

The Humanist Latin authors of Croatia and the Foundations of Contemporary Europe

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1603.. I refused this post for that year, as I did not think it fitting that, without any knowledge of the country, I should all at once take the command of three thousand men; but I determined to go as a volunteer, with the best outfit I could."

He accordingly passed through Germany, where the chief of his adventures are of the kind for which that country has always enjoyed a high reputation. Scarcely a dinner or supper is recorded, which does not end in the moral extinction of all the party. The details of this war are of little interest: we select the following.

" At day-break, on the 29th of September, we made a sortie from our great intrenchment, with two hundred Hungarians, to reconnoitre the enemy; but we had not gone three hundred paces, when we found some hundred horse in front of us. The Hungarians, according to their custom, were all dispersed about, and we had not thirty horse with us, all of whom took flight as soon as the enemy appeared. But I, who could not imagine that the Turks had advanced so far, and who could scarcely distinguish them from the Hungarians, thought they belonged to us, when a Hungarian runaway called out to me, *Heu, domine, adsunt Turcae*: which made me retreat too."

Segmentum VII





What kept Latin alive without an army and a navy?

international communities of ideas:

the Catholic Church

the Republic of Letters (*res publica litterarum*)

the professions:

lawyers (and notaries)

officials

(justice and administration, in Hungarian Kingdom until
1848 at least)

diplomats

(Queen Elizabeth, Isabella of Castille, Stefan Bathory, King of
Poland, Cardinal Wolsey, Axel Oxenstierna)

travellers

lingua franca

English traveller Edward Browne (1668):

in Hungary and Transylvania, ‘coachmen, watermen and mean persons’ could all make themselves understood in Latin.

Croatiae
auctores
Latini

Croatiae auctores Latini

- Latin written from 8th century until 1950 and later
 - range: from poetry and scholarship to inscriptions and documents to school exercises and PhD theses
- some 6500 printed works published from the 15th century until 1848 contain a Latin text by a Croatian author.

Serafin Marija Crijević (Dubrovnik, 1686—1759), Bibliotheca Ragusina

Id unum hactenus desiderabatur, ut florentissima civitas civium suorum illustriumque virorum fieret imagine spectabilis. Evidem nulla fere natio est, nulla civitas, quae illustrium civium scriptorumque bibliothecas non instruxerit, sive alia id genus commentaria ad posteritatis memoriam non ediderit, quae praesertim eximios e suis civibus incolisque viros completerentur. Sola fere urbs nostra non modo caeteris usque adhuc nationibus ignota, sed parum sibi ipsi cognita, fere sine nomine, sine laude, quia sine laudatore fuit. Hinc res civium nostrorum per multa secula bene gestae ex hominum memoria exciderunt, quia nempe scriptores illis laudatoresque defuerunt.

Serafin Marija Crijević (Dubrovnik, 1686—1759), Bibliotheca Ragusina

To this point just one thing has been missing: that our wonderful city should be adorned with images of its citizens, its famous sons. For indeed there is hardly any nation, any city, without a library of its distinguished citizens and writers, or without some other commentary of a similar type, prepared to aid the memory of later generations; without a work comprising all the best of its citizens and inhabitants. Our city is almost the only one left to this day not only unknown to other nations, but insufficiently known to itself as well, almost without a name, without fame, because the city had nobody to celebrate it. Therefore all the fine things our citizens have done through centuries fell into oblivion; certainly, because there was nobody to write about them, to celebrate them.

Cui bono?
Who needs this?

Different people interested in
history (of Croatia, of Europe)

philologists (history of language)

literary critics (history of literature)

historians

art historians

theologians

archaeologists

(all may have little Latin)

People with different backgrounds

from Croatia
from abroad

People with different backgrounds

from Croatia: may know about
Croatian Latin literature, but have
not read it

from abroad: may not even
know about it

and still...

there is lots to discover!

Exempla trahunt

Croatiae auctores Latini text collection

March 2009:

- 28 texts
- 24 authors
- 500.000 words

Croatiae auctores Latini text collection

March 2009:

- poetry and prose
- literary and scholarly texts
- ca. 1250 – 1843

Thomas Archidiaconus
Spalatensis
(Split, circa 1250)
Historia seu cronica
Salonitanorum atque
Spalatinorum pontificum

going to see s. Francis live

Fran Lucijan Gundulić
(Franciscus Lucianus Gondola,
Dubrovnik 1451/2--1505)

Baptistinus
(ca. 1490--1500)
novella (à la Boccaccio)

Georgius Augustinus Zagabriensis
Epistola ad Nicolaum Ostphi
(Ferraria Bononiam, 8 Iul 1454)

Ambroz Mihetić (Ambrosius Miches)
Ambrosius Miches Dalmata et
Sebenicensis Cassandrae Fideli
Salutem Plurimam Dicit (12. 1. 1487)

Marcus Marulus
(Marko Marulić, Split, 1450-
1524; self-styled
Croatian Dante)
carmina Latina
(epic, epigrams, shorter poems)

Benedikt Stay
(Dubrovnik, 1714-1801)
Philosophiae versibus traditae libri sex
(1747)

Bernard Zamagna
(Dubrovnik 1735-1820)
Bernardi Zamagnae navis aeria et
elegiarum monobiblos, 1748
(also on Google Book Search)

Benedikt Stay
(Dubrovnik, 1714-1801)
Philosophiae versibus traditae libri sex
(1747)

Bernard Zamagna
(Dubrovnik 1735-1820)
Bernardi Zamagnae navis aeria et
elegiarum monobiblos, 1748
(also on Google Book Search)

Bernard Zamagna, Parma, 1792
Theocriti, Moschi et Bionis idyllia omnia

(also in Google Book Search)

Luko Stulli
(Luca Stulli, Dubrovnik, 1772--1828)
Vaccinatio, carmen elegiacum (1804)

Ignjat Alojzije Brlić
(Slavonski Brod, 1795–1855)
A Latin letter to his son Andrija Torkvat
Brlić (Brod, 22 Oct 1837)

*U Vinkovce. Brodii. XI Calend. Novembris 1837.
NB idest 22a 8bris*

Charissime filiole!

Mihi quidem debeo gratulari quod latinas literas
ad me mittas, sed dolendum. quod eas tam
eronee (sic) scribas. Itaque tibi plus attentionis
commendo tum in ordinatione tuarum
literarum, tum in syntaxi etc. prosertim (sic) in
significationibus verborum, eapropter
grammaticam et lexicon pro manibus habes.

Franjo Milašinović
(Varaždin, 1808--1883)
Viator Zagorianus Jožko
Hranjec (ca. 1880)

Šala. Viator Zagorianus Jožko Hranjec
Versibus macaronicis celebratus. Od + Franje
Milašinovića.

Arma virumque cano.

Aestus erat, ljudi sudabant, vrane ziabant,
Ipse senex Hranjec pae žedja, paeque vrućina
Bogme perivisset, nisi dobro vince bibisset.
Zagrabiae nemoguć tantos perferre calores
Ad peregrinandum se vu Zagorje resolvit.
Illa volens još pred smrtjum loca grata videre,
In quibus u dobroj volji cmokare puellas
Atque snehas olim bene podkovare solebat.

scriptores illis
laudatoresque
defuerunt

A bazaar agenda

- a personal collection
- possible to add content (and be acknowledged)
 - possible to share content
 - provide a gateway to other collections

Building a collection
and
building a community
around it

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