



Bulletin

ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES

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"Post tertiam campanam"- -Night Life in Medieval Dubrovnik

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[Editors Note: Last fall, Zagreb witnessed the publication of a new journal, Otium: Časopis za povijest svakodnevice. The editorial board is composed of younger professors in the Department of History at the University of Zagreb who organized an independent society that gathers every month or two to present papers on the history of every-day life and discuss problems of methodology. As Neven Budak, the president of the society commented in his introduction to the first number of Otium, "Our success somewhat exceeded our expectations because the society succeeded in attracting not only Croatian

Dr. Franjo Šanjek to Address ACS in Philly

The ACS will have an active schedule at this year's AAASS convention in Philadelphia. The Wyndham Franklin Hotel, which is hosting the convention will also be the site of the ACS dinner on Friday, 18 November. We have a limited number of spaces available for the dinner. Members planning to attend the dinner should mail a check for \$25.00 to the treasurer, Sarah Kent by Friday 11 November or contact her by phone at (608)-231-5964. Members who have not yet renewed should also include their annual dues. The annual business meeting will take place immediately following the banquet. Please note that this is a change from the program.

At the original meeting time of 8:00am, Sunday 20 November will be a special presentation by dr. Franjo Šanjek, dean of the faculty of theology at the University of Zagreb.

The ACS is sponsoring the following panels:

Liberalism and Croat Political Thought

Sunday 20 November
Chair: Elinor Despolatović,
Connecticut College

Papers:

William B. Tomljanovich, Yale

"Liberal Nationalism"

Andrea Feldman, Yale

"Economic Liberalism"

Stephen Tull, U. of Michigan

"Contemporary Liberal
Politics"

Discussant:

Peter Sugar, U. Washington

The Closing of the Croatian Mind: Resignation and Resistance (roundtable)

Chair: Marko Prelec, Yale U.

Participants:

Gordana Crnković, U. of
Washington

Davor Huic, Reuters News
Agency

Ivana Macek, Uppsala U.

Vlasta Ratković, New York
University

historians of all generations but also members in Slovenia, Austria, and Germany." The society's goal is to make serious pieces of research accessible to both professional historians and interested nonhistorians.

Below is an excerpted translation of the lead article from the first number of Otium. Regrettably, footnotes had to be omitted due to space. The other articles in the issue were Timur Križak's "Čudoredje u djelu, Jurja Habelića Pervi otca našega Adama greh" and Mladen Domazet's "O čudoredju u Donjim Kaštelima (1918.-1939)." The issue also includes reviews of books and exhibits, as well as a listing of the papers that have been presented since the society's founding in 1992. If you want to receive your own copy of Otium, write to Neven Budak, Povijesno društvo "Otium," Filozofski Fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, 41000 Zagreb, Dj. Salaja 3, Croatia. Include a bank check for \$15 payable to Iskra Ivolić.]

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Dubrovnik's Knjige zločina show the behavior of people in extreme situations and acquaint us with a

succession of personalities, from the margins of society, who rarely appear in other kinds of documents. The books detail the world of violence and disorder, thereby creating an impression of insecurity, especially in the night hours after the third bell had rung. The Romans reckoned the start of the day from sunrise and the end at sunset. The beginning of the day therefore varied, depending on the time of year, and this system affected as well the length of the day. Night hours lasted during the whole year for approximately sixty minutes, and daytime hours lasted from half an hour to an hour and a half by today's calculation of time. Calculations in this paper are therefore only approximate. Working from information about sunset in the region of Dubrovnik, one can say that the third bell rang in summer at about 11 p.m. and at about 10 p.m. in winter. Through the statements of witnesses, we learn that night in Dubrovnik was a time not only of violence but also of completely innocent entertainment.

Dubrovnik's government had to tolerate the city's night life but, wishing to prevent violence, subjected it to control. Such measures

were justified because serious crimes most often occurred at night. The only murder (1312) that the Knjige zločina mentioned occurred "post tertiam campanam." The government thereupon prohibited movement, the carrying of weapons, and the operation of taverns at night. Nocturnal movement was permitted only if someone was tending a vineyard or went to secure a boat during a storm. In addition, candles had to be carried, and those who did not hold the candle in front of themselves were considered troublemakers with bad intentions.

The majority of the city's inhabitants locked themselves in the security of their homes after the second bell: they went to bed early and led orderly lives organized around work. According to their own testimony, they feared to go out at night and avoided it except in cases of extreme emergency. Quiet citizens who happened to witness night-time disorders did not fail to emphasize in their statements that they were already at home when the third bell rang. During the day, the streets, squares, and harbor were places of business, filled with the

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REGISTER OF PROFESSIONALS

In order to promote academic cooperation in various forms and to provide a listing of available experts in various fields, AMCA (Almae Matris Croaticae Alumni - Association of Alumni and Friends of Croatian Universities) is compiling a register of University professors and researchers working at North American universities and research institutions. Appropriate professionals include:

- * alumni of Croatian universities, regardless of national origin;
- * citizens of Croatia, who studied abroad;
- * individuals of Croatian ancestry, regardless of place of study;
- * any other professional, who would like to collaborate with individual researchers at the Croatian universities, regardless of national origin.

This register will be sent to the presidents of the Croatian universities (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek), as well as Ministry of Science and Technology of Republic of Croatia for exclusive use in assessing research projects.

REQUIRED DATA:

- * Name, First Name(s)
- * Institutional title (Professor, Senior Research Officer etc...)
- * Department
- * Institution
- * Full address
- * Degrees & Year, University (eg. MD 1966 Zagreb)
- * Area (eg. Medicine)
- * Specialty (eg. Neurobiology)
- * Keywords describing your interest & work (max 100 characters)
- * International classification code

Optional data:

- * Year of graduation, degree, graduating faculty at university
- * Phone number at work
- * Fax number at work
- * E-mail address
- * Comments and any other data

Please send data

a) by mail to:
Dr. A.L. Padjen
Department of Pharmacology
and Therapeutics
McGill University
3655 Drummond Street
Montreal, PQ H3G 1Y6
Canada

or/and to

Dr. S. Sesnić
Princeton Plasma Physics
Laboratory
Princeton University
PO Box 451
Princeton, NJ 08543, USA

b) by e-mail (preferable) to both:

alp@pharma2.pharma.mcgill.ca
and

sesnic@beanie.pppl.gov

REQUEST FOR NEWS

We would like to run a regular feature on news from our membership. This column would include recent publications, presentations at conferences, fellowship awards and other honors, hirings and promotions and any other professional news. Please send information to the secretary.

Paula Franklin Lytle
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Portland, OR 97219

hustle of worthy merchants, artisans, sailors, peasants, and others, but at night the streets became scenes of drunken bouts, adventures, and crimes. In the pages of the Knjige zločina we meet these "night owls": nobles and commoners, peasants, guards, servants, prostitutes, tavern-keepers, drunkards, soldiers, sailors, Vlachs, artisans, clerics, and foreigners, mostly from the Dalmatian cities and Italy.

Nearly two-thirds of the cases mentioned in the Knjige zločina concern physical retribution: assaults with fists or staffs, with stones or logs, with mallets or hoes; the tearing or ripping of clothes; stabbing with knives, daggers, and even, in one case, a bread knife; lacerating with swords or sabers; biting; boxing of ears; wounding with arrows or lances; choking; and rape. With the exception of several attacks for revenge, however, physical assaults were not usually premeditated.

A smaller number of cases concerned libel and theft. Most of the latter cases were simple matters—theft in the street—but there were also cases of burglary. The victims of night robberies were not infrequently women who lived alone, and for

housebreaking and other offenses against private property the punishments were relatively severe. Some quarrelsome or envious people took advantage of the cover of dark for minor acts of malice and revenge. They did not even shrink from commissioning crimes such as arson. The Dubrovnik Statute also provided punishments for injurious words, vulgarities, and curses, which were surprisingly numerous and imaginative. The removal and trampling of caps was considered an especially serious insult—especially if the victim was a woman, because her hair would then be uncovered. When drunk, some unfortunates also committed political offenses, such as slandering the prince, who at that time was a Venetian. The penalties for misdemeanors were monetary (1 to 50 perpers), which, by statute, increased several times for infractions committed after dark.

The participants of street adventures at night were mostly young men. Some offenders, well known to Dubrovnik's judges, appeared several times in the records. Others were simply young people, noble or commoner, whose youthful unruliness sometimes led to incidents.

Young men gathered in gangs and drank, sang, chased women, and thought up jokes and unmentionable stories. Celebrations and wildness, heightened by wine, often led to attacks, especially if the young men encountered a guard, a foreigner, or some other gang by chance. After a night battle between rival groups, numerous injured men, badly beaten or cut up with knives, were known to remain on the battlefield. In meetings with foreigners—mostly soldiers and sailors—the intolerance was always two-sided. Fights with Vlachs were often provoked.

Favorite pastimes in the evening and night hours were card- and dice-playing. The government of Dubrovnik tolerated such entertainment, in contrast, for example, to the government in Split, which prohibited all gambling. The Dubrovnik Statute only banned loaning money to the players, who therefore played for pledges, which were entrusted to a third person and which belonged to the winner of the game. These pledges were frequently the cause of verbal and physical fights: losers were assaulted if, out of anger or dissatisfaction, they did not want to keep playing. In other cases, those who wanted to join the

players but who were not allowed to do so picked a fight. It is amusing and even touching when these people justified themselves in court with the statement "Nolebant ludere mecum" (They didn't want to play with me).

Reading between the lines of the statements of witnesses about night disorders acquaints us with Dubrovnik's society and its favorite pastimes and, thus, with the town's night life. Naturally, not all nightly walks and visits to taverns ended in beatings, injuries, or murders. We also find out about visits to friends and dinners in private homes and restaurants. Characteristically of Mediterranean street life, groups also met in front of taverns and chatted over wine. After a hot day's fishing, dinners were prepared on an open fire next to the sea. Even such quiet evenings, however, were known to end unpleasantly if one of the guests got drunk or a quarrelsome person happened by. Tomazin de Savera, for example, described a fight about who would take the bigger piece of meat, which resulted in a beating. Drunkenness at banquets or while playing cards was without a doubt the most widespread cause of violence in Dubrovnik. A

large number of testimonies began with the statement "Heri sero ego stabam ad bibendum (ad vinum)."

The question about the relation of the government toward night events is interesting, although unstudied up to now. The authorities in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries did not mix into this segment of life much. Legal prohibitions about movement and taverns at night aimed at securing peace and order. Judging by the buoyant night life, the authorities were somewhat lackadaisical in the execution of these laws and reacted strongly only in cases of threats to health, life, and private property. The Dubrovnik city council exercised greater control over the public and private lives of citizens only at a later period.

Through this spectacle of events after the third bell, the mental and social habits of Dubrovnik become evident. We see social stratification, the attitude toward women, the animosity toward foreigners, the competition among artisans and merchants, and a whole set of other details. These facts about night entertainment create the impression of a society that did not yet have the need for refined pleasures. There was no

Academy; there were no other societies to direct individuals' energy toward intellectual or creative pursuits.

These vignettes from Dubrovnik's night life, taken as a whole, augment our knowledge about medieval man and society. The notarial records, although colorless in comparison with reality, confirm the traditional historiographical stance about the emotive life of medieval people, who had not yet learned to control their feelings. The behavior of the people who lined up in front of the Dubrovnik judges can be described as honest, childish, touching, crude, forthright, and immoderate, and all that combines to show the simplicity and passion that were the major characteristics of and motivations for their actions. From great temporal distance, these long-ago Dubrovnik nights leave the impression of an interesting *theatrum mundi*. Despite the necessity to generalize about facts in the modern historical method, we should not reduce individuals to abstract concepts. Rather, we must study real lives. Our profession enables us to peer into the every-day lives of people who long ago passed from this world, and we should make use of that advantage.

The Croatian Bookstore

The Croatian Bookstore in Cleveland is a remarkable resource for our members. Their free catalog lists over 100 pages of books on topics ranging from the academic to cultural and popular. Most of the books are in Croatian. Many are out of print. To receive a copy of the catalog, contact:

Hrvatska Knjiga
6313 St. Clair Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44103
(216)-391-5350.

The Croatian Voice

The Croatian Voice newspaper is a monthly publication, the nation's only independent Croatian-American newspaper. The purpose of this paper is to inform the public on what is happening locally, nationally and internationally regarding Croatian Americans, as well as to inform readers about Croatian customs, arts and heritage. For subscription information, please contact:

The Croatian Voice
P.O. Box 14278
Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone: (216)-431-0811
Fax: (216)-431-0811

Croatia on Line

Internet users now have access to Croatian academic resources through the Croatian Academic and Research Network (CARNet). The Ministry of Science of the Republic of Croatia in its attempt to accelerate the scientific activity, facilitate exchange of research information and scientists assigned to the establishment and development of computer networks with a very high priority. In order to achieve this, the CARNet project was initiated.

The backbone of the network is a star shape connecting universities in Rijeka, Split and Osijek with the one in Zagreb which is currently the only international node connected to Austria and Slovenia.

CARNet's gopher server provides background information on the member Universities and many of the faculties and institutes in Croatia's cities. There is library catalog access and copies of important documents available in both English and Croatian. Users with Telnet access may access CARNet by issuing the command, "Telnet znanost.hr." Others may use gopher access as Croatia is included on the Europe list of most systems through the Minnesota gateway.

News from Members

Prof. Joseph Bombelles, President of ACS, presented a paper to a meeting of HAZU in Opatija in September on sustainable development in Bosnia and Croatia.

Prof. Bombelles has collected and shipped 1.5 tons of books for the University of Rijeka.

Paul Jukic is a graduate student of history at Yale University. His article, "Research Opportunities in Russian Archives" appeared in issue no. 25 of The ACS Bulletin. He is currently conducting research in Croatia on a Fulbright scholarship.

Prof. Sarah Kent, treasurer of ACS, has received a one year research fellowship from the Institute for Research in the Humanities in Madison. She is completing historical research on Croatia in the 1880s-1890s.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for 1994: regular membership \$30.00
retired and student \$15.00
I plan to attend the ACS dinner in Philadelphia. @ \$25.00

Total Enclosed

Name _____

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Please send dues and membership information to:

Professor Sarah A. Kent
Association for Croatian Studies
c/o Institute for Research in the Humanities
1401 Observatory Drive
Old Observatory
University of Wisconsin--Madison
Madison, WI 53706

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Miroslav Krleža Lexicographical Institute in Zagreb has published A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia.

This 160 page reference work is available from the institute at 26 Frankopanska Street 41000 Zagreb, Croatia. Phone (385)-41-456-244. Fax: (385)-41-274-777.

The Croatia Democracy Project publishes the Croatian Democratic Quarterly, available by contacting CDP at 1319 18th St. NW, Washington DC 20036. Tel: (202)-785-1309 Fax: (202)-833-3372.

Associated Book Publishers, P.O. Box 5657, Scottsdale Arizona, Phone: (800)-657-0347. Fax: (602)-837-8434 has three titles of interest to our membership.

1) Ružica and Alojzije Kapetanović, Croatian Cuisine.

2) Ruzica Kapetanović, Say it in Croatian: Pocket Phrase Booklet.

3) Roy Gutman. A Witness to Genocide: The 1993 Pulitzer Prize-winning Dispatches on the "Ethnic Cleansing" of Bosnia.

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