



SHËJZAT - THE PLEIADES

Albanological journal founded by Ernest Koliqi in 1957

Symbiosis on the shores of the Adriatic sea

Encounters and dialogues
among cultures

University of Zadar, Croatia
3 — 5 October 2019

International Conference organised
in conjunction with the
University of Zadar, Croatia and
with the support of the
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AISSEE (Italian Association of Southeast
European Studies)

October 3

Programme

Session I (09.00 – 12.30)

Aula Magna (*University of Zadar*)

Chair: Petar Vrankić

Greetings

Francesco Altimari (University of Cosenza)

Features of the Albanian dialect of Istria in the manuscripts of Pietro Stancovich (1771-1851).

Mirta Tomas / Habuš Ivan Boško (University of Zadar)

The identity of Borgo Erizzo in Shime Deshpali's poetry.

Discussion

Coffee Break

Andrey N. Sobolev (University of St Petersburg)

The language in Albanian-Slavic symbiotic societies in the past and present.

Persida Asllani (University of Tirana)

The literary works of Shime Deshpali – memory and remembrance of a diaspora.

Discussion

Session II (16.00 – 17.30)
Aula Magna (*University of Zadar*)
Chair: Francesco Altimari

Persida Lazarević Di Giacomo (University of Studies Chieti)

With the people of Hormovë: The encounter of Dositej Obradović with Albania and the Albanians.

Andi Rëmbeci (University of Tirana)

The circulation of Enlightenment ideas in Albania during the 18th century. Three philosophical manuscripts written in Greek by Teodor Kavaljoti (1718-1789); Jorgo Sugdhuri (1645-1725); Anastas Papavasilopuli (1670-1750).

Luçjan Bedeni (Marubi National Museum of Photography)

The journey of Pietro Marubbi from Zadar to Shkodër.

Discussion

Session III (09.00-12.30)
Aula Magna (*University of Zadar*)
Chair: Nedjeljka Balić Nižić

Lucia Nadin (Venice)

*Flows and migrations of Albanian
clergymen to Venice in the 15th century.
The unknown role played by bodies for the
Church renovation and political strategies.*

Petar Vrankić (University of Augsburg)

*Croatian missionaries (Franciscans and
Dominicans) from Dalmatia and Bosnia serving
in Albania from the pre-Ottoman era to the
present day.*

Discussion

Coffee Break

José M. Floristán (University Complutense,
Madrid)

*An appeal of the people of Albania, Bosnia,
Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro to the
Spanish king Philip III for military help (1612-
1614).*

Marco Moroni (Marche Polytechnic University,
Ancona)

*Albanian migrations towards Romagna, Marche
and Abruzzo between the 14th and the 16th
centuries.*

Discussion

Session IV (16.00-17.30)
Aula Magna (*University of Zadar*)
Chair: Matteo Mandalà

Italo Sarro (Rome)
Albanian refugees in Lazio and in Istria in chronicles and history.

Ardian Ndreca (Urbaniana Pontifical University, Rome)
An unknown manuscript from the end of the 19th century in the Archive of Propaganda Fide.

Giovanni Caniato (State Archive of Venice)
Border lands. Port structures and coastal fortifications from Dalmatia to the Albania Veneta in the Venetian archive records.

Discussion

In the afternoon: a guided tour in the neighbourhood Arbanas, Zadar.

October 5

Session V (09.00 – 13.00)
Aula Magna (*University of Zadar*)
Chair: Lucia Nadin

Matteo Mandalà (University of Palermo)
*Archaism in the Arbëresh symbolic system
– The case of the Lament over the death
of Lazarus.*

Andrea Pelizza (State Archive of Venice)
*Italian general Alberto Pariani (1876-1955) and
his personal archive regarding Albanian history.*

Evalda Paci (Academy for Albanological Studies,
Tirana)
*The history of the Albanian Catholic Church in
the notes of Msgr Karl Pooten. Prelates and
important ecclesiastic provinces.*

Discussion

Coffee Break

Gëzim Gurga (University of Palermo)
*Albanian Consuetudinal Laws in scientific
research, literary fiction and media portrayal.*

Arben Ndreca (Rome)
*Scanderbeg in the Pleasant Talk of Slavic
People and the immense contribute of Fr
Andrija Kačić-Miošić to the epic literature of the
Southern Slavs.*

Discussion

Closing remarks: Ardian Ndreca & Matteo Mandalà

Albanian Sounds in Zara

Artistic direction: The Cultural Association "Rrok Jakaj" & Optional Music International

3 October 2019 at 19.30

Brothers Bersa Concert Hall
in Rector's Palace University of Zadar

Bardh Jakova – accordeon

Suite from the opera "Mrika" by Prenkë Jakova

– Arrangement by Kolec Gajtani

Suite Classic Balkan – Medley

Zorja Trio – voices

Potpourri – Albanian and Croatian Songs

Paolo Marzocchi - piano

Five Albanian Folksongs

5 October 2019, 19.30

Brothers Bersa Concert Hall
in Rector's Palace University of Zadar

Anna Stratigò

Voice and Guitar

Maria De Filippo

Voice

PARALITURGICAL SONG

Who is this lady? – only voices

A WAR SONG

Like the Wings (Hymn of Victory) –
accompanied on guitar

LOVE ARIAS

Aria e Skamandilit (The aria of the
handkerchief) – only voices

Moj ti zemër! (Oh my sweetheart!) – only voices

LOVE SONGS ARBËRIA- ALBANIA

Mixed Songs – accompanied on guitar

Aria Piruks – accompanied on guitar

Vemi na vemi – accompanied on guitar

SONGS TO THE VALLJA

Vallja from Acquaformosa – only voices

Vallja from Frascineto – only voices

NEW COMPOSITIONS

Don't leave! - voice and piano

Balkan Bop Trio (Jazz)

Markelian Kapidani

Piano

Davide Liberti

Bass

Gaetano Fasano

Drums

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Abstracts of the lectures to be held

Francesco Altimari (University of Calabria)

Features of the Albanian dialect of Istria in the manuscripts of Pietro Stancovich (1771-1851).

Manuscripts of Istrian - born scholar Pietro Stancovich (1771-1851) are treasured in the library of the University of Pola. The few linguistic records of the Albanian spoken in Istria that the scholar noted down have been analysed in order to highlight the characteristics of such Albanian dialect. Still alive around the 1850s, the Albanian community in Parenzo (Cro. Poreč), Istria was well-known.

From the analysis of the phonetic system of the evangelical parable of the Prodigal Son written in Istrian Albanian, and from the analysis of the lexemes recorded comparatively with those in other languages (in a dictionary which remained incomplete), we might track back the origin of this Albanian community to Hoti, generally speaking *Malësia e Madhe*, on the border between Albania and present-day Montenegro.

Persida Asllani (University of Tirana)

The works of Shime Deshpali – remembrance and memory of a diaspora.

Diasporas constitute an invaluable literary and cultural mulch of the Albanian literature. In the case of the *Arbëresh* in Italy, for instance, their legacy provided the necessary ground for the beginning of the Albanian Awakening. However, the *Arbanas* in Zara constitute a different facet of the same phenomena. Though dating back to as far as about 300 years ago, the literary works created in this milieu only appeared in the second half of the 20th century.

Musician, poet and writer Shime Deshpali from the *Arbanas*, along with playwright Josip Relja best represent such diaspora in the Albanian literature by bringing alive the spoken Albanian of *Arbanas* mirrored from the detailed research in the spiritual and psychological condition of the Albanian community in Zara.

An educated musician, Deshpali's poetry and his prose as well lead towards an inner musicality. It manifests a unique and unparalleled potential of the Albanian language thanks to the subdialect of *Arbanas*. So Deshpali's works stand out among other works in the Albanian literature in virtue of their permeating musical undertones of the fragile *Arbanas* subdialect asserting the collective memory of this diaspora.

Luçjan Bedeni (Marubi National Museum of Photography)

The journey of Pietro Marubbi from Zadar to Shkodër.

A complete and accurate monograph on the history of the first Albanian photo studio founded in Shkodër

by Pietro Marubbi seems to be inexistent.

What we know is more a family tale than information from a book grounded on archival research. Such gaps in the life of the artist are visible even in his biography in the National Museum of Photography “Marubi” in Shkodra.

Although the few published facts on his life scattered in different records were gathered and taken in consideration, his most recent biography still raises a lot of questions.

The main purpose of research on the life and work of Pietro Marubbi remains the revelation of one of the less known moments in the artist’s life, that of his journey from Piacenza, in Italy to Shkodra, in Ottoman Albania.

The lecture gives an account of his stay in Zara. For the first time, the documents published shed more light on his sojourn here and the reasons which pushed him into relocating from here to Shkodra.

Giovanni Caniato (State Archive of Venice)

Border lands. Port structures and coastal fortifications from Dalmatia to the Albania Veneta in the Venetian records.

Either illustrative or descriptive, Venetian records treasured mainly in the State Archives of the old capital of the Most Serene Republic bring alive events of the past. In fact, they help reconstruct the events of the geopolitics of the countries to the east of the Adriatic Sea, and more generally, of the countries by the Ionian Sea and of the Eastern Mediterranean ranging from the 16th century to the abdication of the Republic in 1797. The paper introduces documents concerning above all the coastal area of Southern Croatia, Montenegro and Northern Albania.

José M. Floristán (University Complutense, Madrid)

An appeal of the people of Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro to the Spanish king Philip III for military help (1612-1614).

In 1612 the bishop of Vigevano, Lombardy forwarded to the Spanish court in Madrid an appeal for military support he had received through the Albanian captain Giovanni Renesi from the people of Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro for an uprising against the Turkish Ottomans. Such appeal was a continuation of the embassies which had been already sent to several Christian princes in the first decade of the 17th century. Patriarch Jovan II of Peć and the voïvode Grdan of Nikšić were apparently the main masterminds behind this plan.

Gëzim Gurga (University of Palermo)

Albanian Consuetudinal Laws in scientific research, literary fiction and media portrayal.

The Code of Albanian Consuetudinal Laws has drawn the attention of foreign and Albanian scholars for the past one hundred years. Inspired by different interests, scholars have approached this subject in different ways using various studying methods. Such studies range from the ethno-cultural and anthropological approaches of *Positivist* descent to the politically correct *Gender Studies* of the present day.

At the same time, literature, cinema, and theatre have highlighted specific features of the Albanian Consuetudinal Laws revealing a taste for the exotic. The most salient are undoubtedly the *vendetta* and

the *sworn virgins*, upon which novel plots and films have been based. The author analyses in this paper the effects of such approaches and tries to measure the distance between the aesthetical representation of these phenomena and their anthropological aura.

Persida Lazarević Di Giacomo (University of Studies “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara)

With the people of Hormovë: The encounter of Dositej Obradović with Albania and the Albanians.

In the fifth epistle of his autobiography *Život i priklučenija* (1788) – *Life and Adventures*, Serbian illuminist Dositej Obradović (1739-1811) recalls the making of landfall on the coast of Epirus of the vessel he was on. Once landed, he started making acquaintance of the people of Hormovë and got to know better the geographical area. Of such experience, Obradović gives a succinct and varied but not prejudiced description. His encounter with the Albanians witnesses to the intercultural relationships among populations in the Balkan peninsula in the second half of the 18th century.

Matteo Mandalà (University of Palermo)

Archaism in the Arbëresh symbolic system – The case of the Lament over the death of Lazarus.

Recent multidisciplinary studies on the *Arbëresh* anthropologic legacy have resulted so far in a twofold outcome. On the one hand, they have re-established the connections with the results of previous studies conducted by worthwhile anthropologists such as Ernesto De Martino, while on the other, they have

brought together the scattered tiles of the mosaic of the *Arbëresh* identity.

Some of these tiles are the paraliturgical customary celebrations in the Oriental churches recalling the ancient celebrations of the arrival of the spring, otherwise known as the *Great Time* (Alb. *Moti i Madh*).

An incomparable possibility for analysing convergence and divergence with similar customs especially popular with the Greeks and the Slavs, such traditions bear witness to the Indo-European roots of the Albanians.

Conceived as multidisciplinary research, this paper analyses the paraliturgical tradition of the *Lament over the death of Lazarus*. At present it exists in the *Arbëresh* communities in Sicily but in the past it was very popular with almost all the *Arbëresh* communities in Southern Italy.

Marco Moroni (Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona)

Albanian migrations towards Romagna, Marche and Abruzzo between the 14th and the 16th centuries.

After the prolonged plague epidemics of the second half of the 14th century, a continuous migration flow started from the Balkan peninsula, and Albania too, towards Italy. In its beginning, the Italian regions targeted were Puglia, Abruzzo, Marche and Romagna. Later on, other flows would head for the Ionian coast of Italy and Sicily.

After having analysed the features and the peculiarities of the Albanian migrations, this paper focuses on the integration of the newly-arrived. At the end, special attention is devoted to the strategies of adaptation favouring the integration of

the Albanian migrants in the Italian society in the 15th and the 16th centuries.

Lucia Nadin (Venice)

Flows and migrations of Albanian clergymen to Venice in the 15th century. The unknown role played by bodies for the Church renovation and political strategies.

Studying the presence of Albanian clergymen amongst the ranks of the Venetian clergy during the 15th century has led to unknown before and rather specific results. In the beginning, the exchange of clergymen between the two Adriatic coasts was direct and inspired by projects of ecclesiastical renovation set in the urban background of the turmoil caused by the Western Schism.

In addition, author Nadin thinks that the period of the intense migrations triggered by the progress of the Ottoman conquest in Europe must also be interpreted as part of shrewd plans devised by well-organised structures of Venetian politics.

Arben Ndreca (Rome)

Scanderbeg in the Pleasant Talk of Slavic People and the immense contribute of Fr Andrija Kačić-Miošić to the epic literature of the Southern Slavs.

Razgovor ugodni slovinskoga naroda (1756; 1759) remains to this day the most important work by Fr Andrija Kačić-Miošić. The title *Pleasant talk of Slavic people* introduces the theme of folk songs and tales. However, in the second edition of this collection, a large number of songs is devoted to Gjergj Kastrioti – Scanderbeg, a real historical figure. This is when

the character of Scanderbeg first appeared in the Croatian and later on in the Serbian literatures. Widely celebrated in the Venetian, Italian and Spanish territories, the figure of Scanderbeg had become by now part of the literature of the Southern Slavs as well – a debt largely owed to Kačić-Miošić. The lecture attempts to focus on the reasons why Kačić-Miošić chose to bring Scanderbeg's deeds alive. It also explores the events and the data that possibly rekindled and maintained high the interest of the Croatian poet in this prince and the Albanian resistance against the Ottomans.

Ardian Ndreca (Urbaniana Pontifical University, Rome)

An unknown manuscript from the end of the 19th century in the Archive of Propaganda Fide.

In his lecture, author Ndreca analyses an unknown manuscript by Anton Melgushi Pepaj, a priest from Mirdita. It was back in the 1870s when he sent Propaganda Fide a collection of meditations and church hymns adapted in Albanian from the works of the renowned Italian Jesuit Paolo Segneri.

The first part of this manuscript contains 31 meditations; the second and the third parts consist of teachings of Christian Doctrine and devotional songs. Only recently discovered, the manuscript is of an extraordinary importance, as it displays a consolidated written Albanian as well as a high register of the vocabulary used.

Lastly, the manuscript also tells that Rev. Melgushi Pepaj was well aware that he was on a mission for the enlightenment of his compatriots.

Evalda Paci (Centre for Albanological Studies, Tirana)

The history of the Albanian Catholic Church in the notes of Msgr Karl Pooten. Prelates and important ecclesiastic provinces.

This paper focuses on the contribution of Msgr Karl Pooten to the identification of the dioceses and to the administrative subdivision of the Albanian Catholic Church. Such notes represent a chronological slice of the history of the Albanian church. They touch on very important events in the life of the local church including synods, councils and the pastoral and intellectual activity of different prelates. Cited by Msgr Pooten, prelates such as Pjetër Budi, Frang Bardhi or Pjetër Bogdani marked the history of the Albanian Catholic church after the death of Gjergj Kastrioti Scanderbeg.

Another outstanding prelate that Msgr Pooten focused on in his notes was Msgr Vincent Zmajević. Apostolic visitor to Albania and supervisor of the Council of Albania (1703), the figure of Zmajević is one of the most cited in the notes of Msgr Pooten along with additional information about his origin, the family he was born into etc.

Author Paci maintains that the notes by Pooten deserve to be studied more in-depth because of their wealth of information about names of places and the register of the language used.

Andrea Pelizza (State Archive of Venice)

Italian general Alberto Pariani (1876-1955) and his personal archive regarding Albanian history.

Alberto Pariani (1876-1955) was a high-ranking Italian military officer who fought both in the First and the Second World Wars. After the First World

War he was assigned different tasks to Albania including that of the re-organisation of the army of the small Balkan country.

From 1936 to 1939 he marshalled the Headquarters of the Italian Army and was Deputy War Minister. One of the main collaborators of Benito Mussolini, he carried out a deep reform in the Italian Army. After being discharged on the verge of the outbreak of the Second World War, Pariani was called back into duty by Mussolini in the spring of 1943 and appointed Viceroy to Albania.

Because of having joined the Italian Social Republic, he was convicted in the aftermath for collaboration with the Fascists but then acquitted. Soon after that, he devoted himself to the local politics of Malcesine in the province of Verona. Pariani led this township from 1952 until his death. In 1971 his personal archive was handed over to the State Archive of Venice as a bequest. Enriched by notes reflecting personal considerations on historical events, his diaries mirror the activity of this important figure in the Italian Army.

Andi Rëmbeci (History Department, University of Tirana)

The circulation of Enlightenment ideas in Albania during the 18th century. Three philosophical manuscripts written in Greek by Teodor Kavaljoti (1718-1789); Jorgo Sugdhuri (1645-1725); Anastas Papavasilopuli (1670-1750).

Studying manuscripts in Greek from the 18th century at the Central State Archive in Tirana can be highly beneficial to understanding the dynamics of the development of several intricate cultural movements in the Balkan peninsula during the

Ottoman rule.

This lecture focuses on three authors from that time. The first is Teodor Anastas Kavaljoti, author of *Physics* (Φυσική πραγματεία) and *Metaphysics* (Μεταφυσική), both forming part of the *Codex Beratinus*. The diffusion of Kavaljoti's codices in Romania, Albania and Greece demonstrate the popularity of the New Academy of Voskopojja.

Not less important is *Introduction to Logic* (Εισαγωγή Λογικῆς) by Jorgo Sugdhuri. Published in Vienna (1792), this work is incomplete in the *Codex Beratinus*. The ubication of copies of this book speak loudly about the diffusion and the importance it enjoyed.

After this work, in the *Codex Beratinus* follows the *General Compendium of the Application of Logic* by Anastas Papavasiloopuli (Σύνοψις γενική τῆς λογικῆς ἑλξεως). The purpose of this book sprang from the conviction that the diffusion of knowledge along with philosophical thoughts would have a bearing on the life of the individual and of the community. Transposing such ideas into the Ottoman territories did in fact influence the formation of the nations in the Balkan region after the long Sultanic isolation from the rest of Europe.

The lecture highlights the most salient features of each of the abovementioned works.

Italo Sarro (Orvieto)

Albanian refugees in Lazio and in Istria in chronicles and history.

The economic crisis which swept across Albania between the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th century caused waves of migration. What exacerbated such crisis was the Ottoman conquest of the country. The new

occupants did not merely aim at the complete subjugation of the Albanians but also pushed for their conversion into Islam.

In order to achieve their purpose, the Ottomans demolished churches, used their power and systematic violence against the Roman Catholic clergy and the believers. Another powerful weapon in their hand was taxation, at times unlawfully reiterated and very often at the discretion of the local Ottoman dignitaries. Many Albanians complied with such abuse and converted into Islam, others preferred to flee the country in search of liberty and a better life. However, this happened gradually spanning centuries of Ottoman dominion.

In his lecture, scholar Italo Sarro dwells on the detrimental journey of 32 households from Shkodra in 1756 which were greeted in Pianiano, in the Papal State and on the migration of another 18 households from Hoti. Forced by the ravaging wars in 1833 they demanded and attained the right to migrate to Istria, back then part of the Habsburg Empire.

Andrey N. Sobolev (University of St Petersburg)

The language in Albanian-Slavic symbiotic societies in the past and present.

The paper will discuss the mechanisms and outcomes of the language contacts between the local dialects of Albanian and Slavic in the framework of some major theoretical issues of the Balkan contact linguistics. The regions of ongoing contact in Eastern Albania (Gollobordë area) and Southern Montenegro (Mrkovići area) produced special mutual contact-induced changes at all structural levels of Albanian and Southern Slavic dialects. Contact-induced variation through time and space reveals the general paths of language convergence

in the Balkan peninsula and the restrictions that apply to such convergence.

Mirta Tomas / Habuš Ivan Boško (University of Zadar)

The identity of Borgo Erizzo in Shime Deshpali's poetry.

The language and the literature of a nation define its identity. However, historical and cultural contingencies have not favoured the Albanian dialect of Borgo-Erizzo to fashion an abundant literary production.

Among the few literary works in this dialect stand out *Dawns and Dusks in Arbanas* (*Agimet e parambromjet të Arbëneshit*) and *The truth* (*E vërteta*) by pedagogist, musician and composer Shime Deshpalji.

In them attentive readers can detect the sentiments of the poet towards his hometown and its inhabitants as well as the peculiarities of the lifestyle of the bygone days and of the then people. A sharp observer, Deshpalji's verses exude his capacity for criticism on different aspects of artistic creativity and that of the community he lived in. Written in an Albanian mixed with the dialect of Borgo-Erizzo and translated in Italian and Croatian, this lecture analyses his poems revealing the flair of his verses and the accolades he has long deserved.

Petar Vrankić (University of Augsburg)

Croatian missionaries (Franciscans and Dominicans) from Dalmatia and Bosnia serving in Albania from the pre-Ottoman era to the present day.

The beginning of the relationship between the

Catholic church in the Croatian territories and the Catholic church in the Albanian lands dates back to the Middle Ages.

Tradition has it that Franciscans first appeared in Albania when St Francis of Assisi on his journey back from Siria (1219) stopped in Lezha and founded here the first Franciscan monastery. Researchers believe that the Franciscans monasteries on the Adriatic and Ionian coasts in Albania formed part of the *Custodia Ragusina* until 1402, and only later became part of the independent *Custodia Dyrachina*. On the other hand, the monasteries in the Albanian mainland belonged to the independent Franciscan province called *Provincia Macedoniae*. In 1484 the *Custodia Dyrachina* joined the *Provincia Macedoniae*. After the Ottoman conquest, this Province was changed into *Custodia Albaniae*.

The number of the Albanian Franciscans grew fast and not only their monasteries in their homeland but also other monasteries in Dalmatia and Puglia were full of Albanian friars.

In Dalmatia the Dominicans founded their first monastery in Dubrovnik in 1215 whereas in Albania in 1278, initially in Durrës and then in Shkodra and Lezha.

However, during the Ottoman rule the number of priests and monks in Albania dwindled. So, at the end of the 18th century and throughout the 19th century, many Croatian Catholic missionaries were sent to serve in Albania.