HISTORIA SALONITANA AND HISTORIA SALONITANA MAIOR

Neven Budak
Historia salonitanorum atque spalatinorum pontificum

- (Historia salonitana – HS)
- Author: Thomas the Archdeacon, Split (+1266)

- Oldest manuscript: 13th century (autograph?)
- Editions: 1666 (Latin); 1876-7 (Russian); 1894 (Latin); 1939-40 (Italian); 1960 (Croatian); 1997 (Russian); 2003 (Croatian); 2006 (English)
Historia salonitanorum pontificum

- Historia salonitana maior – HSM
- Anonymous author

- Oldest manuscript: late 16th century
- Editions: 1967 – Nada Klaić
  
  1973 – Stjepan Gunjača
Differences

- **HS**
  - From Roman rule to 1266
- **HSM**
  - From Roman rule to 1185
  - Different sources included
  - Some parts of HS missing
  - More complete catalogue of archbishops
  - Bad Latin

- Some parts of HS
- More complete catalogue
Sources included in HSM

- Synods of Salona in 530 and 533: minutes and conclusions
- Synods of Split in 925 and 928:
- Letters of John X and Leo VI, conclusions, binding text
- Story about King Zvonimir’s death and his epitaph
- A charter of Urban III
- Synod of Split in 1185, conclusions
Missing from HS

• The fourth chapter about the construction of Split
• A large part of the legend of Saint Domnio
• The chapters describing the time of archbishop Lawrence (1060-1100)
Explanation for the missing parts

- (Gunjača): these pages were lost
- Argument: the title “Virum valde egregium et bonitate plenum Crescentium nomine”

- In HS the last sentence in the chapter on Lawrence: “Tandem eorum petitionibus summus pontifex aquievit, dans eius presulem Crescentium, natione Romanum, virum valde egregium et omni preditum bonitate.”
Explanation for the missing parts

• Klaić: maybe the part on Lawrence is missing because the author of HSM could not find sources and did not want to write without them
Some arguments used in the discussion

• Barada: HSM preceded HS, because parts of chapters 14 and 15 are more accurate in HSM and it is impossible to claim that a younger version could be more precise than an older one
Some arguments used in the discussion

- Gunjača: there is no reason to doubt that Thomas could have seen the epitaph in the church of St Stephen in Solin – since we now know that the epitaph was recorded in the 13th c., we can use it as a primary source – thus we know that Zvonimir was killed
Some arguments used in the discussion

• Gunjača: in his final version (HS) Thomas left out the story of Zvonimir’s death, because in the meantime the church lost much of its authority

• HSM preceded HS because it is divided in less chapters
Some arguments used in the discussion

- Klaić:
  - version 1 (1967): Thomas did not mention the synods of 925/8 because he had no clue about them.
  - version 2 (1971): he did it because he wanted to hide the truth about Split becoming an archbishopric only in 925, and not in the 7th c.
Some arguments used in the discussion

• Klaić (1967):
• page 51: we might conclude that the author of HSM used the Split manuscript of HS
• page 52: it is clear that the author of HSM used the Trogir manuscript of HS
Importance of linguistic analysis

- **HS**: Ante ipsa tempora dux Attila, ferocissimus persecutor christianorum, de predicta regione dicitur fuisse egressus.

- **HSM**: Ante ipsa tempora dux Attila, ferocissimus persecutor christianorum, de predicta regione dicitur egressa.
The Korčula codex

- 12th century
- Collection of excerpts from different histories
- Lists of archbishops of Ravena and Aquileia
- Liber pontificalis
Addressees of Papal letters from 925 and 928

1. John, the archbishop of Salona and all of his suffragans
2. Tomislav, king of the Croats, Michael, duke of the Zahumljani, John, the archbishop of Salona and all of his suffragans
3. John, the archbishop of Salona, Formin, bishop of Zadar, and all of his (!) suffragans
4. Formin, bishop of Zadar, Gregory, bishop of Nin, and all other bishops in Dalmatia
Šimun Kožičić Benja, Zaratin, bishop of Modruš – was he the author of HSM?

his catalogue of the archbishops of Salona and Split reveals similarities with the catalogue in HSM (e.g., he knows that John X sent letters to archbishop John and the Croats), but there are also differences - he knows that Zvonimir was crowned in 1076, which is not mentioned in either HS or HSM, but is in the Codex of Korčula.