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ŠKLAVUN SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND OUR FIRST RECORDED BUGARŠĆICA

Summary

Studying the speech and anthroponymy of Croats from Molise, as well as the anthroponymic survivals of other šklavun settlements in southern Italy, the author examines our first recorded bugaršćica which Professor M. Pantić had read and published as the first Serbian bugaršćica.

The author has compared the text of the bugaršćica song with the language of the Molise Croats, as well as the recorded names of its performers (149) with the anthroponymy of the šklavun settlers in southern Italy. He draws the conclusion that the song reflects linguistic properties of the Neretva river delta in the 15th century (ikavian characteristics, š i, ž d instead of š ć, ž j and the like; many čakavian traits etc.). The names of the bugaršćica performers match the first and last names of the Molise Croats and other medieval Croatian settlers in southern Italy; by their origin, structure and wider anthroponymic content, both are ascribed to the same linguistic and cultural milieu.

(Translated by Olga Supek-Zupan)