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Povijest
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ekološke misli
History of
Environmental
Movements and
Development
of Ecological
Thought



VLADIMIR LAY

Zagreb, Croatia

lay.vladimir@gmail.com

JELENA PUĐAK

Institut društvenih znanosti Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

jelena.pudak@pilar.hr

Civil Society / Environmental Protection NGOs in Croatia in the Period 1989-2014

In this presentation we will outline three time periods through which we will describe the main developmental processes in formation of civil society and environmental movement in Croatia.

In the first part of presentation we will describe beginnings of civil society formation in Croatia still being a member of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Awareness of environmental problems in Croatia and Yugoslavia appeared relatively early, during '70 (last century), not lagging much behind the developed countries, but still in a quite smaller extent. Reactions of the system regarding warnings about environmental deterioration and pollution coming from below have been restricting, civil society had limited impact and was deterring in lower social sectors, whether it was socialistic youth organization or through activities of small number of non-governmental organizations (for instance "Svarun").

As the political system changed, and as Croatia gained independence, new processes are appearing on the civil society scene. In second part of presentation we will describe development and change of non-governmental organizations / environmental movement in the period from 1990 till 2013.

On the first parliamentary elections in 1990 a green party "European green list" also took a part in the election run. The party has been supported by environmental non-governmental organization, Green Action Zagreb (the strongest environmental NGO till today).

In the period from 1990 till 1991 there was (in spite of war) environmental NGO "boom" in Croatia. There were both amateur and expert, and politically oriented organizations. Some of them exists till today and have achieved national influence and international cooperation, while others remained focused on small-scale local issues, or have disintegrated over time. Over past 25 years number and profile of environmental NGOs in Croatia has changed constantly in number and character, but in last couple of years the civil society 'scene' has stabilized and matured. Regarding the later we can speak of well-formed and developed environmental movement in Croatia, although not mass and large-scaled. Environmental movement in Croatia consists of NGOs that are through their values and actions also advocating human rights and social rights.

In third part of presentation we will outline the state and profile of environmental non-governmental organizations in Croatia in 2014. Through basic typology that consists of three types of organizations (preservation organizations, local environmental organizations and organizations that deal with sustainable development) we will describe profile and performance of the foremost organizations in Croatia. Finally we will conclude about the state and direction of environmental organizations development in Croatia.



KATARINA POLAJNAR HORVAT

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia
katarina.polajnar@zrc-sazu.si

ALEŠ SMREKAR

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia
ales.smrekar@zrc-sazu.si

MATIJA ZORN

Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton
Melik Geographical Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia
matija.zorn@zrc-sazu.si

The Development of Environmental Thought in Slovenia

In the past, the development of environmental thought in Slovenia followed world trends, albeit with some lag. The first wave of the environmental conservation movement began in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century in the United States with the appearance of movements such as the Sierra Club (founded in 1892). Large-scale movements were not typical of this era; instead, operations were limited to activities in small groups (Rüdiger, cited in Fink Hafner 1991). This wave reached Slovenia and other parts of Europe in the 1920s, when the Museum Society of Slovenia's section for the protection of nature and natural monuments submitted a memorandum to the Provincial Government of Slovenia. This was the first nature conservation program in Slovenia. The specific nature and comprehensiveness of the memorandum ranks it as one of the major nature conservation documents overall for the time (Prirodoslovno društvo Slovenije 2013). Although nature conservation was still completely in its infancy at the time in terms of legislation and organization, the authorities took the

memorandum seriously and established the first protected area in Slovenia in 1924. Protection was given to the Triglav Lakes Valley in the Julian Alps, the forerunner of today's Triglav National Park, which remains the only national park in Slovenia (Erhartič 2012).

In contrast to the trends of environmental movements in the United States and in western Europe, where industrial development as a whole and its environmental impact were called into question, in Slovenia the focus has been more on nature conservation than environmental protection. Individuals recognized the need to protect nature for its beauty and rarity. Because of relatively weak industrialization at that time, its environmental impact was not yet so pressing. Exceptions were certain industrial plants that were already creating environmental problems, such as the Cinkarna zinc works in Celje, where it was already noticed in the 1930s that factory emissions were causing environmental damage (Špes 2008).

An impetus for the second wave of the global environmental movement was the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962). This was the first work to break the blind faith in progress at any cost and to reveal the ruthlessness of lobbies. An important milestone in general awareness of environmental problems was also the beginning of Earth Day in 1970 (Gardner & Stern 2002) as well as publication of the report *The Limits to Growth* (Meadows et al. 1972), in which the authors drew attention to the limited availability of natural resources, and the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972).

Among the first to write about the importance of environmental protection in Slovenia was Drago Kralj, who wrote a series of articles in the magazine *Tovariš* under the title "Strupi" (Poisons) in which he primarily described problems of polluted environments in the direct vicinity of factories. At that time very little was known about this subject in Slovenia, and a mindset inclined towards industry and urbanization dominated that emphasized the positive effects of these for the population and economy (Kozinc, cited in Merljak Zdovc 2008).



Željko Kozinc also wrote about environmental problems; in 1966 he contributed a six-part series to the magazine *Tovariš* (which was practically the only periodical at the time inclined toward such problems) under the title “Kruh, ki ga jem, zrak, ki ga diham, voda, ki jo pijem” (The Bread I Eat, the Air I Breathe, the Water I Drink). These articles examined the condition of the soil, and how pollution affects water, air, plants, animals, and people (Ščuka 2009).

At the beginning of the 1970s, the first tendencies towards planned engagement in environmental protection appeared in Slovenia. Their establishment in the communist social system of the time was, on the one hand, due to the impact of environmentalist influences from abroad and, on the other hand, a direct reaction to the increasingly degraded environment. Specifically, worsening of environmental conditions had started to accelerate after the Second World War with the forced introduction of heavy industry, reaching a peak in the 1970s. At this time there was a shift in thinking that the key to progress did not lie exclusively in economic growth. At that time, individual societies especially played an important role, such as the mountaineering society, scouts society, and natural science society. In 1970, representatives of the Slovenian Natural Science Society took part in European Nature Conservation Year for the first time. Among other things, they took part in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, which marked the beginning of institutional arrangements regarding the environment (Bahor 2005). To this end, *The Green Book on the Threat to the Environment in Slovenia* (1972) was published. That same year, the Slovenian Environmental Protection Association and the Environmental Committee of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia were established. Three years later, the Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia established the Republic Environmental Protection Committee. The Environmental Protection Council was a predecessor of the civil initiatives active in environmental protection, and a more active role was later assumed by the Union of Environmental Protection Associations.

This brought together environmentally aware individuals that were seeking a role model in the environmental movements in western European countries, especially Germany (Špes 2008).

The first formal steps toward shaping a European environmental policy were taken in 1972. The first environmental action program was adopted a year later. It was recognized that environmental problems could not be solved without including environmental protection in politics.

The 1960s were characterized by rising environmental awareness in Slovenia and abroad, whereas the 1970s were marked by a crisis of ecological awareness as a result of the energy and economic crises. Awareness of environmental problems was constantly on the rise, but along with this there was a growing sense of powerlessness to effectively deal with these problems (Anko 2009). In Slovenia this crisis was exacerbated by the communist social system, whose vision did not include an environmental perspective (*Pasti razvoja* 1985).

At the beginning of the 1980s, environmental protection organizations became significantly more robust (both quantitatively and qualitatively), and they started helping shape environmental protection policies in Slovenia and throughout the world (Drevenšek 2002). This period marked the third wave of the environmental protection movement.

In 1983, the United Nations founded the World Commission on Environment and Development. The watershed report *Our Common Future* (Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development 1987) pointed out that the world had to change its lifestyle and move into a new period of environmentally healthy economic development. The commission stressed the importance of sustainable development as a form of “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development 1987).

In Slovenia, which was part of Yugoslavia in the 1980s, individuals and various NGOs worked together to try to make the public and



responsible government bodies more aware of the importance of protecting the environment. In 1984, Hubert Požarnik's book *Alternative* (Alternatives) advocated the importance of according environmental activists a role in politics. He emphasized the idea of awakening democracy, which placed environmental issues in the foreground. Articles on the environment began to appear more frequently in the independent media that "dared" to report on topics that were not particularly popular at that time. The main purpose was primarily to establish environmental protection concepts. At the same time, the first civil society movements started to appear, including the founding of the first environmental protection movement. The impetus for establishing this was the pollution of the Krupa River in White Carniola. Specifically, in 1983 a water analysis showed that the PCB level was 400 times above the permissible level (Plut 1988). This was caused by dumping used capacitors in karst dolinas near the source of the Krupa, which is the most important water source for that region. The awareness that dumping hazardous waste in the environment was threatening the health of the local residents motivated Dušan Plut and others that agreed with him to publish an article on this problem in the magazine *Razmerje*. The article drew attention to pollution and also to the fact that communism as a system was destroying people's health and allowing environmental degradation. The mainstream media (with few exceptions) did not report on the issue, but it was covered by the magazine *Mladina* and by the *Študent* radio station. Gregor Pucelj was one of the few individuals that seriously addressed environmental issues in the media as early as 1985. He drew attention to the pollution of water resources, air pollution and pollution near industrial areas, dumping, and, among other things, the problems caused by the uranium mine at Žirovski Vrh (Pucelj 2009, cited in Ščuka 2009).

An important milestone in environmentalist thought in the 1980s (both in Slovenia and at the global level) was the nuclear accident in Chornobyl (1986). This accident influenced people's awareness of the potential danger posed by nuclear power plants

(Drevenšek 2002). An anti-nuclear movement was founded that drew attention to the seriousness of the existence of the Krško nuclear plant and the absurdity of building a new nuclear power plant at Dol pri Ljubljani. At the end of the 1980s, for example, a public gathering was organized against a nuclear waste dump and many roundtables were also held on this topic.

An important milestone in the rise of the green movement in Slovenia during this period was the response to pollution caused by the Šoštanj coal-fired power plant. Extensive pollution caused visible dieback of the woods in the Šalek Valley (Pesek 2009).

Greater public awareness of environmental problems was created through wider publication of articles. One of the most influential magazines in the 1980s and early 1990s was the weekly *Mladina*. It was especially influential in the second half of the 1980s, when its print run surpassed 50,000 copies.

In 1988, the Council for Environmental Study and Protection at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts published the volume *Slovenija 88 – okolje in razvoj* (Slovenia 88: Environment and Development). A year later, the first report was prepared on the state of the environment in Slovenia (Špes 2008). The idea also arose of founding a Green Party in Slovenia. Activists believed that only by including environmental protection in politics was it possible to achieve changes at the environmental level. At the beginning of 1989, Dušan Plut published a "Green draft manifesto" in which he emphasized that Slovenia needed such a party (Pesek 2009). That same year also saw the founding of the party (Vodopivec 2007). Dušan Plut became the first leader of the Greens of Slovenia. They ran in the first multiparty elections held since the Second World War and, in an alliance with other parties in the Democratic Opposition of Slovenia (DEMOS), they won seats in the Assembly. They won 8.8% of the votes, thereby becoming one of the strongest Green parties in Europe (Stranka ... 2008). They never achieved such a result again.

After the change in Slovenia's social system in 1990, there was also a visible shift in environmental protection. The right to a healthy living environment was enshrined in the Slovenian



constitution (*Official Gazette* ... no. 33/1991). The first overarching Environmental Protection Act was adopted in 1993 (*Official Gazette* ... no. 32/1993; the act was amended in 2004), establishing a foundation for today's environmental protection. From the typical solutions to environmental problems at that time, which focused on technical solutions to reduce pollution, there has been a shift toward solving problems from the perspective of sustainability (Smrekar 2006). Following the adoption of the act, there has been a strong increase in the number of laws dealing with environmental protection.

With the inclusion of Slovenia in the European Union and the resulting adaptation of its environmental protection legislation, this area has also become an indispensable part of political, economic, and other decisions in Slovenia. Environmental issues have made their way to the forefront of public discussion, they have become a topic of public policy, and care for the environment has become a positive value—but unfortunately all too often more in word than in deed. People support environmental protection in principle because this is socially desirable. However, when they encounter restrictions that encroach on their way of life, their enthusiasm wanes. Support for environmental protection in principle is therefore often not reflected in actual behavior, and this means that the transition to an environmentally oriented society is still far from being realized.

LUIGI PICCIONI

Dipartimento di Economiche, Statistica e Finanza, Università della Calabria, Rende, Italia

l.piccioni@unical.it

The Rise of European Environmentalism: a Cosmopolitan Wave, 1865-1914

A new and stronger appreciation of nature in itself and - consequently - of its protection appears in the Western countries around the 1860s, first of all in the United States and in Great Britain.

In the following decades this growing appreciation of nature contributes in many ways to the nation building process that is occurring in Europe but also on a global scale since the first half of the century.

The most remarkable among the shared features of this convergence of new appreciation of nature and construction of national identities are three:

- the way of choosing and conceptualizing the objects of nature to promote and protect (mainly landscapes and natural monuments),
- the influence of arts and literature on the process and
- the very active role of associations.

Beside these "universal" features it is possible to recognize several national or regional specificities proceeding from the peculiar blends of cultural traditions, political strategies and socio-economic situations each country or region produced.

The paper will address this process from a comparative point of view, highlighting both the national and the transnational manifestations of environmentalism development from the 1860s to the First World War.



MIRA KOLAR-DIMITRIJEVIĆ

Zagreb, Croatia

mira.kolar@zg.t-com.hr

Meaning and Importance of School Gardens in Northern Croatia during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

Today the school gardens, beside city gardens raise the attention and are regarded because they bring children and citizens closer to nature. Every year since 1996 there is competition for the most beautiful school garden and many schools in north and south Croatia won the title, although those gardens are often specialized and cultivate a variety of plants.

Within Croatian educational system the school gardens are treated as the student's farm. But they are more than that. It is where the students learn to cultivate and preserve autochthonous / traditional sorts, some forgotten ones such as pyrethrum in Kašet Sućurac, mulberry in Sibirj and many others endanger sorts of trees. Many primary and high schools created authentic botanical gardens and thus make a certain profit beside they receive a support of Croatian Ministry of Science and education. Some of them even receive the professional support from Croatian Botanical Society, specifically from the section of Croatian botanical gardens and arboretums, but also from other professionals and botanists. The most diligent among them is the Agricultural school in Vinica, near Varaždin.

The school gardens have the multiple purposes. It can be esthetical, for the embellishment of the environment and educative as well for they offer a better insight and knowledge about nature and flora. They can be a space where children socialize, play games and do practice. It is not negligible their ecological function as a protection of unpolluted species and old or endangered species of flora.

The school gardens are the legacy of a new era, but their development is based on fostering of ancient church gardens, as well as the royal and aristocratic gardens in the Age of

Enlightenment. The „Dalmatian Academies“ are the examples of such endeavor. Simultaneously with the regulation on children obligatory education, Empress Maria Theresa had determined in 1774 that the children had to be educated in the matters of economy. This policy continued in the first half of 19th century thus in 1816 the regulation passed on the school gardens. The first known school garden, mentioned by the school historian Antun Cuvaj, was in Vrbovec in 1840. The Croatian-Slavonic Economic Society was funded in 1841 and under its tutorship in the Society's affiliates was encouraged school gardening, and silkworms breeding especially the later because it required many hands and lots of space and those had only schools and military institutions.

During the second half of the 19th century and the raise of civil society great number of schools was built. Ban Josip Šokčević, originally from Vinkovci, in Slavonia (the region known for extensive agriculture in Croatia) passed one more regulation on obligatory school gardening, apiculture/beekeeping and silkworms breeding. The first course books were published on this matter, such as for example Josip Partaš's *Poučnik vrtlarstvu i pčelarstvu za porabu početnih seoskih učionah / The manual for Gardening and Beekeeping for Primary Schools in Country*, Wien 1860. The school supervisors had obligation beside their regular work to monitor school gardens as an important educational tool in agricultural environments and their observations were published in the school annuals. Thus there are numerous records on the school gardening in Croatia from this period.

However, when the Habsburg Monarchy was transformed into the Austria-Hungarian Dual Monarchy in 1867, the northern Croatia and Slavonia was placed under Hungarian and Dalmatia and Istria under Austrian jurisdiction. Although bisected and exposed to divisions and limitations the first and only school of agriculture in southeast Europe was founded in Križevci in 1869. The great Croatian reformist, ban Ivan Mažuranić reformed the educational system as well. Until then the schools were under the church jurisdiction and he subordinated them to Country



Government. It is believed that the educational system thus grew with more quality. In October 14th 1874 Mažuranić passed the new law on education and in each subcounty he appointed the school supervisors who supervised the schools and counseled teachers on school gardening. Franjo Klaić published the translation of Erasmo Schwab's *School garden* in Zagreb in 1877. Although the book was not officially approved for use in schools Mažuranić disobeyed the Country Government Education Council and distributed the book to schools.

Mažuranić closely monitored the work of school gardens and journals *Napredak / The Progress* and *Školski vrt / The School garden* have published numerous articles on vegetable cultures. *Gospodarski list / Economic Newspaper*, as a bulletin of The Croatian-Slavonic Economic Society, which until 1892 leads Farkaš Vukotinović gives helpful suggestions for small farms. Very popular were the articles of Vilim Švelec, the vicar from Martinska Ves, the manual for planting the crops written by Mijat Stojanović, the school teacher who worked in Srijem and Senj, and the manual on viticulture by Stražimir, the vicar from Zelina. It is interesting that in the school gardens vines were not planted but students learned grafting fruit trees and grape. Obviously it was a precautionary measure and protection from the harmful effects of alcohol.

The agriculture and especially the gardening require great attention and constant work. Many school gardens were planed and created but were not maintained therefore Mažuranić brought a new regulation in 1878 which allowed teachers to keep the half of income garden brought if he maintains the garden with the students. This has given new impetus to school gardening and school supervisor and landowner Janko Bedeković published instructions "*Kako da se urede školski vrtovi / How to organize the school gardens*," suggesting first to draw a plan and then in consultation with experts to plant the cultures adapted to the climate. The positive effects were visible very soon which encouraged the vegetable and fruit growing and beekeeping in school gardens.

Although limited due to official state policy towards the periphery of the Monarchy, Croatia has still managed to raise and maintain a large number of school gardens. Until 1914 almost every school had its garden and those were pride of every school principle who became promoters of gardening. Although the fate of the school gardens was later very different and many have experienced the devastation and were turned into construction sites or pastures, though some school gardens have survived the entire twentieth century, gaining now in the 21st century new impetus and importance.

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HRVOJE PETRIĆ

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Department of History, Zagreb, Croatia
hpetric@ffzg.hr

Development and Perspectives of Croatian Environmental History

A particularly important effort was the establishment of an international research project („Triplex Confinium“), founded in 1996 by Drago Roksandić and Karl Kaser. This was an institutional collaboration between the Zagreb University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Institute for history and its History department, Abteilung für Südosteuropäische Geschichte, Institut für Geschichte Universität Graz in Austria and the Institute on Southeastern Europe, Central European University Budapest, Hungary. The project focused on research of that straddled the borders of the Ottoman Empire, the Venetian Republic and the Habsburg Monarchy in the Early Modern Age. Some of the research objectives relate to environmental history, and has helped scholars develop a more complex and historical understanding of Croatian ecology as a part of Central-European and Mediterranean landscapes.

The project leaders, in collaboration with Zadar University, organized „Eco-history of the Triplex Confinium (c. 1500-1800).“ an international symposium, held on 3-7 May, 2000. It was the very first symposium of its kind not only in Croatia, but in Southeastern Europe in general. This event represented the formal “founding” of ecohistory/environmental history in Croatian historiography. Most of the symposium papers were published in the proceedings “Triplex Confinium (1500-1800): ecohistory”. The same project helped organize, in collaboration with Koprivnica Historical Society, an international symposium, held 13-15 November, 2003, dedicated to environmental history of the region historically known as Podravina (Drava river area). Most scientific papers from this symposium were published in

2011 in volumes of conference proceedings titled “Ecohistory of Drava River”, a joint publishing effort by the Triplex Confinium project, the Koprivnica Historical Society, the Meridijani publishing company and Croatian Economic and Ecohistory society.

The Triplex Confinium Project’s activities on environmental history extend to schools and history teachers. In Karlovac, a seminar for history teachers was held on 26-28 August, 2004. Triplex Confinium researchers and Croatia’s Education institute jointly organized a seminar titled «Ecohistory and Local History», in which they conveyed rich experiences from workshops and field research to a receptive audience. Later, in 2007, new initiatives followed: a new research project - “Triplex Confinium: Croatian river multiple borders” (run by Nataša Štefanec) – was established as an environmental history project; however, due to lack of financing, it was later focused on Early Modern Age demographic history.

In the meantime, Zagreb University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and its History department established „Ecohistory“, as a regular course/subject in the curriculum, that had been jointly taught in 2003 by Drago Roksandić and Hrvoje Petrić. „Environmental History” is a mandatory course headed by Hrvoje Petrić at the graduate studies level. In addition, Boris Olujić, another professor from Zagreb University’s History department, for years has been giving lectures on the environmental history of the Karst regions, as well as actively researching it. Environmental history is also a course on the Geography Department at the University of Zagreb.

In time, graduating theses by students from Zagreb University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences - History department and Faculty of Science - Geography department, produced more and more graduate, postgraduate and doctoral papers, as well as research papers and new studies. Also, the doctoral students majoring in Early Modern Age of Zagreb University History studies attend course „Cartography sources of Croatian lands: an Ecohistory approach”, lectured by Dubravka Mlinarić.



In 2005, Croatian Economic History and Environmental History society was established in the Zagreb University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, with a primary interest in environmental history. In 2005, in collaboration with Meridijani publishing, the society launched Triplex Confinium International Research Project and Croatian National Board for historic sciences (its economic history panel) the first volume of the journal «Economic- and eco-history (Ekonomska- i ekohistorija)». The first 4 volumes were edited by Mira Kolar-Dimitrijević and Hrvoje Petrić, and since the vol. 5, Drago Roksandić and Hrvoje Petrić have edited the journal. The first issues were not strictly topical, but most topics were from environmental history. The second was thematically related to diseases, economy and environment; the third to people and rivers; the fourth to environmental history of forests; the fifth on people and hunting from an ecohistory perspective; the sixth on environmental history of mountains and hills; the seventh on Drava river ecohistory. Besides publishing the magazine, the Society organized several conferences and symposia on environmental history. The last international conference was held on 1-2 June, 2012, in Koprivnica, themed „Regional Park Mura-Drava environmental history“.

There have been some other initiatives by the historians here, like history of waters, with „Dies historiae“ scientific conference. It was held on 10 December, 2008, at Zagreb University's Department of Croatian studies, and its proceedings were published 2011. The author Boris Olujić edited „Karst in history“. The proceedings of another symposium were published with the title: "Settlements and communications in the context of contacts between the Adriatic coast and its hinterland in prehistory and Ancient history" (FF Press, Zagreb 2008). Yet another closely related scientific symposium took place: the 40 th „Mogersdorf“, an International symposium of Slovenia, Austria, Hungary and Croatia and their cultural and historical heritage. It was held on 6-9 July, 2010, in Celje, Slovenia and themed „Man and environment of Pannonia from 18th to 20th

century.“ Beside Slovenians, Hungarians and Austrians, Croatian researchers of environmental history, Mirela Altić and Hrvoje Petrić, also contributed their papers. Proceedings from this symposium are expected soon.

In addition to the journal «Economic- and eco-history (Ekonomska- i ekohistorija)», here are also other publication that publish articles and papers from environmental history on regular basis. One, particularly worth mentioning is a multidisciplinary scientific magazine „Podravina“ (established in 2002 in Koprivnica jointly by the Koprivnica Historical Society, Meridijani publishing, with Dragutin Feletar and Hrvoje Petrić as editors). Recently, environmental history-related articles can be found in monograph books of micro regions (individual towns, places, municipalities or parishes) of northwestern Croatia – e.g. Donja Dubrava (2007.), Đelekovec (2008.), Molve (2010.) etc.

A great contribution to environmental history development in Croatian historiography was the book titled „European Environment History“, co-written by Swiss Francophone environmental historians Robert Delort and François Walter. The book was originally published as „Histoire de l'environnement européen“ (published by Presse Universitaire de France, 2001). Croatian translation, co-published by Barbat and Croatia's Ministry of environmental protection, was published the following year, in 2002 on initiative of its editor Drago Roksandić. He also wrote an afterword, providing his own views on environmental history, Croatian historiography and emerging new themes of ecohistory. In Croatia, the environmental history was also influenced by the author André Blanc and his book „Western Croatia: Studies of humane geography“ (French original „La Croatie occidentale. Etude de géographie humaine“), published by Prosvjeta Zagreb in 2003 and several other translations of foreign books (especially the books written by Jared Diamond, Conrad Totman, Stephen Pyne, Ian G. Simmons etc.). A Croatian translation of an important book, „What Is Environmental History?“ by J. Donald Hughes, was published in 2011 by Disput publishing. The Croatian issue had an afterword by its editor,



Borna Fürst-Bjeliš, co-written with Marin Cvitanović and Hrvoje Petrić: „What is environmental history in Croatia?” with an extensive selection of Croatian bibliography, relating to 1990 - 2011 environmental history, listing a total of 187 articles and papers.

Today, we have some twenty historians and historical geographers who to some extent are engaged in writing environmental history. Based on previously mentioned bibliography (1990 -2011) can to summarize the current state of research involved, without ambition to provide a complete list of all aspects in environmental history, nor can I name all names dealing with this matter. However, the majority of their work is related to material history, directed at research into changes in the biological and physical environment, often using approaches similar to economic history. The main researchers, dealing with relations between people and Karst environment, are Boris Olujčić and Ivo Lučić; mountains are main topic for researchers like Drago Roksandić, Marko Šarić, Slaven Bertoša, Marin Knezović and others. A number of historians research rivers and waters in general: Mira Kolar, Zlata Živaković Kerže, Drago Roksandić, Slaven Bertoša, Dubravka Mlinarić, Marin Knezović, Hrvoje Petrić etc.

Others examples include historical geographers Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, Josip Faričić, Mirela Altić, Dragutin Feletar etc. Various historians doing study relations between diseases in the environment - other specialists like Dubravka Mlinarić, Tatjana Buklijaš and Gordan Ravančić study topics related to environmental history. Historians researching animals, game, and hunting (in environmental history context) are Mira Kolar, Mladen Tomorad and others. Climate change is a specialty of researchers like Krešimir Kužić, Miroslav Bertoša and Hrvoje Petrić; environmental aspects of famine are mostly researched by Mira Kolar, Miroslav Bertoša, Dubravka Mlinarić, Viktorija Košak and some other historians; forest fires and environmental aspects of fire have been researched by Miroslav Bertoša and Hrvoje Petrić. Forests history has always been great interest among historians. However, their main focus has always been

economic history. Ecohistory elements in research of forests are seen in scientific works by Nataša Štefanec, Mira Kolar, Marin Knezović, Miroslav and Slaven Bertoše, and some other historians. Finally, the history of soil has been researched by Dubravka Mlinarić and Hrvoje Petrić.

Cultural/intellectual studies of the environment have been mainly focused on environmental perception. A great number of the papers in the „Triplex Confinium (1500-1800): ecohistory” were focused on cultural perception of the environment. In historiography, Zrinka Blažević exhibited a special affinity for this topic. Historians like Dubravka Mlinarić, Drago Roksandić, Nenad Moačanin, Miroslav Bertoša and others dealt with some aspects of the political history of the environment, focusing on governmental regulation, official political measures affecting environment and actual impact on these on the environment.

Other aspects of environmental history beyond those listed above were researched, too. The untimely death of historian Tomislav Markus, the only one in Croatian historiography to deal with global environmental history themes, particularly historic aspects of deep ecology, stopped him short after he had published 2 books and numerous papers. Finally, papers on the methodology of environmental history have been written by Drago Roksandić, Tomislav Markus and Hrvoje Petrić. The majority of mentioned papers were written in the last decade, thus making environmental history one of the fastest-growing fields of research in Croatian historiography. Whether this trend continues or not - only time will tell.



NETA COHEN

Tel Aviv University, The Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, Deutsches Literatur Archive in Marbach

ITAMAR MANOFF

Tel Aviv University, Deutsches Literatur Archive in Marbach

RAY SCHRIRE

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, Deutsches Literatur Archive in Marbach

ray.schrire@mail.huji.ac.il

The Dialectics of Environmentalism and Nationalism: Heinrich Mendelssohn's Ecology and the State of Israel 1948-1990

This paper aims to examine the relations between nationalism and environmentalism as they appeared in the diverse and tense interactions between Israel's national institutions and the environmental movement during the years 1948-1990. The unfolding of these relationships takes a different, at times indeed reverse, course from the now quite common narrative of the interaction between nationalism and environmentalism in Western Europe. As opposed to romantic ideas and values of nature protection characterizing European national movements in the 19th century, the environmental movement in Israel was established in reaction to the young state's progressive ambitions of development, revival and rebuilding of the land. Whereas in Europe the ties between environmental and nationalistic values grew further apart in the second half of the 20th century, The environmental movement in Israel gradually realized the potential of utilizing national institutions and agents in order to secure its goals. This bond changed the face of the environmental movement, which gradually accepted national values and practices. The story of this transformation will be told

from the standpoint of Heinrich Mendelssohn, a zoologist and pioneer of the environmental movement in Israel, who played a key role in its evolution. Throughout the years, he watched how nation building notions changed the movement, finally bringing to the marginalization of his own strict ideas about ecology and nature preservation. Told from Mendelssohn's point of view, the story of Israel's environmental movement, with its remarkable, albeit relatively brief, history, provides a unique opportunity to explore the intricate relations between environmentalism and nationalism.



ARSIOLA DYRMISHI

Berat, Albania

arsioladyrmishi@gmail.com

Environmental Rights as Part of Right to Life

The paper will start with a short introduction on legal framework relating environmental rights. The concept human environmental rights has been elaborated along the time, representing a new concept of human rights. As it is sanctioned at Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment "Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations." This paper will deal with environmental rights as a fundamental right, as important as right to freedom, equality and even right to life.

In the first session the author will bring two different main cases and others where violation of environmental rights caused violation of right of life. They are tragic cases happened in Albania (Gerdec case) and in Turkey (Oneryildiz cases brought before European Court of Human Rights). The both cases caused loss of lives. In Oneryildiz versus Turkey European Court of Human Rights said there is a violation of article 2 because the first sentence of Article 2 creates an obligation for the State not only to refrain from the intentional taking of life, but also to take appropriate steps to safeguard the lives of those within its jurisdiction. This principle also applies to the environment field. In the Albanian case Gerdec explosion the courts decisions and public pay attention to loss of life and material damages but after the explosion an area of 350 ha was contaminated with UXO. The main question of the both cases is what caused loss of life?

In the second session of the paper it will be discussed about the consequences of violation of environmental rights. What is the linkage between environmental rights and other human rights? Are adequate conditions of life linked to a clean environment? Is clean environment a pre-condition of well being? What about the

future lives? What are our obligations about future generations relating environment?

In the last session of the paper it will be presented some statistical environmental data provided by public institutions (After explaining Albanian Institution on Environmental Issues, starting with Ministry of Environment and ending with the last one, of 21 st February 2014 Governmental Inspectorate of Environment) relating Berat city (Museum city ,under UNESCO protection in Albania) where serious environmental problems have prohibited economical development of the city and where some factories (mentioning Viga Factory (Leather Factory)) placed in a very populated area, next to the school and the hospital causes ongoing serious problems in citizens lives. According to citizens living next to the factory they can not open the windows or the home doors while the factory is working.

At last, please look carefully this picture? What about the citizens living next to there? Are they feeling good? What about the fish? What about the business there? What about tourist impact? (It is in the most beautiful neighbourhood in Berat)



Chemicals in the river
Osum river (Berat city)



VINE MIHALJEVIĆ

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia
vine.mihaljevic@pilar.hr

Religion and Ecology

In the present paper will be discussed some elements of the complex interrelationship between religion and environment, without pretending to be exhaustive with regard to the content of the theme. The particular emphasis we will put on Christian reflection on the relationship between man and nature, namely, man's environment as his house and the temple of God, as indicated by the etymology of the Greek word οἶκος - house. Nature is in fact viewed differently in different religious traditions. In the natural religions, like polytheistic one, the nature is an emanation of divinity which makes nature both sacred and taboo. It is filled with numerous deities and divine powers that affect humans. Vulnerable in front of nature, the man admires it and offers sacrifices.

On the other hand, in the Judeo-Christian tradition, God created the world ex nihilo and ruled out every animism and pantheism. The crown of God's creation is man created in the image of God what makes him special among all the creatures and to whom is entrusted the garden of Eden, where he dwells, cultivates the land, and takes care of it. The biblical worldview is theocentric and anthropocentric. In fact, all creation and man are focused toward their Creator, God. The land is entrusted to man (dominium terrae), so that he is responsible for the entire world and he manages and controls the land and all the creatures. Man's dominion over the earth is relative because the land is not man's property, but man lives and operates in the community with all other creatures, and only God has power over all creation. On the level of the social justice the world is heritage of mankind res omnium. It is necessary that man manages and serves the creatures in a way that he accomplishes the final purpose of all creation. In this regard we can mention St. Francis of Assisi, who God's creation called brother and sister, and which pope John

Paul II in the 1979 declared the patron of ecology. Starting from the Sixties, in the last few decades, ecology imposes itself as very important issue and becomes a challenge and an obligation for religious or Christian reflection.

Related to the ecological crisis, there are lot of debates about chemical pollution of water, air and soil pollution, population growth, the limits of socio-economic development, the extinction of plant and animal species, all that as a result of industrialization and modernist development of science and technology. This is the consequence of Christian anthropocentrism, as pointed out by Lynn White.

In the search for religious or Christian response to the ecological crisis, has developed religious or theological discourse on the importance of ecology. Christian themes of ecology appear primarily in ecumenical meetings of various churches, and in recent decades become a one of main themes of Catholic and Protestant theology. Among the prominent authors in this regard we can mention the evangelical theologian Albert Schweitzer and his ethic of "respect for life", the Jesuit theologian Teilhard de Chardin and his dynamic cosmic and biological development (biosphere) and intelligence (noosphere), the ecumenical Lutheran theologian Joseph Sittler and his conception of doctrine of redemption that has meaning only in the wider horizon of the doctrine of creation, the American theologian Paul Santmire and his book called *The Travail of Nature. The Ambiguous Ecological Promise of Christian Theology*. Ambiguity of ecological premise of Christian theology we owe to the theory of history of Christian thought on the subject of creation, observed in ecological perspective (Morandini, 2013). In his book the American theologian talks about the final fate of the natural world and its non-human components, which explains the deep ecological consciousness of the Christian faith.

The Christian faith points out that God will save the whole world that he also created, although the historical ways in which this faith was represented sometimes had the characteristics of deep ambiguity that this author presents using two images.



The first image represents the "ascent", climbing the high mountain, the pilgrimage to the holy mountain, which in the mystical tradition indicates connecting of the soul with God, where the soul is over matter and earth, while nature becomes the starting point for man's spiritual journey. On the other hand, the image can be viewed positively, where to climb up to the top allows viewing and admiration of created nature, beauty, and blessing of God who created it. In the nature the believer recognizes his own rootedness in the universe and observes its own relationship with God, modeled according the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

The experience of "ascent" becomes the basic experience of travelling toward the good land. Good land cannot be separated of the negative effects that are associated with it, but nevertheless the land is seen as fulfilling. The land participates in the God's plan of salvation and manifests God's life-giving power, so it must be treated with respect. The same ambiguity, as pointed out by Larry Rasmussen, is also present in other religions. John Haught points out that every religion has a sacramental vision that indicates the presence and expression of the divine in the world, and a mystical aspect that expresses the otherness of divinity.

Morandini therefore emphasizes that the simplistic identification of modernist thinking and Christian anthropocentrism must be rejected, as well as the apologetic approach that emphasized only the ecological premise of Christianity without taking into account the conceptual and historical analysis of its various components. In the historical tradition of Christianity, for example, the German philosopher Hans Jonas, recognizes the influence of Gnosticism which stresses otherness of divinity and man's role in front of nature. This influence affected the Christian monastic mysticism through Origen and is recognized in *fuga mundi* as expressed in the book *The Imitation of Christ*. The greatest wisdom is contempt of the world, and the most important thing is to save the soul which is trapped in this dark world.

That ambiguous relationship is present throughout the all

Christian tradition, and it is especially evident at the beginning of modernism when the break of the relationship of man and the world takes place. In this period the main role is played by science and technology by which man transforms nature according to his desires. In the period of rationalism man does not escape from nature, but thanks to the progress of modern science and powerful technology he uses and reshapes it for his own purposes. Nature is no longer the place of enchantment, in it there is no more divine power nor its peaks are inhabited by deities, but nature becomes purely an object of man's desires and needs. Such a utilitarian approach to nature significantly distorts the nature and the existence of the human, animal and plant species, what is evident in today's ecological crisis. The ecological crisis is a challenge not only to religion and Christianity, but rather requires an interdisciplinary and critical evaluation of the different views on ecology.

We can pose the following question, as German theologian Moltmann does: "What does faith in God Creator and his creature mean, as long as in the world around us we observe the growing relentless depletion of natural resources in the industry and the destruction of nature that cannot return to its original state"? What does it mean to engage in theological thought in the context of "the relationship toward the nature imbued with practical nihilism?", in the era of universal crisis that stretches "from deforestation to the neurosis, from the pollution of water to nihilistic ways of understanding our own lives"?



MARIJA GEIGER ZEMAN

Institute of social sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia
marija.geigerzeman@pilar.hr

MIRELA HOLY

Croatian Parliament
mirela.holy@zg.t-com.hr

ZDENKO ZEMAN

Institute of social sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia
zdenko.zeman@pilar.hr

“What Would Nature Do?”¹ – Developmental Crises, Environmental Changes, (Eco)Feminist Answers

The idea of progress is conceptual foundation/base of modernization process – at the very core of enlightenment-modernization project lies impulse of linear and irreversible progress. In the second half of 20th century modern world has been challenged with the notion of „limits of growth“ which was in the beginning of 1970s also manifested as crisis in global economy and politics. Intensive economic growth and progress have produced tragic consequences on global and local ecosystems, cultures, quality of life and health of human and non-human beings, thus endangering the life on the planet. De Vogly (2013) emphasizes almost entropic consequences of unrestrained growth and progress and speaks about progress toward collapse. Undoubtedly, this alarming condition has called for intensive reflection on solutions to these extremely difficult and inescapable problems.

In the late 1960s, in the midst of social, political, economic and cultural changes that have shaken western social and ideological mainstream, environmental ideas were born and

firmly positioned on the map of new social movements, getting the environmental agenda more and more visible and influential. The Environmentalism is so called umbrella term that covers „conservative, reformist and radical ideas about what the world should look like“ (Haq & Paul, 2011). Furthermore, it covers wide range of ideas about what would nature do in that apocalyptic situation – if she was capable of defending herself. As a reaction to modernity crisis the ecofeminist critique of capitalist economy emerged, including critique of ideas of uncontrollable progress and endless growth, (un)responsibility of scientific community and new forms of neocolonialism, all generated by unrestrained development of contemporary global capitalism.

From the time of its appearance to the present day the ecofeminism has passed through various conceptual transformations, therefore instead of making a classical typology of ecofeminist streams, today it is certainly more productive to talk about the old and the new ecofeminism. The paper is focused on moderate ecofeminism which rejected central ecofeminist myths – „the ecofeminist fundamentalism“ (Holy, 2007) in form of essentialism; the romantic idea of global sisterhood (Dankelman, 2014) which was blind to the diversity of women’s experiences and existential background; the escapist and syncretist New Age-like spirituality (Geiger, 2006) and, the last but not the least, gender exclusivity which denies the role of men in addressing environmental issues. The moderate ecofeminism does not offer utopian solutions, and it loses exclusivity and subversive edge but it has promoted and incorporated gender issues in global and local environmental policies thus empowering women in their communities (Buckingham, 2004). The moderate ecofeminism is fully aware of complexity of – historical, material and socio-cultural –relations between women/men and environment, and it is paying particular attention to power relations, intersectionality and social context. Also, the moderate ecofeminism is not theoretically homogenous because every ecofeminist stream provides fruitful but unavoidably partial answers to environmental challenges. It transcends artificial

¹Slogan available at: <http://www.greenpacks.org/2008/12/06/environment-slogans-that-will-get-you-thinking/>.



conceptual boundaries and advocates better legislative, more sophisticated and environmental friendly technology, social and environmental justice, tolerance, animal rights, preservation of biological and cultural diversity... Unlike the old (radical) ecofeminism, which usually does not support any compromise, the new (moderate) ecofeminism opens itself to dialogue with other environmental perspectives, including the sustainable development perspective, which discards classic reductionist reflections of sustainability as a mere relationship between environment and economy. In this context the new (moderate) ecofeminism and (integral) sustainable development can find common dialogue platform which promotes holistic approach. Only from this perspective, environmental, economic, social and cultural factors can be observed, analysed and solved in interactional way (Maida, 2007), i. e. within integral set of their complex relations.

DORIN-IOAN RUS

Institut für Geschichte, Graz, Austria

dorin.rus@uni-graz.at

The Relationship with the Forest and the Habsburg Resource Policy in Eighteenth-century Transylvania

The central point of the proposal is the analysis of the interdependencies between rural communities and the natural environment of the forest in eighteenth-century Transylvania, as well as the perils to which the environment was exposed as a result of this relationship. At the same time, one will study the ways in which people perceived and approached their environment, thus revealing the contemporary normative procedures regarding the environment, with the possible outcome of a better understanding of the relativity of today's concepts of nature and the environment.

The research will follow the anthropological constants that act at the structural level and often place the "usage" of forests chiefly for economic purposes and the "conflict" generated by the fulfillment of these needs in opposition, as well as the moral, customary, and juridical barriers that refers differently to the material resources of a community in general. That is why the present study will analyze how and to what extent the Enlightenment changed individuals and society's perception of the environment in Transylvania.

The eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of the concept of "durability of forests," which is important not only regarding the economic functions, but also the ecological and social ones. The study analyzes the policy of the Viennese authorities regarding forests in Transylvania, and the subsequent conflicts over forests it ignited. Thus, the forest can be differently described according to the cultural context, studying the conflicts over it and the trials these conflicts generated.

Furthermore, after the completion of this study, it remains to be seen to what extent the thesis on the emotionalization of forests



in the eighteenth century still stands. The central point of the history of forests is to find out who, when, to what purpose, and from which perspective showed interest in forests.

The present research would like to be a contribution to the general European historiography on the issue of forests by means of its connection to the results of the schools in Austria, Germany, England and France.

The study of the history of the environment's perception, especially the forest, is part of the new European tendency in the protection and development of the concept of durability in the current European cultural context.

MILICA PROKIC

Bristol, United Kindom

mp12819@bristol.ac.uk

Environmental History, Goli Otok- Human Agency and Fauna

Croatian geologists, ecologists and biologists at times include Goli Otok into their research. Some of them have co-operated with international experts to produce scholarly accounts of the rich ecosystems of *Burni Senjski Arhipelag (Insulae Scardunae)*, the subterranean biodiversity of *Dinaric karst*, and the geology and geomorphology of *Kvarner Bay* area which Goli Otok is a part of. Human past of the Goli Otok's political prison years has also been touched on by historians, albeit being largely underrepresented. Former political prisons, battlefields, military training grounds and concentration camps, the sites of human incarceration and adverse living conditions worldwide have been studied by historians from many perspectives, including that of environmental history. Taken over by natural agents, many of these places and spaces combine disturbing human past with natural beauty and thriving ecosystems altered by the exuberant human interventions. Between these notions emerges the space to explore the rich and dynamic environmental history of Goli Otok. Despite the physiognomy of the dry, barren weathered karst Goli Otok owes its name to, the island's biodiversity is impressive: it has long been a terrain of mediterranean shrubbery, extremely rich in variety albeit scarce in amount, as well as a home to diverse avifauna. The prison years, particularly the time of Cominform (1949-56) had brought about dramatic environmental changes to the island: it became inhabited by humans who had built the prison complex, it had been partially afforested, quarried in search of marble and bauxite and introduced to domestic animals. Presence of many wild animal species was also reported, denied and imagined on Goli Otok during its period of human inhabitation: whilst the former prisoners recall their everyday fear of numerous



poskok snakes (Vipera ammodytes), the sheppards from Rab and Lopar today claim that they 'trust' the island and leave their sheep flocks there because of the absence of venomous reptiles. Through the different stages of the past, this barren island has also been reported home to domestic cats and dogs, cows, pigeons, sparrows, common ravens (*Corvus corax*), griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*), cormorants, seagulls, goats, various snakes and lizards, and the northernmost nesting place of the endemic Adriatic pallid swift (*Apus pallidus illyricus*). Drawing from the scholarly accounts and combining them with the written and oral testimonies of former Goli Otok communist political prisoners, as well the contemporary testimonies of the locals from the nearby islands, this article aims to focus on the key phases in the environmental transition towards the island's present, afforested, human abandoned but animal inhabited state. Following the effects of the active interrelation of human and non-human elements, this paper shall chiefly explore the appearance, disappearance and re- emergence of animal species from the beginning of twentieth century to this day.

MARIJA GJURAŠIĆ

University of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia
marija.gjurasic@zg.t-com.hr

MARIJA BENIĆ PENAVA

University of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia
marija.benic-penava@unidu.hr

Introduction of Foreign Invasive Species and their Impact on the Native Ecosystem: the Case Study of the Island of Mljet

In the last hundred years Europe became, whether intentionally or by accident, a home to many invasive alien species that had an extremely negative impact on European biodiversity. This problem of adaptable invasive species was tackled by science only in the recent decades. Scientists estimate that invasive alien species cause damage worth at least €12 billion every year in Europe. That is the reason that the control of their introduction into the native ecosystem has become one of the main objectives of nature protection today. Following the strategic guidelines of the European Union, the Republic of Croatia is deterring invasive species, while the introduction of new alien species into its territory is prohibited. However, *based* on the assessment of eligibility, it is possible to introduce a certain new type of species that was approved by the *Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection* to the Croatian state territory.

The preservation and retaining of biological and landscape diversity in Croatia is under the jurisdiction of The State Institute for Nature Protection, which among other things, implements the control of introduction, prevents spreading and eliminates invasive alien species; it proposes measures for the protection of endangered species and habitats, and creates a so-called red list of threatened wildlife species and habitats. In accordance with European and international conventions, present invasive species are planned to be listed in so-called black, grey and white lists or as those whose import is prohibited and those



which may be traded without restrictions. For that reason, the Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity (2008) for the successful implementation of ecosystem protection in Croatia was approved, and in 2013 new laws on environmental protection and nature conservation were adopted. Within the concept of sustainable development, these laws require that the protection of the environment should provide a complete preservation of environmental quality, biodiversity and landscape diversity, as well as geodiversity, especially of island ecosystems.

According to data from the State Institute for Nature Protection, as well as research results from the European International Project DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe), out of '100 worst' invasive species brought to Europe, many are present in Croatia. One of them is the small Indian mongoose (lat. *Herpestes auropunctatus*), which is also the oldest known example of deliberate introduction of a foreign invasive species to Croatia. Because of the negative impact of the mongoose to the native ecosystem, a mongoose controlling system in Southeast Europe was introduced as recommended by the Council of Europe on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, i.e. the Bern Convention, (Recommendation No. 140). As far as the Croatian territory today, in addition to Mljet, the mongoose is, intentionally or unintentionally widespread on the islands of Korčula, Hvar, Čiovo and Škrda, as well as the Pelješac peninsula, and it has reached the Neretva valley.

In the early 20th century, in an attempt to reduce the number of poisonous snakes on the island of Mljet (which was once reputed as the 'Snake Island'), eleven grey mongooses (seven males and four females) were released. Mongooses were introduced to the area which is now the National Park by the Imperial Royal Ministry of Agriculture from Vienna (*k. k. Ackerbauministerium*), i.e. Baron Schilling and the Forestry Administration of Mljet (1910). The main objective in doing so was the achievement of a broader concept of forming a protected nature park and a biological station on the island of Mljet, and at the same time

to reconstruct the Monastery of Saint Mary on the islet. The realisation of this unique project under Austrian administration was done in attempt to promote tourism on the island of Mljet since it was located near Dubrovnik which was a big tourist destination in the times of humble beginnings of tourism in the province of Dalmatia.

Completely changing its initial role as an exterminator of poisonous vipers, this small, resilient and highly reproductive predator, having destroyed the vipers on Mljet – where it was pronounced as '*manguc*' or called a '*snake-devourer*', inflicts today great damage to birds' nests and chicken coops and has also endangered native fauna and disturbed the island's ecosystem. Little or none has been written about the first European mongooses brought from distant India, about their negative impact on the native fauna of the islands, either within professional or scientific studies.

Based on the available documentation, the paper will investigate the problem of introducing alien invasive species into native ecosystems and explore the accompanying legislative and institutional framework for the protection of biological and landscape diversity and combating invasive species. The research is focused on the analysis of the negative impact of the invasive species of mongoose on the ecosystem of the island of Mljet, seen from the perspective of the island's population. For the purpose of obtaining the opinion of the local inhabitants, field research will be undertaken which will, via a semi-structured interview, apart from asking the inhabitants of Mljet to determine their views regarding the causes and consequences of the mongoose introduction, also inquire about the attempts to repair the damage that the mongoose committed to the environment. The survey, moreover, also intends to establish how deep is the fear of snakes and which stories are still immersed in the collective memory and oral tradition of the islanders. The research results will indicate how familiar the Islanders are about how much harm, which is scientifically proven, comes from their seemingly amiable and unusual cohabitant – the mongoose.



MARIN KNEZOVIĆ

Hrvatska matica iseljenika
marknezovic@gmail.com

Grapes, Wine and Vineyards in the Croatian Early Medieval Documents

The paper is the result of a wider research of data on the nature and the environment in the early medieval Croatian documents. So far four papers dealing with this issue were released in the journal "Ekonomska i ekohistorija: časopis za gospodarsku povijest i povijest okoliša".

In this paper the focus is on data on grapes, vineyards and wine in the early medieval Croatian documents. In the paper the characteristics of the vine and the problems of its cultivation are analyzed as well as the influence of this form of agriculture on social relations. Growing vines in early medieval Croatia relies on the strong tradition from antiquity and it is no surprise that wine production was so widespread. The most important product of viticulture is wine and in the early Middle Ages it was profitable trading commodity and an important diet ingredient.

Data on the vine, wine and grapes appear in slightly more than one-fifth of documents which bring information about the environment and are almost exclusively concentrated in the second half of the 11th century in the area of central and northern Dalmatia. Vineyards are usually mentioned together with the terms of the „valley“, „mountain“, „hill“, etc. These documents mention the vine and wine often with other crop plants, especially corn.

Vineyards have been an important source of wealth in the early medieval Croatia. Monasteries and wealthy individuals owned dozens of vineyards. What kind of those vineyards were? From the documents it is difficult to conclude. Given the very different prices that are paid for vineyards they encompassed areas of different sizes and were of different quality. The fact that vineyards were often paid with money, which was in the given time rarely in circulation, or with horses also indicates their importance.

Wine was often mean of payment. The large part of the tribute wich Dalmatian cities payed to Slavic rulers in the hinterland consisted of the wine.

Growing vines allows the use of inaccessible and poor soil therefore was very suitable for coastal area of early medieval Croatia. Selling wine was very lucrative and the sales of wine over long distances were early phenomenon. An important maritime route and transport routes to the interior situated along the Croatian coast could have been an extra incentive for growing vines. Therefore it is not surprising that the vineyards and the wine are often mentioned in the early medieval Croatian documents.

The early medieval Croatian wine because of its Mediterranean origins, and high percentage of alcohol had to be a profitable commodity. Vineyards were probably the most important source of wealth and thus very attractive to Dalmatian cities entrepreneurs. The vine growing was attractive to the local population due to favorable social position of vineyard growers too. The cultivation of grapes and wine was attractive to medieval rulers as well. A powerful medieval church also encouraged cultivation of vines. In the case of early medieval Croatian vine cultivators they were able to rely on a long tradition of cultivation and technology of cultivation of vineyards.

Grapevine is one of the cornerstones of Mediterranean agriculture. Wine with unquestionable commercial importance has great nutritional value for the population of the Mediterranean too. It was in the early medieval Croatia, as well as in the rest of Europe, paramount and valuable gift.



IVAN BRLIĆ

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Regional Centre Gospić,
Gospić, Croatia
ivan.brlic@pilar.hr

Lika's Societies for the Embellishment of the Places – the Beginnings of the Protection of Cultural and Natural Features

Although this presentation as the central element has the existing associations that have influenced primarily on the esthetic view of the places and their nearby environment, it is important to emphasize the circumstances that have influenced the associations' activities, and to indicate the area that these associations have included. It is precisely the environment of Lika region the one that is for centuries under the climatic and vegetation alterations, but also under the changes of human adjustments to the natural resources. The area of Lika region has always been in synergy with the people who have been connected with the environment not just due to economic needs, but due to respect they have felt for the environment as the equal copartner of the life on Earth. By gradual abandoning of the Military Border-kind-of-living, the residents of Lika still maintained the traditional knowledge about the environment in the village area so as the one regarding the smaller cities. However, at the end of the 19th century a new civic and capitalist society emerged, causing the appearance of the first organized initiatives that have dealt with systematic protection of city environment as well as the natural environment. Care about the natural environment in a way that includes new cultural environment begun at the beginning of the 19th century in then Prussia and Bavaria, gradually spreading on the other parts of the Middle Europe. Systematic interventions regarding the environment existed in Lika region even during the Military Border. Especially significant was the venture of the Austrian general and soldier Ernst Gideon von Laudon who in 1746 systematically planted the grove at the area of sandy Krbava Field. At the area of Lika and Podgorje

several societies for embellishment and protection of the places and their surroundings have been established. These are: the Society for the Protection and Embellishment of the Plitvice Lakes (1894), the Society for the Protection and Embellishment of the City of Gospić and its Environment (1896), the Society for the Embellishment of Udbina (1907), the Society for the Protection and Embellishment of Jablanac and its Environment (1910), the Society for the Embellishment of Karlobag and its Environment (1913), the Society for the Embellishment of Senj and its Environment (1913), the Society for the Embellishment of Korenica (1920) and the Society for the Improvement of Krasno and its Environment (1932). These societies had economic interests because careful protection of the places has been a model that has served for the attraction of the foreigners interested in those places, whereas the city environment has been an indicator of the progress and civilized attitude towards the natural and cultural environment. The emphasis of this presentation is precisely the introduction of these associations, their members and the steps they have taken regarding the aesthetic protection and the ecological consciousness. Besides these associations, the contribution on the mostly anthropogenic influence on the primordial environment of Lika's rivers, mountains and villages had the mountaineering associations, Estate Communities so as the educational employees who have took care of the school gardens. In such a manner, this presentation will give an overview on these important subjects of protection, however it will introduce one more important element – the presentation of Lika's surrounding to the general public interested in these issues. Therefore, this presentation has a goal to present and argue the real effects of the functioning of the associations for the embellishment of the places and their environment, but it also tends to examine were these only the formal initiatives of a small part of the city elite.

Organised by:

