Apocryphal List of Nobility Kindreds in the Bosnian Kingdom

Summary

For more than two centuries, there have been very similar versions of the lists of noblemen of Bosnia and Hum from the pre-Ottoman period in historiography and publishing. One version was published in two well-known collections of sources for the history of BiH, which gave scientific credentials to the list. However, the data on the origin of the list do not confirm their authenticity. The list is one of the apocryphal documents that emerged within the so called Illyrian heraldry. It is a complex ideological phenomenon developed in the course of the anti-Ottoman politics of the 17th and 18th century with the aim of legitimizing the feudal interests of certain kinship circles, as well as the "return" of their privileges and possessions, primarily on the territory of BiH. Some families of the Makarska coast called upon this tradition, and in the Franciscan monastery of Makarska there is the oldest transcript of the list, which, according to some sources, was brought by Fr. Marijan Lekusic from Fojnica in 1724. The list consists of a somewhat modified and expanded sequence of kind reds from the Fojnica Armorial, which was compiled after 1675. A significant number of kindreds in the list have been added to their place of origin based on the knowledge about their homeland at the beginning of the 18th century. After the Makarska version of the list published by Fr. Andrija Kacic Miosic and Fr. Luka Vladmirovic, a very similar list was presented by Fr. Josip Jakosic who brought it from Bosnia to the Franciscan monastery in Buda. In 1789 Martin Juraj Kovacic printed this list as an addition to the book by Gabrijel Kolinovic. According to the Buda version, Grgur Cevapovic and Euzebije Fermendzin later published the list in their collections of sources. The widespread and uncritical acceptance of apocryphal data from the list and other sources of Illyrian heraldry caused numerous errors and misunderstandings in genealogy and heraldic research.

Keywords: the list of the Bosnia and Hum nobility; Marijan Lekusic; Andrija Kacic Miosic; Luka Vladmirovic; Makarska; Fojnica; Buda; Illyrian heraldry; the Fojnica Armorial; Korjenic-Neoric armorial; Gabrijel Kolinovic Senkvicki; Josip Jakosic; Martin Juraj Kovacic; Grgur Cevapovic; Euzebije Fermendzin.