

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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## Savinjčan Gregor Čremošnik – raziskovalec Balkana

### IZVLEČEK

Gregor Čremošnik se je rodil v številni kmečki družini 24. februarja 1890 v Ločici pri Polzeli. Slavistiko in zgodovino je študiral na univerzi v Gradcu in promoviral leta 1915. Življenjska pot ga je za skoraj dve desetletji (od 1917 do 1935) odpeljala v Bosno, kjer je opravljal službo kustosa v Zemaljskem muzeju v Sarajevu. Akademsko kariero je začel leta 1935 v Skopju na Filozofski fakulteti kot profesor za srednji vek, končal pa v Ljubljani (od leta 1946) na Filozofski fakulteti kot nosilec katedre za zgodovino južnih Slovanov. Gradivo za znanstvene študije je črpal v dubrovniškem arhivu. Pretežno je obravnaval področje gospodarske zgodovine Dubrovnika in sosednjih balkanskih držav. Posegel je v eno najzapletenejših vprašanj srbske srednjeveške zgodovine, vprašanje denarnega sistema. Oral je ledino pri raziskovanju diplomatike, paleografije in sfragistike cirilskih listin.

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

Gregor Čremošnik, kustos, dubrovniški arhiv, monetarni sistem, zadolžnice, cirilska paleografija, diplomatika, sfragistika

### ABSTRACT

#### GREGOR ČREMOŠNIK FROM THE SAVINJA VALLEY – A BALKAN EXPLORER

Gregor Čremošnik was born to a large rural family on 24 February 1890 in Ločica pri Polzeli. He studied Slavic languages and history at the University of Graz and obtained his doctorate in 1915. Then his life brought him to Bosnia, where he remained for nearly two decades (from 1917 to 1935) performing the office of custodian at the National Museum in Sarajevo. He began his academic career in 1935 in Skopje, at the Faculty of Arts, as a professor in medieval history, and concluded it in Ljubljana (from 1946) at the Faculty of Arts as the chair of the Department of the History of Southern Slavs. He drew his materials for scholarly studies from the archives in Dubrovnik. He mainly focused on the economic history of Dubrovnik and neighbouring Balkan states and delved into one of the most complex questions of medieval Serbian history, i.e., that of the monetary system. Čremošnik also broke new ground in the research on diplomatics, palaeography and sigillography of Cyrillic documents.

### KEY WORDS

Gregor Čremošnik, custodian, Dubrovnik archives, monetary system, promissory notes, Cyrillic palaeography, diplomatics, sigillography

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## S U M M A R Y

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### Gregor Čremošnik from the Savinja Valley – a Balkan explorer

The contribution describes the life and scholarly work of historian Gregor Čremošnik. He was born on 24 February 1890 at Ločica pri Polzeli to a big rural family. Like many other talented farmer boys, he was sent away to school. After completing classical gymnasium in Maribor in 1910, he decided to enrol in Slavic and history studies at the University of Graz, where he earned his doctorate in 1915. He obtained a solid basis for his later scholarly work from his teacher and mentor Matija Murko and acquired further knowledge of history at the University of Vienna under Professor Konstantin Jireček. After spending a short period working at a gymnasium in Trieste, his life brought him to Bosnia, where he remained for nearly two decades performing the office of custodian at the National Museum in Sarajevo. He started his academic career in 1935 in Skopje, at the Faculty of Arts, as a professor in medieval history,

and concluded it at Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts as a professor in the history of Southern Slavs.

While performing his office in Sarajevo, Čremošnik frequented the Dubrovnik archives and collected materials for his scholarly studies. Even though he initially published a few contributions on literary history and linguistics, he primarily focused on the chapters from the Balkan medieval history. Thanks to his intimate knowledge of the most important archives for the medieval history of the Balkans, i.e., the Historical Archives in Dubrovnik, he collected the largest part of new sources. His publications of Dubrovnik sources contain nearly 2000 new documents.

Čremošnik's most important contribution to the medieval history of the Balkans was by opening new questions in the field of the economic history of medieval Dubrovnik and neighbouring Balkan states. He delved into one of the most complex questions of Serbian medieval history, i.e., that of the monetary system. He fully investigated the beginnings of Serbian minting, the value of Serbian currency, as well as

the purity and shape of coins. He also devoted much of scholarly attention to various kinds of loans and interest rates, organisation of merchants into trade associations, prices of merchandise, as well as salaries of state officials in medieval Dubrovnik.

During his Ljubljana period, Čremošnik attempted to complete his life's work. He was breaking new ground in the part of the Southern Slavic historical research that requires painstaking effort, dedication to research and profound love of profession, i.e., diplomatics, palaeography and sigillography of Cyrillic documents. By including these chapters in his lectures, he found himself under attack by the student organisation in 1955, which devastated him, as he performed his pedagogical profession with utmost zeal and devotion.

Gregor Čremošnik died in Ljubljana on 12 November 1958. However, his signature on the memorial to late professors who once lectured at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, will retain his memory for many generations of future history students.