History

The book was printed in 1638, and the title is: "Breue Compendium Nationum Gloriosae Totius Ungiae Ilyriae" which means: "The short view of the Slavic folk and Illyric language". Author of the book was Martin Rossa (Martinus Rossa), a Latin poet, a member of the province of Dvurbrück and one of the representatives of Franciscan Illyricism. The subject of the book is the creation of the universe, origins of Slavic culture, their cultural and political history and geographic location.

This is the only remaining copy of this book in Croatia, the other one is in Italy. This book has a great historical value and is being translated for further research.

Croatia was one of the territories that Illyrians inhabited. These tribes, or at least a number of tribes considered "Illyrians proper" were probably extinct by the 2nd century AD. The name "Illyrians", as applied by the ancient Greeks to their northern neighbors, may have referred to a broad, ill-defined group of people, and it is today unclear to what extent they were linguistically and culturally homogeneous. In fact, an Illyric origin was and is still attributed also to a few ancient peoples in Italy. In particular the lappies, Dauni and Messapii, as it is thought that, most likely, they had followed Adriatic shorelines to the peninsula, coming from the geographic "Ilyria".

The languages of Illyria were Indo-European. It is not clear whether the Illyrian language belonged to the celtic or the Illyrian group. The vast majority of our knowledge of Illyrian is based on Messapiiian, if the letter is considered an Illyrian dialect.

Fig. 1. End when paper arrived
Fig. 2. Detail of the book
Fig. 3. Embossed print
Fig. 4. Coppered watermarks

Restoration of the book cover

Since the first and last page of the book were attached to the book cover, it was necessary to remove glue and separate it, so restoration of the book and reconstruction of the damaged book cover can be done.

While separating the first page from the book cover, white paper that was glued on the inner part, was found between the first page and the book cover itself. The same was on the other part of the book cover.

Since it was moistened, manuscript on the white paper started to appear. It was decided to remove the paper and see what was written. The paper was damaged and manuscript on it was partially gone and faded because it was glued on its front side.

The book cover was badly damaged and it was not possible to do the process of integration manually. Process of integration took place in a paper workshop in Croatian Conservation Institute, Dubrovnik Department for Conservation, using paper pulp machine.

First it was linked what was left of the existing book cover, like a puzzle, and the right amount of the paper pulp was prepared. It was necessary to make frame of nylon to make sure that paper pulp will only go where parts of the book cover are missing. The excess of water was removed using vacuum table. Then, it was smeared with 4,5% Tylose MH300P and coated with 3.8 g/m² Japanese paper.

Dry integrated book cover was retouched using pastel. Same process was done on two manuscripts found between the book cover.

Fig. 5. Integrated of the missing parts
Fig. 6. The process of vein cleaning
Fig. 7. EUFAD aniline test

Fig. 8. Restoration of the book cover
Fig. 9. Blending the original colour of the cover with the restored parts

Fig. 10. Proofof book making
Fig. 11. Book after pasting