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**VIRTUAL WALK WITH MARIJA MALBAŠA ALONG THE DIVALD STREET TOWARDS SLAVONIAN ANCIENT FIELDS AND FORESTS**

***Abstract***

*The best way to learn more about one region and its historical, economic, political and cultural development is through books and other printed materials. In Croatia, there are many regional and local bibliographies. When it comes to Slavonia, the "Osječka bibliografija Sv. I (1742-1944)" by Marija Malbaša provides the list as well as descriptions of all books and materials printed in Osijek, regardless the language they were written in. Although the Turks had left Slavonia after more than a century and a half long occupation, the Austrians expanded its system of military zones to some parts of Slavonia. The land was colonized by strangers, predominantly by the Germans. In the beginning, they lived and worked as farmers and craftsmen and eventually left important and valuable written traces about culture, economy, medicine, industry, military, medicine, religion, agriculture, forestry etc. The "Osječka bibliografija Sv. I (1742-1944)", the local bibliography, contains a large number of publications written in German, many of which were dedicated to the agricultural themes and problems that evolved from everyday life. 3,295 books and other materials printed in Osijek. are recorded in the first volume (1742 1944) of Osječka bibliografija (Osijek Bibliography) by Marija Malbaša. The main focus of our interest were books and other printed material regarding agriculture. The purpose of this paper is to connect the past, present and future, since 2,404 bibilographic units (Essekiana local history collection) are kept in the Museum of Slavonia's library in Osijek. This unique local collection of books has been made accessible to the wider public through a web catalogue in order to present its local history books to the community and raise awareness of the value of the books kept in the biggest museum library in Croatia. Thanks to Marija Malbaša's effort, we witness today that the importance of agriculture in Slavonia not only has a long tradition, but also that its development and problems have always been a significant and interesting topic to write about.*

***Key words***: *Marija Malbaša*, "*Osječka bibliografija", printing, agriculture*

1. **"The distiction between the past, present and future is only a stubbornly persisent illusion." (Albert Einstein)**

At first glance the title of this paper may seem confusing. The reader could rightfully ask himself about connections between the terms, since they refer to the past, present and, in a way, to the future. But, as quoted above, there are no distinct boundaries. The past influences our lives, takes part in our development, finds its way not only in the present but also in the future.

It was our wish to tell the story about the book that tells a story about the history of our town, Osijek. The book that has itself become a part of the past, but still helps us understand the very moment we live in. A part of the book has found its place in the Internet with the little help of the information and communication technology – for the generations yet to come.

* 1. **Marija Malbaša**

The entire life of Marija Malbaša (born in Osijek in 1909, died in Zagreb in 1995) was dedicated to her work as a librarian. She is recognized for her outstanding work in the cultural history of the town of Osijek. In 1951, she started to work as a librarian at the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek (Muzej Slavonije Osijek). The Museum's library had a double function: to take care of numerous old and valuable books (originated from 16th to 20th century) and on the other hand, to serve as a scientific library for Slavonia and the northern part of Croatia. Her work in the field of history of printing and publishing is a permanent monument to her greatness. In this way, she continued the work of Josip Bösendorfer[[1]](#footnote-1) in the recording of the local collection. She is best known for her works *Povijest tiskarstva Osijeka* (The History of Publishing in Osijek) and *Osječka bibliografija* (Osijek Bibliography).

**1.2. *Osječka bibliografija* (Osijek Bibliography)**

Not only developed countries publish national and various special bibliographies (Sečić, 2006, 91). Croatian bibliography also has a long tradition. According to Malbaša herself, *Osječka bibliografija* (Osijek Bibliography) belongs to the groups of both special and local bibliographies. It is the bibliography of collected books and brochures printed and published in Osijek. It provides information on the printing and publishing activities in Osijek, regardless of the language the books were published in. It was necessary in order to gain insight into everyday life in Osijek in different historical periods as well as under various administrations. Multilingualism that characterized printing and publishing activities in Osijek in the 18th and 19th century reflects the long way this town had to go towards developing from the end of the 17th to the middle of the 20th century (Malbaša, 1981, 6). Every local biography mirrors life manifestations of a smaller community if they are preserved by written and printed words. In this way, such bibliographies may help us to learn more about economic, political, social and cultural history of the community or, better yet, provide us with information that history does not register (Malbaša, 1981, 12).

**1.3. Historical background**

When it comes to Slavonian history, one has to begin with the liberation from the Turks. One of the most important years for this region is 1699, when the Treaty of Karlovac was signed. However, there was not actual change. The Austrians established a firm and permanent military borderland towards the Ottoman Empire. It ran along the entire southern part of Slavonia. For centuries, Slavonia was the filter which protected Europe from the direct influence of the east. Not only was the abandoned land soon inhibited by nobility from distant regions, but the craftsmen and merchants also became an important factor in everyday life of Slavonia.

Although Osijek was an important centre during the Ottoman occupation (1526-1687), it was almost completely abandoned after the Turks had been expelled (1687). Nevertheless, it was quickly rebuilt and again became an important strategic stronghold, since the fear of new wars against the Turks had not completely disappeared. On the site of the burnt and destroyed fortress, a new was built, designed by Maximilian de Goseau (1712-1721) surrounding the town with a large central square and many streets. Soon the ethnic structure of population in urban agglomerations – Osijek, Požega, Vukovar, Vinkovci, Slavonski Brod was altered. Merchants and tradesmen moved mainly from Styria and Austrian lands. The Book of the Dead in Osijek in the 18th century shows, for example, that most of the population of the centre of the city at that time, Tvrđa, were of Austrian and German descent. In this newly formed region, Osijek began to stand out as the most important, not only military, but equally economic and trading centre of the entire region. It may be said that the city began to attain its present status as the Slavonian metropolis at the end of the 18th century (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 66).

**1.4. Printing and publishing in Osijek from the 18th century**

Under such political and social circumstances, literacy was a luxury. The first educators were, and remained throughout most of the 18th century, monks: Franciscans and Jesuits (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 137). At that time, the official language was Latin. Expectedly, in the 18th century bibliography there are many texts in Latin – various forms of prayer books, biographies of the saints, sermons etc. The first book in German was published in 1777[[2]](#footnote-2). By the end of the century, a few more were published. One of them was the school book about "Slavonian language" (the first edition[[3]](#footnote-3) printed in 1778 and the second in 1789) and the other was the introduction to German ortography[[4]](#footnote-4). It is clear that there was a necessity to learn languages in order to able to communicate (Malbaša, 1981, 8). Nevertheless, the largest number of books and other printed material is in Croatian.

The very first printings in Osijek were done by the Franciscans. It is recorded that they printed 23 books in the period from 1735 to 1775. The authorities were supposedly not satisfied with the work of the Franciscian printing house due to poor equipment and low income. Since they did not have the imperial licence, the municipality decided to hand it over to someone who would work more efficiently (Plevnik, 1987, 151). There were two printers who competed against each other: Ivan Matin Divald[[5]](#footnote-5) and Ivan Trattner. It was I. M. Divald (1743-1806) who was granted the concession for typography in Vienna in 1775. About his importance not only for Osijek, but also for Slavonia speaks the fact that one of the longest streets in Osijek was named after him in 1925, although he was not a native of Osijek. Despite the turbulent decades of the 20th century, it is one of the rare streets that has never changed its name. It is without a doubt the fact that speaks for itself. I. M. Divald laid the foundations of a new era in graphic industry in Osijek. His family members and heirs continued the tradition. In the decades and centuries to come, the number of printing houses in Osijek increased. By the end of the first half of the 20th century there were 42 of them (Malbaša, 1981, 579).

**1.5. *Essekiana* - local history collection**

3,295 books and other materials printed in Osijek by the Franciscian printing house, then in the Divalds' family printing house, followed by other eminent printing houses owned by Dragutin Lehman, Julije Pffeifer, Dragutin Laubner or the First Croatian Shareholders Publishing House and The Civil Publishing House are recorded in the first volume (1742 -1944) of *Osječka bibliografija* (Osijek Bibliography) by Marija Malbaša. In the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek many of these can be found, or to be precise, 2,404 bibilographic units (*Essekiana* local history collection) are kept in the Museum's library. The library's staff decided to make its unique local collection of books accessible to the wider public through a web catalogue[[6]](#footnote-6). One of the essential goals of the online catalogue of the Essekiana collection is to present its local history books to the community and raise awareness of the value of the books kept in the biggest museum library in Croatia. It is worth mentioning that the Museum of Slavonia is the only museum of a general type in Croatia that made its local history collection available through an online catalogue published on the museum web site (Knežević, I. 2010, 99)

1. **Agriculture and forestry**

At the end of *Osječka bibliografija* (Osijek Bibliography) there is, among other separate parts that give additional information, the "Index of Disciplines and Subjects". It consists of 57 (sub)disciplines: below the name there are numbers of bibliographical entries listed in numerical order (Malbaša, 1981, 564). The main focus of our interest were:

* No. 38 Agriculture. Pomology. Viticulture. Horticulture.
* No. 39 Forestry. Game.
* No. 40 Cattle Breeding. Bee-keeping. Cocoonery.

Also, great emphasis was put on bibligraphic entries of the books and other published material in German because of its role in the history of Osijek and the previously mentioned multilingualism.

* 1. **Agriculture. Pomology. Viticulture. Horticulture.**

After the expulsion of the Turks in the wider area of Osijek, Požega and Virovitica there were 70 inhabited and 425 abandoned villages. The state endeavoured to improve agriculture by introducing new cultures, giving out free seed and planting vegetable gardens. Potatoes were accepted with great suspicion (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 66). The first instruction in written form in Croatian was published in 1796 by Josip Stjepan Relković[[7]](#footnote-7): for a long period of time, almanacs were the only source in which Slavonian peasants could get useful information such as planting dates, tide tables etc. A major problem in the development of the region were the frequent floods, especially in the Sava river basin, and around the Vuka. In the "Index of Disciplines and Subjects" No. 24 is dedicated to "Water Development. Water Regulation. Flood Prevention. Drainage." (Malbaša, 1981, 564). In 1858 Alexander Nagy made some suggestions regarding the building of the Osijek-Brod Channel[[8]](#footnote-8), while in 1876 Johann Nepomuk Spannbauer[[9]](#footnote-9) wrote about the construction of channels over the flat agricultural land between the Drava and the Danube. Only with the foundation of the Slavonian counties did the economic situation improve. Clearing forests and cultivating the land brought very good yields of corn, which was exported, mainly by river, even to Italy via Sisak and Karlovac, and into Germany along the Danube (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 66). There are 43 references with regard to these (sub)disciplines: 29 printed materials were written in Croatian, 12 in German and 1 in Latin. It is unusual that there is only one book in Hungarian, because of the well known role and influence of the Hungarians for a long period of time.

* 1. **Forestry. Game.**

There are 22 bibliographical entries, 14 of which are printed in German, whereas 2 of them are bilingual (written both in Croatian and German). It is interesting that the first printed material (German) with regard to forestry was published in 1861 and the last one in 1929. The reason for this lies in the fact that at that time the forests were the greatest natural wealth of this region, since many rivers and exceptionally damp soil encouraged the growth of high quality wood. The oaks were of particular importance. Right up to the 18th century there was no large-scale exploitation of the Slavonian forests. From then, however, the forest area decreased rapidly. Above all, this was due to organized exploitation, then the building of the new roads and villages, but also to the drying out of the soil (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 29). The author of a suprisingly large number of printed publications in German (10 sic!) regarding forestry is Adolf Danhelovsky: it is in 1865 that he discusses the wood shrinkage problem in Slavonia in one of his works[[10]](#footnote-10). Since the landowners started to make fortunes trading in furs and game, later publications are dedicated to this subject and all of them are written in Croatian, even the Game Law and the Dictionary of Game Terms (Dragutin Kišpatić).

* 1. **Cattle Breeding. Bee-keeping. Cocoonery.**

This section involves 40 bibligraphic entries. When it comes to everyday life of the Slavonian peasants of the 18th century, it was very well described by Antun Matija Relković in his "Satir"[[11]](#footnote-11). From Relković's sources we learn what a typical village household was like at that time. The house faced the street, it had a high roof with an attic for storing the summer crops, a courtyard and beehives, and beside it there would also be a barn and a vegetable garden (Topić, M., Maković, Z., 2005, 63). The very first books regarding sheep keeping in Croatian were written by Ivan Venceslav Pauls in 1771 and in 1776[[12]](#footnote-12), but they were translated from German. A large number of printed materials and books regarding bee-keeping proves that it has a very long tradition. Nevertheless, there is another part of Slavonian agriculture that deserves to mentioned in this paper, since it does not exist anymore. In Slavonia, cocoonery began to flourish in the 1760s, which is why white mulberry trees were planted. Silkworms, larvae of a moth (*Bombyx mori*), fed and spin cocoons of silk on their leaves. In 1763, the empress Maria Theresa gave 60,000 forints for the production of silk in Osijek. In 1774 Georg Planck organized mass planting of white mulberry trees. In 1798, the first instructions for cocoonery were written and printed[[13]](#footnote-13) in Osijek. Although in 1979 the City Goverment of Osijek refused further planting of mulberry yards with the explanation that there had been enough leaves to feed silkworms, in 1811 a thousand new plants were divided and in 1822, a hundred copies of books for the popularization of cocoonery were ordered by the City Goverment. Despite the tragic year of 1855, in which a disease destroyed silkworms and mulberry trees (Plevnik, 1987, 142), in 1867 Antun Vukasinović published his book with some practical advice in cocoonery[[14]](#footnote-14) both in Croatian and German.

1. **Conclusion**

Thanks to Marija Malbaša's great effort, her *Osječka bibliografija Sv. I (1742-1944)* (Osijek Bibliography), *Essekiana* local history collection kept in the Museum's library and the *Essekiana* online catalogue, we witness today that both the importance of not only agriculture but also other disciplines have a long tradition in Slavonia, and that their development and problems have always been a significant and interesting topic to write about.

The authors hope that they have succeeded in giving an insight into a rich source of information not only in printed form, but also on the Internet. Besides, we hope that our paper[[15]](#footnote-15) will encourage fellow students and colleagues to continue their research in this field. There is a good reason for the saying that one has to know his past in order to understand the present. And we would add the future, as well.

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Sečić, D. (2006): ***Informacijska služba u knjižnici***, Tipomat, Lokve

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<http://www.matica.hr/Kolo/kolo2005_2.nsf/AllWebDocs/verl> (accessed 1 March 2012)

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Vinaj, M. (2005): ***Marija Malbaša – knjižničarka i muzealka Muzeja Slavonije u***

***Osijeku***, in: Kolo br.2 <http://www.matica.hr/Kolo/kolo2005_2.nsf/AllWebDocs/mvinaj>

(accessed 1 March 2012)

<http://essekeri.hr/bio/68-marija-malbasa> (accessed 30 March 2012)

<http://essekeri.hr/bio/74-ivan-martin-divald> (accessed 30 March 2012)

<http://www.mso.hr/essekiana/katalog.php> (accessed 30 March 2012)

<http://www.mso.hr/index.php?page=zavicajna-zbirka-essekiana> (accessed 30 March 2012)

1. J. Bösendorfer was a respected director of the Museum of Slavonia from 1941 to1949 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 53. HOHENHAUSEN, Sylvester Joseph

   Illyrien/. Hohenhausen/ Diwalt/ Esseg/ 1777. 16° 24 str. (M S O) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 61. LANOSOVIĆ, Marijan

   Neue Einleitung/ zur/ Slavonischen Sprache,/ mit einem nützlichen/ Wörter- und Gesprächbuche,/ auch einem Anhange/ verschiedener/ deutscher und slawonischer Briefe/ und einem kleinen Titularbuche/ versehen./ Zum Gebrauch/ aller Liebhaber derselben/ herasgegeben von/ P. Marian Lanossovich,/ Priestern aus dem Orden des H. V. Francisci,/ Kapistraner Provinz./ Mit allerhöchster Erlaubnis./ Esseck, gedruckt bey Johann Martin Diwalt,/ k. k. privil. Buchdruckern. 1778. 8° 12 nepag. + 272 str. (M S O ) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 60. KURZE Anleitung

   Kurze Anleitung zur deutschen/ Ortographie, oder Rechtschreibung. Esseck,/ bey Johann Martin Diwalt, 1778. 8° 34 str. [paginacija slovima] (M S O) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The uncertainties about the spelling of his family name have never been resolved. In published materials it varies from Dibald, Riwald, Rivalt, Dibaldt to Diewald. The family name Diwaldt is inscribed in his headstone, while the citizens of Osijek use either Divald or Divalt. It is, however, suggested to use – Divald. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.mso.hr/index.php?page=zavicajna-zbirka-essekiana> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 145. RELKOVIĆ, Josip Stjepan

   Kuchnik/ shto svakoga miseca/ priko godine:/ u polju,/ u berdu,/ u baschi,/ oko marve i xivadi, oko kuche, i u kuchi/ csiniti,/ i kako zdravlje razloxno/ uzderxavati ima,/ iz dugovicsnog vixbanja starih Kuch-/ nikah povadih, i u slavonskom glasu izdade/ Josip Štipan Relković/ od Ehrendorf/ slavne Diakovacske biskupie shtabski parok/ u Vinkovcih. U Ossiku,/ Slovih Ivana Martina Divalt/ privilegiratog knjigotisca/ 1796./ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 612 NAGY, Alexander

   Denkschrift über den Essek-Brooder Canal. Essek, Druck von Carl Lehman u. Comp. 1858. 8º 15 str. (N S B) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 89 SPANNBAUER, Joh/ann/ Nep/omuk/

   Die Kanalisierung der Slavonischen Drau-Donau-Ebene. Im Auftrage des Herrn Johann Cap. Adanovich de Čepin, Besitzer der Herrschaften Čepin, Erdöd und Almaš, Ehrenpräsident des slavonischen Bodenculturvereins, wirklichen Mitgliedes der ung. Landw. Gesellschaft etc, etc. Verfast von Joh. Nep. Spannbauer, Cultur-Ingenieur und Oeconomie-Oberbeamten. Mit einer Karte und zwei grafischen Darstellungen. Nebst culturhistorischer Skizze von Johann Peters, Secretär des slavonischen Bodencultur Vereines. Esseg, Verlag von Joh. Cap. Adamovich de Čepin, 1876. Karl Sandors Druckerei (J. Selzer) 8º 147 str. + 2 tabele (MSO) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 689. DANHELOVSKY, Adolf

    Ist die Verminderung des Waldstandes Slavoniens wünschenswerth und möglich? Und die dieser Absicht entspringende Behandlung der Wälder nützlich? Im Privat- und Staatswirtschaftlichen Interesse besprochen von Adolf Danhelovsky Freiherrlich Gustav Prandau'scher Forstmeister. 1865, <Druck von Carl Lehmann u. Comp. in Essek, 1864.> 8º 36 str. (M S O ) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 69. RELKOVIĆ, Matija Antun

    Mathie Antuna Relkovicha/ Satir/ iliti divji csovik./ U pervomu dilu, piva u versi/ Slavoncem/ a u drugom dilu, Slavonac/ odpiva u veshe Satiru./ Od istog pocsetnika, od pomanjkanjah ocsistjen/ uzmloxan, i s'dobronashastjem prividiteljah kako/ i s'dopushtenjem visokih stareshinah drugi/ put na svitlo dat/. U Osiku/ tiskan sa slovih Martina Divalda 1779. 8º 18 + 161 str. nepag (M S O) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. 48. PAULS, Ivan Venceslav

    Prava, i/ pomljivo ispisana/ ovcsarnica/ iliti uvixbani nauk/ kakose ovce po dobrom go-/ denju u najpodpuniu verstu/ okrenuti, i o njoj uxder-/xati moguh./ Najprie od jednoga punno/ zasluxenog, i vishta domorodca ni-/macski sloxen, zatim na zapovid/ visokih stareshinah u slavonski/jeziik prineshen po/ Mathii Ant. Relkovichu,/ njiova Cesaro-Kraljevskog i apostolskog velicsanstva u Brodskoj Kraishnoj/ regimenti capitanu,. Pritiskano u Osiku. Po Ivanu Martinu Divaltu, Godine 1776. 8º127 + /6/ str. (M S O) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. \*149. KURZER Unterricht

    Kurzer Unterricht Maulbeer-Bäumer zu siegeln and vermehren: dann wie die Seidenwürmer nöthig mit Nutzen auszufüttern und die Galetten mit Vortheil zu erzeugen, für den Umkreis des löbl. Barcser Komitats eingeleitet und bereitet in Jahr 1797. Esseg, 1798. Bey Joh. Mart. Diwalt. 8º 32 l. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 735. VUKASINOVIĆ, Antun

    Praktische Regeln zur Maulbeerbaum und Seidenzucht mit besonderer Rücksicht auf Vereinfachung und Zeitersparniss. Für mindervermögende Landleute, deren Weiber und Kinder verfasst und durch vieljährige praktische Erfahrung erprobt von Anton Wukasinoviä, Seidenzucht-Inspektor des löb. Veröczer Comitates, korrespondierendes Mitglied der Landwirtschafts-Gesselschaft und des Seidenbau-Vereins in Prag. Zweite verbesserte und vermehrte Auflage. Essek, Druck von C. Lehmann u Comp., 1867. 8º VIII + 84 str. + 8 tabla, sa sl. (M S O) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. All footnotes, with the exception of No. 1, 5 and 6, are bibliographical entries from *Osječka bibliografija Sv. I (1742-1944)* (Osijek Bibliography) by Marija Malbaša. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)