

Fine Arts and the Kosaca Family

Summary

The paper presents an attempt to reconstruct the lost heritage. We will analyze the relation of the family members of Kosaca to painting. Art-designed objects have been the symbols of power and prestige throughout history, and it is quite certain that the Kosacas also possessed a large number of artworks. Regrettably, as judged by the sources, from the rich treasures of Kosaca there has not been preserved anything to the point that we can safely recognize as the artistic legacy of this great feudal family.

However, there are relatively many references to the members of the Kosaca family in the documents from the Dubrovnik archives, which include artistic items such as icons of the Herzog Stjepan, icons of Jelena, wife of Sandal Hranic and icons of Queen Katarina, jewelry, clothes, and expensive pottery. The Kosacas were also mentioned as architects. There is evidence that Herzog Stjepan raised churches in Stipan field and in Sopotnica near Gorazde. It is well known that Sandalj Hranic owned a palace in Dubrovnik and was fascinated by the work of Ivan Ugrinovic, whom he invited to decorate his residence.

This paper will try to illuminate the Kosaca family relationship with art, their phenomenon of collecting, as well as to point to the strength and importance of the connections between Zahumlje and Dubrovnik and to analyze the modes of artistic influences and tastes between Dubrovnik and the Zahumlje hinterland.

Keywords: the Kosacas; art; architecture; goldsmithing.