

INTRODUCTION

by Vjeran Kursar

The articles written by friends, colleagues, former students, and one current doctoral student collected in this celebratory volume dedicated to the doyen of Ottoman studies in Croatia, Professor Nenad Moačanin, are divided into three main chapters entitled “Ottoman Bosnia, Turkish Croatia, and Turkey in Europe,” “Distant Borders and Regions,” and “Glimpses Beyond the Ottoman Border: Habsburg Croatia and the Republic of Dubrovnik.” The first section consists of the articles predominantly dedicated to the main fields of interests of Nenad Moačanin, namely social and economic history of the Ottoman Empire, with special focus on Ottoman Bosnia, the Balkans and Central Europe, as well as the Ottoman borderland in Croatia. Several studies in this section discuss an issue of organization of Ottoman border provinces from various perspectives. In the article “Serving King and Sultan: Pavao Grgurić and his Role on the Hungaro-Ottoman Frontier in Southern Bosnia, c. 1463-1477” Michael Urisnus analyzes the situation on the Hungaro-Ottoman frontier in Southern Bosnia in the first decade following the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia on the example of a local nobleman. He raises important questions of transition and accommodation with the Ottomans. Géza Dávid meticulously examines lives and careers of the Ottoman governors (*sancakbegis*) of the border province of Požega in Slavonija during the 16th century in the article “The *Sancakbegis* of Pozsega (Požega, Pojega) in the 16th Century”. Fazileta Hafizović surveys peculiarities of Ottoman organization of another Slavonian border province of Pakrac on the example of the *nahiye* of Kontovac in the article “Nahiyes of the Pakrac Sanjak: the Unknown Nahiye Kontovac.” In a similar manner, in the article “Settlement of Lika and Three Ottoman Nahiyes: Novi, Medak and Bilaj Barlete in the 16th Century,” Kornelija Jurin Starčević examines social and economic structure of three *nahiyes* in Ottoman Lika, a border region in central Croatia. In the article “Ocaklık Timar in the Sanjak of Smederevo” Hatice Oruç draws attention to the fact that the institution of hereditary *ocaklık timars* existed not only in Bosnia, as usually thought, but in the Sanjak of Smederevo in today’s Serbia century and a half later as well, due to specific conditions existing in the newly reconquered sanjak. Machiel Kiel examines the vivid history of an Ottoman Muslim town in Ottoman Greece in the article “Margariti/Margaliç: Emergence, Development and Downfall of a Muslim Town at the Edge of the Islamic World (Greek Epirus).” The remaining articles in this section cover various topics from the fields of social and cultural history. Vjeran Kursar enquires into an issue of inclusion of Bosnian Franciscans into the Ottoman administrative system via presenting their representatives with

Ottoman robes of honour (*kaftans* and *binişes*), and Franciscan exemption from sumptuary laws in the article “Monks in Kaftans. Bosnian Franciscans, Robes of Honor, and Ottoman Sumptuary Laws.” In the article “Hasan Esîrî’s Mi’yârü’l-Düvel ve Misbârü’l-Milel as a Source for the History of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina” Anđelko Vlašić and Okan Büyüktapu discuss the importance of this newly discovered 18th century manuscript for the history of the region. Ekrem Čaušević discusses the issue of the transfer of knowledge on the example of Turkological works of the 19th century Bosnian Franciscan author and copyist Fra Mate Mikić-Kostrčanac in the article “Fra Mate Mikić-Kostrčanac and the Turkish Language: Manuscripts, Copyists, and the Transfer of Knowledge in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century.” Slobodan Ilić examines early Turkish readings of Hurufî corpus canonicum and exegetical attempts of the second generation of Fazl Allah Astarabadi’s disciples in the article “‘Abd al-Majîd b. Firishte (d. 1459/60) and the Early Turkish Reading of Hurûfî Corpus Canonicum.” In the article “The Annular Eclipse of the Sun of 7 September 1820 – a Report in Tārîh-i Cevdet” Claudia Römer deals with astronomy in late Ottoman period on the example of the eclipse report from the well-known “History” by Ahmed Cevdet Pasha. This section ends with the Tatjana Paić Vukić’s article “Presenting the Ottoman Heritage: An Exhibition of Islamic Manuscripts in Zagreb” which discusses the ways of the presentation of the Ottoman heritage in Croatia, based on the example of an exhibition of Islamic manuscripts held in Zagreb in 2014.

The second section entitled “Distant Borders and Regions” brings three articles which are geographically remote from the Western Balkans and Central Europe, such as Crimea, Syria, and Palestine, but nevertheless fit well into the conception of the volume by offering a possibility for comparison of distant regions. Jean-Louis Bacqué-Grammont analyzes a peculiar report of the Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi on Crimea, another borderland with exotic people and strange customs, in the article “Amœnitates Tauridicæ: La Crimée ou la douceur de vivre selon Evliyâ Çelebî.” Linda Darling examines Ottoman governance in Syria as a frontier province in the decades after its conquest through the *mühimme defterleri* (registers of “important affairs”), and questions resource extraction in the article “Resource Extraction in a Newly Conquered Province: Ottoman Syria in the Mid-Sixteenth Century.” Mahmoud Yazbak deals with the issue of penetration of urban capital into the countryside of Jaffa, the rising Palestinian port city, in the first half of the 19th century in the article “Penetration of Urban Capital into the Palestinian Countryside: The Beginnings, Jaffa in the 1830s.”

The third section “Glimpses Beyond the Ottoman Border: Habsburg Croatia and the Republic of Dubrovnik” contains five articles which provide an important insight into the situation on “the other side.” Borislav Grgin analyzes the Croatian-Ottoman relations from 1458 to 1527 focusing on armed conflicts, propaganda

and self-representation, negotiations, migrations and exchange of goods and ideas in the article “The Ottoman-Croatian Border at the End of the Middle Ages.” Vesna Miović examines unofficial methods of self-protection of the authorities of the Republic of Dubrovnik, the sultan’s vassal, against their enemies from the Ottoman side in the article “From Tears to Poison: Ragusan Dealings with the Enemies from the Ottoman Neighbourhood.” Zrinka Blažević presents the emotionological analysis of selected Latin diplomatic reports written by Antun Vrančić (1551–1617) and Franciscus Zay (1498–1570), the Habsburg envoys to Sultan Süleyman I and his Grand Vizier Rüstem Pasha, in the article “Inter spem et desperationem: Diplomatic Emotions of the Habsburg Envoys at the Ottoman Court (1553–1557).” In the article “On the Economic History of Zagreb in the 17th Century” Hrvoje Petrić surveys economic activities in the 17th-century Zagreb as both the key player in Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia and the border town. The last article in the volume is “Arms Race on the Habsburg-Ottoman Border in the 16th Century: Arsenal, Small Firearms, Artillery and Ammunition on the Croatian and Slavonian Military Border” written by Nataša Štefanec, who examines development of the system of storage, distribution and management of arms and ammunition on the Habsburg side of the border in Croatia and Slavonia.

The volume also includes a biographical overview of Professor Močanin’s scientific and educational career at the beginning, and the bibliography at the end of the volume.

As a person who greatly benefited from acquaintance with Nenad Hoca in different stages of life and career, starting as his student back in mid-1990s, a decade later becoming his assistant, and eventually his junior colleague and friend, I am more than happy to be able to present him with a volume with articles written by his old friends and renowned scholars of Ottoman history, his colleagues from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Zagreb, as well as his former students and later associates.

I am thankful to the reviewers of the volume Aleksandar Fotić and Elias Kolovos. In particular I would like to thank my colleague Kornelija Jurin Starčević, another former student of Nenad Hoca, for her contribution by reviewing and commenting one of the articles.