

Traces of Japan in Croatian Latin School Drama 1600–1800

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Croatia, Jesuits, and the Latin school drama

No research on Croatian Latin school drama until 2016?

Sources

Methods

Findings

Conclusions

Croatia, Jesuits, and the Latin school drama



Croatia (and Slavonia, and Dalmatia)

Kingdom of Hungary (and Croatia)

Habsburg Empire

Also: Republic of Venice, Republic of Dubrovnik
(Ragusa)

Jesuits in Croatia

1559 Jesuit order comes to Dubrovnik

1604–1698 the Jesuits establish colleges in Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Rijeka, Varaždin, Požega

Jesuit colleges in Croatia were part of the Jesuit Austrian province.

No research on Croatian Latin school
drama until 2016?

Not in the national language.

No texts, no authors.

Pedagogy, not original art.

Elitist and religious.

Sources

Martina Petranović and Lucija Ljubić. *Repertoar hrvatskih kazališta : Knjiga peta : Deskriptivna obrada važnijih predstava na hrvatskom jeziku i izvedbi na stranim jezicima hrvatskih izvođača do 1840. godine*, Zagreb 2012.

Staud, Géza. *A magyarországi jezsuita iskolai színhátékok forrásai, III. : 1561-1773, Fontes ludorum sceniorum in scholis S. J. Hungariae, pars tertia*, Budapest 1988.

Methods

An XML file holding records of performances.

An XML database with recorded searches.

A version-controlled repository with data, scripts, and documentation:

github.com/nevenjovanovic/croaladrama.

The repository is freely available, can be updated, enhanced, integrated into larger collections.

Findings

Findings

The database holds records on 686 performances in 1607–1805.

There are 19 performances (2.6 percent) whose titles have to do with Japan.

Findings

The plays on Japan were performed during the 133 years between 1628 and 1761.

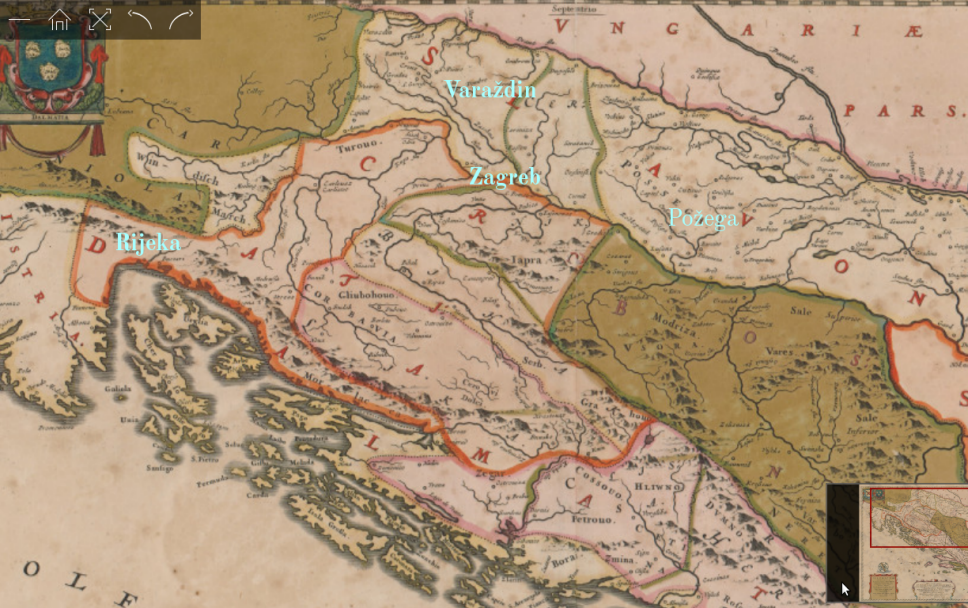
They were performed in Jesuit colleges of the four cities:

Zagreb (established 1606)

Varaždin (Jesuits present from 1632, college established 1678)

Rijeka (college established 1627)

Požega (college established 1698).



Findings

Zagreb: **six** performances 1628–1751

Varaždin: **seven** performances 1713–1751

Rijeka: **four** performances 1727–1747

Požega: **two** performances 1735–1748

An example: Performances in Rijeka

1727 Triumphus fidei in quodam adolescente Japone

1735 Hero Christianus Japo

1740 Kimura e fuga ad fidem palamque martyrii
revocatus

1747 Ucondus magnus

A chronology

1. *Beginnings*: Zagreb 1628, 1677
2. *The first wave*: Varaždin 1713; Zagreb 1716, 1720
3. Rijeka 1727
4. *The second wave*: Varaždin 1733, 1734 (2); Rijeka 1735; Požega 1735; Varaždin 1737; Rijeka 1740
5. *The third wave*: Varaždin 1744; Rijeka 1747; Požega 1748; Zagreb 1750; Varaždin 1751
6. *Ending*: Zagreb 1761

Historical persons mentioned

- Joannes Ingorus
- Ludovicus Japoniae Martyr
- Blessed father Luis Flores (19 August 1622)
- Tokugawa Ieyasu
(www.wikidata.org/entity/Q171977)
- Leonard Kimura
(www.wikidata.org/entity/Q11754482),
Sebastian Kimura
(www.wikidata.org/entity/Q16185936)

Findings: testimonia from chronicles

A spectacle

A spectacle

Zagreb 1628: Diebus antecineralibus prodijt in theatrum Martyrium Joannis Ingori, filiorumque, in nouo orbe martyrium non ita pridem esse. Praemia.

Findings: testimonia from chronicles

Beautiful poetry

Beautiful poetry

Zagreb 1677: Infima Japonicum adolescentem
amoenissimis gratijs poëticis illustratum in scenam
dedit.

Findings: testimonia from chronicles

Another spectacle

Another spectacle

Varaždin 1713: Varasdini gloriatus uno de Ludovico Japoniae Martyre in quo Magistri, cujus nescio classis, industria nonnulla praemiola inter tubarum, tympanorumque fremitus. Praemia.

Findings: testimonia from chronicles

Good acting, well received

Good acting

Zagreb 1716: Musae vero inferiores duabus potissimum actionibus dramaticis gloriantur, quarum alteram suprema et media classis grammatices exhibuit In triumpho crucis de Japone regulo et duobus filiis eius fortissimis fidei Christianae propugnatoribus. Tenuit illa mirifice spectatorum oculos ob vivacem adolescentum agendi modum in se defixos.

Findings: testimonia from chronicles

A model for the second-grade students

A model for the second-grade students

Zagreb 1720: Principistae exhibuerunt Phirandum Japonem Christianum principistam fidei rudimenta sanguine et vita defendere paratum.

Conclusions

Conclusions

The Jesuit school theatre offered to virtually all Croatian intellectuals during the 17th and 18th century a chance to perform in front of an audience.

Theatre and performance were an integral part of the education.

Being on stage was an early experience of each Croatian intellectual.

Conclusions

The thematic range of the Jesuit school theatre was not limited to one's own country and one's own nation.

The Jesuit interest for Japan suggests an interest for modernity, even when expressed in the language of Cicero and Saint Jerome.

Conclusions

The presence, and nurture, of such modern interests in a small Slavic community at the periphery of the Habsburg Empire means that the horizons were wider than we are ready to admit today.

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