

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

UDK 308-057.85(497.451.1)"1812"

Prejeto: 10. 9. 2019

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Prevzeta od Zoisovega znanja in prijaznosti: Gaetano Cattaneo in Giovanni Scopoli v Ljubljani (april 1812)*

IZVLEČEK

Prispevek obravnava dogodek, ki sodi v kontekst odnosov med intelektualci s kranjskega in italijanskega območja v začetku 19. stoletja. Nanaša se na kratek postanek Giovannija Scopolija mlajšega in Gaetana Cattanea, uslužbencev Italijanskega kraljestva, v Ljubljani na potovanju po Srednji Evropi ter na njun obisk pri Žigi Zoisu 14. aprila 1812. Navedeni podatki temeljijo delno na vsebini pisem (Scopolijeva pisma ženi), delno pa na potopisnem materialu, natančneje, na doslej le delno objavljenem Cattaneovem poročilu s potovanja. V njem je v dodatku navedeno poglavje, ki se nanaša na postanek v Ljubljani. Vsebina, ki smo jo želeli obdelati v članku, želi poudariti, v kolikšni meri so izobrazba in osebni vzgibi obeh popotnikov vplivali na to, kako sta doživela srečanje z ljubljanskim okoljem in baronom Zoisom.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Gaetano Cattaneo, Giovanni Scopoli ml., Žiga Zois, potopisi, pisma, Ljubljana, Ilirske province, Licejska knjižnica.

ABSTRACT

ENTHRALLED BY ZOIS'S KNOWLEDGE AND COURTESY: CATTANEO AND SCOPOLI IN LJUBLJANA (APRIL 1812)

This article concerns an event that falls into the context of relations between intellectuals from Carniolan and Italian areas in the early nineteenth century. It relates to a brief stay made by Giovanni Scopoli Jr. and Gaetano Cattaneo, two officials from the Italian Kingdom, in Ljubljana on their journey across central Europe, as well as their visit to Sigmund Zois on 14 April 1812. The information presented is drawn partly from private correspondence (Scopoli's letters to his wife) and partly from travel writings – more specifically, Cattaneo's travel journal, which is as yet only partially published and which contains a chapter referring to their stop in Ljubljana. The article aims to highlight the extent to which the travellers' erudition and personal interests affected their encounter with the Ljubljana environment and Baron Zois.

KEY WORDS

Gaetano Cattaneo, Giovanni Scopoli Jr., Sigmund Zois, travel literature, letters, Ljubljana, Illyrian Provinces, Lyceum Library.

* Razprava je nastala v okviru bilateralnega projekta BI-FR/20-21-PROTEUS-009, ki ga je sofinancirala Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije.

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S U M M A R Y

Enthralled by Zois's knowledge and courtesy: Cattaneo and Scopoli in Ljubljana (April 1812)

The article discusses the meeting that took place in April 1812 in Ljubljana between Baron Sigmund Zois and two officials from the Italian Kingdom, Giovanni Scopoli Jr., then director general of public education, and Gaetano Cattaneo, the curator and future director of the numismatics cabinet in Milan, who were setting out on a business trip into the centre of Europe (Austria, Hungary, German territories, and Switzerland).

Information regarding their visit to Ljubljana, as well as their conversation with the baron, is taken from Scopoli's correspondence with his wife and

from Cattaneo's travel journal (which has only been partially published). The information regarding the meeting confirms not only Zois's personal traits, most notably his courtesy, the pleasure he derived from conversation, and his bountiful knowledge, but also those for which the travellers regarded him with such great admiration. At the same time, their accounts also reveal how much their erudition and personal motivations interests affected their perception of the visit.

Both were profoundly impressed by the baron's extensive mineral collection. In his report, Cattaneo also mentioned the influence that Zois had among eminent European scholars, whereas Scopoli was above all fascinated by the realization that the baron knew his father well and talked about him. The meeting thus enabled Scopoli to discover a few new details about his family history. This was also one of the reasons for making several stops in Carniola, Ljubljana, and Idrija. In a letter to his wife, Scopoli wrote that the conversation with Zois and having seen his rich mineral collection gave him additional incentive to take up studies, which points to his great intellectual curiosity, undoubtedly much greater than was required by his office as a school official.

Cattaneo, on the other hand, admitted his ignorance in mineralogy and natural sciences, but added that he nevertheless enjoyed the conversation immensely. Besides, as stated on the introductory page of his travel journal, one of his intentions was to seize every opportunity to broaden his knowledge. Well versed in art history, painting and drawing, he wrote down urban and architectural characteristics of the places he visited as well as aesthetic comments, which he also did – albeit succinctly – in Ljubljana. Although his evaluation of the Carniolan capital is far from flattering, it ought to be understood in the context of what a classical scholar coming from a cultural centre such as Milan would have expected from a city selected as the capital of the Illyrian Provinces. What seems to be a particularly significant piece of information from the point of view of the local cultural history is that Cattaneo was struck by the local lyceum and that he visited its library, which was already quite extensive and which was, in his opinion, likely to grow further in the years that followed.