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Marulić and laudationes urbium

Praise of a city (*laudatio urbis*) is a standard medieval and Renaissance theme; famous examples include the *Laudatio Florentinae urbis* (1403–4) by Leonardo Bruni and the *Urbs Noriberga illustrata carmine heroico* (1532) by Helius Eobanus Hessus. Variations on this theme may be found in at least fifty Latin texts about the Eastern Adriatic coast, from Trieste to Shkodër, written between 1268 and 1608. These texts were recently gathered in a digital collection Laudationes urbium Dalmaticarum, which is itself a part of a larger Croatiae auctores Latini collection (CroALa). One of the laudationes is a description of Split by Marko Marulić, a passage from his antiquarian text *In epigrammata priscorum commentarius* (1503–1510). Here we introduce the *Laudationes urbium Dalmaticarum* collection and then explore the relationship of Marulić's text to it. How is his description similar to other texts? How is it different?

Bratislav Lučin
Marulianum, Split
In epigrammata priscorum commentarius:
sources of Marulić's commentaries

Marulić's epigraphic treatise *In epigrammata priscorum commentarius* (written ca. 1503-1510) collects 141 ancient inscriptions from Rome, Naples, Florence, Milan and other cities on the Apennine peninsula and on the eastern side of the Adriatic; a special section is devoted to the inscriptions from Salona, of which there are 29.

Each of the inscriptions is accompanied by commentaries of various length (from one or two lines to several pages of the MS): in them Marulić explains the epigraphic abbreviations, comments on the grammatical and orthographic peculiarities of the text, gives identification and additional information on persons and events mentioned in them, explains the facts of Roman religion, army, magistrates, jurisprudence, mythological and geographical data etc. In so doing he refers to some thirty Greek and Roman authors, which would lead to the conclusion that their works are the main source of his antiquarian culture. My investigation has shown that only for the smaller part of his references this is indeed so (imperial genealogies derived from Suetonius' *Lives of the Caesars*, chronological and historical data taken from Eusebius' *Chronicle*, as well as the works his continuators, St. Jerome and Matteo Palmieri). Indeed, the main source of Marulić's antiquarian and linguistic information are the works of humanist philology, viz. the voluminous dictionaries and encyclopedias of Giovanni Tortelli (*De orthographia dictionum e Graecis tractarum*¹), Niccolò Perotti (*Cornu copiae*) and Giuniano Maio (*De priscorum proprietate verborum*), as well as the compendia written by Pomponius Laetus and ps. Fenestella (*De Romanorum magistratibus*). It is worthwhile to note that Marulić never once makes mention of these authors or titles in his text. We know for certain that he possessed them in his personal library, but so far the Marulić philology has not investigated his use of these sources in his own writings.

¹ Marulić's own copy, with his marginal notes, has been preserved.

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Marko Marulić, Charles V and Philip II

The eminent French marulologist Charles Béné discovered the precious fact that the English king Henry VIII (1491-1547, *regn.* 1509-1547) read the *Evangelistarium* at the end of the 1520s and beginning of the 1530s and entered notes in his personal copy, conserved in the British Library. Béné also found out that very probably a Latin poem by Marulić's was a source of inspiration for one of the first French woman authors, queen Marguerite of Navarre (or d'Angoulême or de Valois), princess d'Orléans (1492-1549).

On the list of Marulić's eminent admirers and readers in Spain we find two monarchs, contemporaries of Henry VIII: king Charles I, or emperor Charles V (1500-1558, *regn.* 1516-1556 in Spain, 1520-1558 in Germany) and his son and heir to the throne, Philip II (1527-1598, *regn.* 1556-1598).

The connections of the two kings with Marulić's works have not yet been sufficiently investigated, so that at present we cannot say whether or not their personal copies have come to us; we don't know which editions these Spanish sovereigns possessed, what use they made of them, and who and how obtained them for the monarchs' collections.

It is probable that Charles and Philip approached Marulić's works differently; the best way to research these differences would be to analyse the bookshelf context in which Marulić's books appear in their libraries and to study the intellectual attitudes and interests of both kings' preceptors or counsellors.

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Marko Marulić and the British Library

The paper has three parts. The first part will discuss the books by and about Marko Marulić in the British Library collection. The British Library holds a significant collection of 88 titles on Marulić and the paper will review this collection as part of the Croatian collection in the library. It will briefly cover the previous research on Marulić books in the major European research libraries. The paper will then present the survey of Marulić books in the collections of the UK research and historic libraries.

The next part will give the most relevant information about the Marulić books in the collection and it will introduce a catalogue on Marulić from the British Library collection. Furthermore, it will touch upon the other relevant catalogues about Croatian books, maps and manuscripts in the British Library. The provenance of some of the most important Marulić imprints will be discussed. In the last part the paper will offer some personal remarks and more general comments. In particular, it will highlight the research value of the Marulić collection and its great potential for the future professional engagements and connections.