The Public Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation in Medieval Studies

of

LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

on

NICHOLAS OF MODRUŠ, ‘THE GLORY OF ILLYRIA’: HUMANIST PATRIOTISM AND SELF-FASHIONING IN RENAISSANCE ROME

will be held on

Tuesday, June 11 2013, at 12:00,

in the

Monument Building, Senate Room
Central European University
Nádor u. 9, Budapest

Examination Committee

Chair
Susan Zimmermann (Department of History)

Members
Niels Gaul (Department of Medieval Studies) – Supervisor
Gábor Klaniczay (Department of Medieval Studies)
Tijana Krstić (Department of Medieval Studies)

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Neven Budak (University of Zagreb)
James Hankins (Harvard University)
Neven Jovanović (University of Zagreb)
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT
LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

NICHOLAS OF MODRUŠ, ‘THE GLORY OF ILLYRIA’:
HUMANIST PATRIOTISM AND SELF-FASHIONING IN RENAISSANCE ROME

The dissertation reconstructs and contextualizes the life of Nicholas bishop of Modruš (ca. 1427–1480), most often evoked as a papal diplomat who played an important role in the events surrounding the fall of the Bosnian kingdom to the Ottomans in 1463, subsequently spending the rest of his life in the provinces of the Papal States where he formed his grand library and engaged himself with philosophical and antiquarian matters. In a word, the Nicholas of Modruš imagined today is one painted with broad strokes, a result of the fact that the bulk of his oeuvre still remains buried in manuscript, and his career at the papal Curia largely unstudied. By introducing an ample amount of unpublished material into discussion, establishing a new dating for a number of his works, correcting a number of mistakes and assumptions, and finally addressing various previously unconnected paths of research, the dissertation sheds new light on the role of Nicholas of Modruš on the stage of Renaissance Rome. Therefore, just as any other biography, so this dissertation too is selective. While it is divided into four sections that treat chronologically four successive phases of Nicholas’ life, it is the Part I and Part II, discussing the first years of his Curial career, that bring particularly two questions under close scrutiny: the bishop’s humanism and his patriotism. The dissertation combines a wide range of extant documentary, epistolary, literary, codicological and palaeographical evidence, published and unpublished, most of which find their place among the Appendices.
CURRICULUM VITAE
LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

Education
2008–2013 PhD in Medieval Studies
Central European University, Budapest
2007–2008 MA in Medieval Studies
Central European University, Budapest
2002–2007 Diploma in History and Latin Language with Roman Literature
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards
2012 Short-term Frances A. Yates Fellow at the Warburg Institute
2011 Attended the CEU Summer University course ‘Medieval Codicology and Palaeography: Greek book hand’; Budapest
2011 Attended the course ‘L’idea di Roma dall’Ellenismo all’Umanesimo: XXII Seminario di Alta Cultura’, organized by the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Piceni; Sassoferrato
2011 Renaissance Society of America Research Grant
2011 CEU Advanced Doctoral Student Award
2010 Visiting Fellow at the Harvard University History Department
2010 Attended a one-month-long course in philology, palaeography and codicology ‘Translating the Past’, organized by the Institute at Palazzo Rucellai, Johns Hopkins University, and Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo; Florence
2009 Incoming Visegrad Scholarship
2008 Attended the CEU Summer University course ‘From Holy War to Peaceful Cohabitation: Diversity of Crusading and Military Orders’; Budapest

Publications


Research Experience
Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb (Jan, Dec 2010); National Széchényi Library, Budapest (Jan 2009); Biblioteca Riccardiana, Florence (Jun 2010); Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence (Jun 2010); Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Florence (Jun 2010); Biblioteca dell’Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei e Corsiniana, Rome (Feb 2010; Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Angelica, Rome (Feb 2010; Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome (Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican (Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Houghton Library, Cambridge MA (Sep–Dec 2010); Biblioteca Nazionale ‘Vittorio Emanuele III’, Naples (Nov 2011); British Library, London (Jan–Mar 2012); Bodleian Library, Oxford (Feb 2012); Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna (May 2013)

Teaching Experience (Courses and Workshops)
2012/2013b Selected Sources for the Late Medieval History of Croatia
History Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

2009/2010b MEDS 5909 Latin Beginner II (Teaching Assistant)
Department of Medieval Studies, CEU Budapest

2009/2010a MEDS 5909 Latin Beginner I (Teaching Assistant)
Department of Medieval Studies, CEU Budapest

2012 Apr Stories of Manuscripts (Sixth annual Latin student workshop)
Marulić Days 2012, Split

2011 Apr Manuscript Scholia (Fifth annual Latin student workshop)
Marulić Days 2011, Split

Research Interests
Renaissance intellectual elite; humanist rhetoric and historiography; history of patriotism; Renaissance book culture; political and cultural history of late medieval Croatia in the context of the wider region; crusades; Nicholas of Modruš