which highlights different significant ties of Juraj IV with numerous significant Protestants.

In the fifth chapter, the author discusses Protestantism in Međimurje. In the first

section of the chapter, he lists a series of Protestant nobility with whom the Zrinskis had friendly connections, especially from the families of Banffy, Batthyány, Erdődy, Frankopan, Nádasdy, Rosenberg, Stubenberg, Széchy, Thurzó and Ungnad. He also mentions forty Protestant preachers who lived in churches around Međimurje, and devotes particular attention to the discussion regarding the activity of the preacher Mihalj Bučić. This discussion addresses the topics of education and intellectual sophistication among Protestants in Croatia and neighbouring countries, and the printing house supported by Juraj Zrinski IV as the benefactor.

The author provides a distinct, historical Protestant perspective on his research about the close ties between the Zrinski family and the Reformation. In addition to historical-genealogical information about the Zrinski family, the author makes a particularly useful scholarly contribution with his research in the familial, friendly and religious ties of the Zrinski family which he situates in a broad social context of the times.

A comparison between this study and topically related works reveals that through his approach and insights, the author fills in the gaps in the present knowledge of the topic, and throws additional light from the perspective of a foreign Protestant researcher.

Although the writing style occasionally points to the fact that the author is not a native Croat, the author has put in an extraordinary effort to utilize Croatian lexicology, idioms and to adhere to the standards of Croatian orthography. He is as consistent as possible in his usage of the widely accepted terminology, and has sought to be faithful to the historical logic.

The study is written both as a scholarly and popular work, and is directed at

scholars and the public at large, particularly those interested in history and theology.

The study researches a series of topics related to the Zrinskis, Međimurje and the Reformation which have not yet been extensively researched and provides access to numerous sources which have, until now, been inaccessible to the wider

public. Through his study, the author has offered an invaluable contribution to the understanding of the historical events in the northwestern part of Croatia from a foreign (American) cultural and historical-theological viewpoint.

Stanko Jambreč
Translated by Davorin Peterlin