

Žarko Muljačić, *Iz dubrovačke prošlosti / Miscellanea from Dubrovnik's past*. Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 2006. Pages 308.

Matica hrvatska Zagreb is the publisher of Žarko Muljačić's book *Iz dubrovačke prošlosti*, a collection of his papers and essays printed in various journals between 1953 and 1995, now compiled in a single volume. The latter comprises nineteen essays dealing with the political, maritime, legal, cultural, literary and economic history of Dubrovnik.

The book begins with an essay »Istraga protiv Jakobinaca u Dubrovniku 1797. godine« (Investigation against the Ragusan Jacobins in 1797, pp. 9-31). Midst Napoleonic campaigns at the end of the eighteenth century, Sebastian d'Ayala, Ragusan consul to Vienna, intercepted the plotting letters of several Ragusan Francophiles ('Jacobins') who intended to collaborate with Napoleon. Upon this news, the Senate launched an investigation. About a dozen people were interrogated, the main suspect being the Republic vice-secretary, Maro Martellini, who, according to the witnesses, plotted with the French officers stationed in Dubrovnik in October 1797. The enquiry lasted two years, but no evidence was provided to condemn Martellini for treason. In this way the Republic principally abided by the Austrian political rules and at the same time avoided tensions with France.

In an essay »Prilog politici Dubrovnika za austrijsko-turskoga rata 1788.-1789.« (Contribution to the policy of Dubrovnik during the Austro-Turkish War 1788-1789, pp. 33-42) Muljačić outlines the main strategic manoeuvres of Ragusan diplomacy in dealing with the Vienna court during the Austrian conflict with the Turkish Empire. The author focuses on the diplomatic mission of Rüdiger Starhemberger, Austrian ambassador to Dubrovnik in 1788, and his friendship with the Bassegli family.

Gleanings from Dubrovnik's maritime history have been given in an essay entitled »Dubrovački pomorci na Antilima krajem 18. stoljeća« (Ragusan mariners on the Antilles at

the end of the eighteenth century, pp. 43-48). Archival series *Diversa Cancellariae* and *Acta et Commissiones* of the Dubrovnik Archives contain testimonies of the Ragusan seamen who travelled to the Antilles aboard Portuguese and Spanish merchant ships. They testify to the existence of a small yet important commercial station of the Ragusan mariners on these remote islands.

A study entitled »Tko je dubrovački Montesquieu?« (Who is Dubrovnik's Montesquieu?, pp. 49-61) reveals the author of an unknown book from 1770, concerned with the socio-political conditions in the Dubrovnik Republic. According to Muljačić, the author of this book is not a Ragusan but a Swiss Paul-Henri Mallet, descendant of a French protestant family which moved to Geneva in the mid-sixteenth century. By drawing a parallel with the Dubrovnik Republic, its geographical position, social organisation and political circumstances, Mallet pointed to the problems of his native city.

The history of the first printing house in Dubrovnik, founded by the end of the eighteenth century by a Venetian Carlo Antonio Occhi, is the topic of an essay entitled »Prva dubrovačka tiskara« (The first printing house in Dubrovnik, pp. 63-88). Occhi settled in Dubrovnik in 1777 with an aim to open a printing house, bookshop and bindery. The Senate, however, showed reluctance and denied his first request. Ultimately, the contract was signed in 1782, and the following year equipment and employers arrived from Venice. The printing house was located in the vicinity of the Rector's Palace, in today's Gundulićeva poljana. Occhi printed forty-nine books in Croatian and Latin, with an intent to distribute them through his dealers in Dalmatia, Croatia and Italy. Unprofitable business got Occhi into debt, and he died in poverty in 1787. His printing shop continued work under the management of Andrea Trevisan, former employer. Supplemented is a list of all the books printed in Occhi's printing house in the period 1783-1786, with reference to their current whereabouts.

»Prve vijesti o busolama na dubrovačkim brodovima« (The first mention of compasses

on Ragusan ships, pp. 89-92) is a shorter account from the maritime history of the Dubrovnik Republic. The first section highlights the development of the mariner's compass (*busola*) from the ancient chronicles of the Chinese emperors 2636 B.C., Arab geographer al-Idrisi in A.D. 1100 and European chronicles. The second section examines the first mention of this useful navigational instrument in Dubrovnik, traced in a contract of the Ragusan notary as early as 1318.

Early eighteenth-century cartography of Dubrovnik Muljačić examines in »Prva moderna karta dubrovačkog područja« (The first modern chart of the Dubrovnik region, pp. 93-103). Political conditions in the region and threat of invasion were the main reasons why the Dubrovnik Republic made no attempt to develop the road network and map the Republic territory. By the end of the eighteenth century Napoleon invaded Italy, and with the fall of Venice Austria controlled the entire eastern Adriatic, excluding Dubrovnik. Due to these circumstances, in 1804 Austrian authorities dispatched three officers to chart the territory of the Dubrovnik Republic. Despite complex political circumstances and efforts to maintain good relations with the Turks, the Senate allowed the Austrian officers to proceed with their cartographic surveillance. Upon completion, the officers presented the Senate with a chart and in return received a golden sword each.

The essay »Salamankezi i Sorbonezi u Dubrovniku« (The Salamancanists and the Sorbonnists in Dubrovnik, pp. 105-120) is an attempt to elucidate the names of the two political factions within the Ragusan nobility mentioned in the late eighteenth century. The essay opens with the author's recapitulation of the views offered by the Croatian and foreign historians on this issue (Appendini, Wingfield, Skurla, L. Vojnović, Rešetar), followed by an etymological analysis of the two terms. In his opinion, they are pejorative and mainly the result of the factions' mutual labelling, arrogance and conceit.

The founding of the 'Academy', scientific institution established in Dubrovnik at the close

of the eighteenth century, is discussed in »Dva priloga povijesti dubrovačkih akademija« (Two contributions to the history of Dubrovnik academies, pp. 121-140). The Academy owed its establishment to Miho Sorkočević and was open to all Ragusans in pursuit of knowledge irrespective of their class (M. Sorkočević, T. Basiljević, V. Stulli, L. Stulli, F.M. Appendini, Đ. Ferić, M. Martellini). The Academy's main objective was to keep pace with the scientific mainstreams and disseminate knowledge in Dubrovnik.

»Dubrovačka 'Pravnička škola' (1798.-1808.)« (Dubrovnik 'Law School' (1798-1808), pp. 141-150) discusses the institution and work of a law school in Dubrovnik, at which students acquired basic knowledge in civil law. Upon the prompting of the Ragusan government, the Law School began work at the Sponza Palace in 1794, its only lecturer being the Roman lawyer Luigi Cosinti. He outlined the syllabus, and courses were given in Latin and Italian. Lack of students and the French occupation speeded its closing in 1808.

Maritime and land routes linking the Dubrovnik Republic with the main European centres are discussed in »Pomorske i kopnenopomorske poštanske veze starog Dubrovnika« (Mail routes of the old Dubrovnik on land and sea, pp. 151-180). The author provides an exhaustive account of the mail service transport on the route to Constantinople, Italian cities (Trani, Barletta, Ancona), the Kingdom of Naples, Rijeka (Fiume) and Trieste from the early eighteenth century until the fall of the Republic. Also, the essay affords new data on Dubrovnik becoming a regular stopover on the Austrian maritime mail route Trieste-Kotor. The closing part of the essay draws attention to the Italian mail vocabulary adopted by Ragusan documents.

»Ploviti na dubrovački način« (Navigate the Ragusan way, pp. 181-188) is yet another essay related to the maritime history of Dubrovnik. This curious expression (It. *navigare alla rauga*) originates from a letter of a Florentine merchant written in 1570, but is also cited in several Italian manuals and dictionaries from a

later period. The author analyses the results of Croatian and foreign research on this topic, concluding that this expression should be understood as a voyage of a merchant vessel whose net profit was to be divided between the ship and the crew.

Muljačić's research in the history of printing in the Dubrovnik Republic is continued in »Druga dubrovačka tiskara« (The second printing house in Dubrovnik, pp. 189-214). Unlike C.A. Occhi, former owner, Andrea Trevisan resumed the printing activity in 1789 as an employer of the public printing house (*Stamperia Pubblica*). Out of the seventy-two books, only twelve were printed in Croatian, including authors from Dalmatia and Bosnia. Appended is a chronologically arranged list of all the printed books with reference to the library or archives in which the books are currently kept.

The next essay, »Prilog povijesti političkog govorništva u doba Dubrovačke Republike« (A contribution to the history of political oration during the Dubrovnik Republic, pp. 215-222), sheds light on a discovery the author has made in the private archives of the Basiljević (Bassegli) family. The finding concerns a speech Tomo Basiljević had drafted in Italian and used in his defence in the Jacobin affair in 1797. Together with a group of Ragusan patricians, Basiljević was accused of treason and tried in a process which lasted four months. Basiljević's speech was constructed so as to discredit some of the state attorneys, arguing that the Republic had far more important matters to deal with than the ridiculous charges against him.

Tomo Basiljević was also one of the leading exponents of the Enlightenment in Dubrovnik. Having studied law in Bern and Göttingen, he enjoyed the intellectual atmosphere of eminent scholars with whom he often travelled throughout Switzerland. Based on archival sources and literature, the essay »Tomo Basiljević (Bassegli), prvi dubrovački planinar« (Tomo Basiljević (Bassegli), the first Ragusan mountaineer, pp. 223-236) traces his travels and expeditions across the Swiss glaciers.

The essay »Tomo Basiljević: Bilješke o malim gradovima i malim državama« (Tomo Basiljević: Notes on small towns and small states, pp. 237-248) is composed of two parts. On the basis of Basiljević's manuscript, the author describes the advantages and disadvantages of living in smaller communities and states. Thus, for example, Basiljević argues that small town people are more inclined towards small-town values, gossip and invasion of privacy. Further, smaller states tend to have a firmer and more strict regime. In a smaller town an individual has better chances of making the most of his time and freedom, but at the same time an unbridgeable social gap between the urban strata of nobles and citizens leads to boredom.

While travelling along the eastern coast of the Adriatic in the 1930s, Ann Bridge (pseudonym of Lady Mary O'Maley), also visited Dubrovnik. It was there that she found inspiration for her novel discussed in Muljačić's essay »Dubrovnik u romanu engleske spisateljice Ann Bridge (1935)« (Dubrovnik in the novel of Ann Bridge (1935), pp. 249-259). In the course of the next few years her novel, *Illyrian Spring*, enjoyed unparalleled success in England, seeing several European translations as well. For the most part, Ann Bridge chose Dubrovnik and its environs for the setting of her novel. The characters, like the English writer herself, admire the ancient monuments and sights of the old Dubrovnik (Cathedral, Dominican friary, etc.) and the surrounding countryside of Rijeka dubrovačka and Komolac. They are accommodated at the best Dubrovnik hotel at the time – Imperial. The book of Ann Bridge should be credited for presenting the eastern Adriatic as yet another appealing Mediterranean destination in terms of both tourism and literature. The publishing of this 'sensitive and charming work' coincided with the pre-war tourism boom in Dalmatia.

The salon of Contessa Isabella Teotochi (1760-1836) was one of the leading gathering places of Venetian intellectuals between the end of the eighteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century, frequented by Italian artists and European scholars alike. Contessa's ties

with some Ragusans, particularly with Miho Sorkočević, are discussed in an essay »Isabella Teotochi, Marin i Miho Sorkočević – jedno književno prijateljstvo« (Isabella Teotochi, Marin and Miho Sorkočević – a literary friendship, pp. 261-276). The Verona archives houses the correspondence between the Venetian countess and the Ragusan patrician in a collection of 62 letters. Most letters were written in Italian and only one in French. Muljačić here focuses on two issues: the itinerary of Sorkočević's visit to Italy between 1786 and 1795, and the topics of some of his letters, thus arranging them thematically into "Personalia", "Reading and literature", "Theatre and music", and finally "Archeology".

The closing study of this volume is entitled »Frane Petris kao izdavač traktata o trgovini Dubrovčanina Bene Kotruljevića« (Frane Petris as publisher of Beno Kotruljević's tract on

trade, pp. 277-287). The author first examines the connection between Frane Petris, owner of the publishing/printing house in Venice, with the printing of Kotruljević's famous work *On the Art of Trade*. Petris published Kotruljević's manuscript and in 1573 he was accorded an exclusive privilege to reprint and distribute the book. In addition, Muljačić draws attention to the critical assessment of Kotruljević's first edition written by Ugo Tucci, Italian scholar. The latter found two copies of this book in the Florentine archives in 1977 and concluded that Frane Petris had considerably altered Kotruljević's text, mainly by adding Greek and Roman citations.

The volume is supplemented with a Note on the sources (pp. 289-290), a list of publications in which the abovementioned essays were first published, along with Index of Names (pp. 291-304) and Note on the author (pp. 305-307).

Tonko Marunčić