

Reviews

M. N. Drobyševa, *Dalmatinsko-Dubrovnickoe Vozroždenie: tvorčestvo Marina Držića*. Sankt Peterburg: Izdatelstvo S.–Petersburgskogo universiteta, 2006. Pages 212.

This monograph on the Dalmatian and Dubrovnik Renaissance and Marin Držić as its most prominent exponent is the work of M. N. Drobyševa, Russian literary historian and lecturer at the Department of Foreign Literature on the Faculty of Philology in St Petersburg. The book provides an insightful study of the historical background and main features of the Dalmatian and Dubrovnik Renaissance, the political position of the Dubrovnik Republic within the broader international context, as well as its social organisation.

The book is divided into three related sections. The first section opens with an introduction to the Humanistic spirit and the flourishing of Dubrovnik literature during Renaissance, succeeded by an exhaustive biography of Marin Držić, his relations with Italy, literary work and political involvement in the so-called conspiratorial letters to Cosimo Medici. The second section provides a wide-angle 'snap-shot' of the literary history of Dubrovnik and Dalmatia in the early sixteenth century, with emphasis on art and drama, followed by detailed analysis of the religious dramas *Uskrsnuće Isukrstovo*, *Posvetilište Abrahamovo*, an unfinished mythological drama *Orfej* by Mavro Vetranović, and Držić's pastoral plays *Tirena*, *Venera i Adonis*, and *Grižula*. The author has devoted the third section to an in-depth analysis of Držić's comedy *Dundo Maroje*, proceeded with a survey of his comedies and work placed in the context of the contemporary Dubrovnik drama and the Italian literary parallels.

As yet another contribution to the voluminous bibliography of Marin Držić, this monograph is specific because in the focus of her study Drobyševa places the Slavic roots of the Dalmatian and Dubrovnik Renaissance, keeping in mind the Italian influence and references.

Through a systematic survey of the critical assessments cited in various sources, Drobyševa comes forward with her own conclusions, fairly unusual at times, such as her analogy between Marin Držić and François Villon. She argues that although Držić's life fails to offer as many 'criminal elements' as that of Villon, these two poets shared similar fate and divine gift.

Well-written by an expert and disciplined scholar, this monograph represents a welcome contribution to literary history, appealing mainly to Russian scholars.

Mihaela Vekarić

Antal Molnár, *Le Saint-Siège, Raguse et les missions catholiques de la Hongrie ottomane 1572-1647*. Rome: Academia d'Ungheria; Budapest: Bibliothèque Nationale de Hongrie, Société pour l'Encyclopédie de l'Histoire de l'Église en Hongrie, 2007. Pages 431.

This book is a synthesis of the years' study of the Catholic Church under Ottoman rule of the Hungarian historian Antal Molnár, researcher at the Historical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and lecturer of Modern History at the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest. This ambitious project aims to survey the history of the Catholic missions across a wide area from the southern part of the Ottoman Hungary to Bosnia and Serbia during a period of almost one century. Molnár has arranged the book chronologically, tracing the organisation of the Catholic missions from the beginnings in the 1570s until the mid-seventeenth century and their final institutional consolidation, along with the *modus operandi* of the Catholic missionaries in the northern regions of the Ottoman Empire.

The first chapter entitled 'Catholic communities in the Balkans' is a panoramic reconstruction of the historical context in which the missions developed. Molnár examines diverse Catholic communities operating under