

GLIGOR M. SAMARDZIĆ¹

UNIVERSITY OF PRIŠTINA WITH TEMPORARY HEAD-OFFICE
IN KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

ON VITICULTURE TRADITION *(Some examples from the south of Dalmatia)*

ABSTRACT. This paper presents data about economic conditions in the valley of the Trebišnjica River and its immediate vicinity in ancient times. Written source materials and archaeological discoveries point to main industrial branches under the Roman power. A significant number of material remnants which are the evidence of economic occupations in the valley of the Trebišnjica River of that period were found. In Marina and in the suburb Bihovi near the town of Trebinje, the facility of economic character was found, namely the remnants of ancient device for obtaining oil and wine. What is also significant is a sign found in the south of the province of Dalmatia, where sign poster's cognomen denotes his profession — wine-grower. These testimonies have exceptional historical value, as they give a more detailed description of economic circumstances and the tradition of wine production in East Herzegovina region from ancient times onwards.

KEY WORDS: viticulture, tradition, the south of Dalmatia, East Herzegovina, the valley of the Trebišnjica River, Marina, the village of Panik

¹ gligorijas@yahoo.com

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Population continuity of the valley of the Trebišnjica River can be tracked from prehistory to today, due to, among others, the records of about 1680 tumuli in its close proximity (Žeravica, 1988, p. 245; Odavić, 1976, pp. 7–15, 157–161; Atanacković-Salčić, 1977, pp. 19–38; Basler, 1978, pp. 123–127; Odavić, 1978, pp. 149–154). Southern area of East Herzegovina was, in the ancient times, closely connected to the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea (*Epidaur, Narona*). Establishing the connection between the Adriatic coast and its hinterland was followed by gradual adoption of the Roman way of life. The colonists here received large tracks of land and set up big farms where they built rustic villas (Zaninović, 1988, pp. 89–90; Čremošnik, 1976, pp. 43–49). Numerous ancient monuments found in the valley of the Trebišnjica — road communications, coach stops, mileposts, fortifications, rustic villas etc. — suggest an intensive life in this area (Pašalić, 1975, p. 351; Bojanovski, 1975, pp. 53–64; Bojanovski, 1977, pp. 67–98; Kraljević, 1978, p. 157; Bojanovski, 1983, pp. 7–35; Bojanovski, 1988, pp. 86–87). This is especially attested by the localities: Potkućnice, Ljubomir, Domaševo, Ukšići, Vrpolje, Cibrijan, Mosko, Skrobotno, Miruše, Police, Aleksina međa, Čičevo, Poljice, Hum, Perovića most (former Arslanagića most), Dubočani, Krstače u Ušću and Fatnica. The presence of population in this area from the earliest age was conditioned by the fertility of alluvial soil alongside the Trebišnjica, the benefits of the Mediterranean climate which prevails here as well as by the vicinity of the east Adriatic coast, where the ancient centres were located (AL BiH III, 1988, p. 184; Čremošnik, 1968, pp. 151–152; Čremošnik, 1976, pp. 43–49).

It is believed that in the valley of the Trebišnjica, from the early age, people also cultivated grapevine, which served them as food and drink, but also for adornment. It takes longer period of time for something to take root in people's souls, as in the case of grapevine. Since grapevine is considered to be the plant of the cradle of civilization, the Mediterranean and the neighbourhood, it is presumed that the east coast of the Adriatic with its hinterland — as a natural part of the Mediterranean world — was familiar with the specific types of viticulture. Moreover, the climate in these regions is beneficial for grapevine growing, which cannot be said for Illyric inland, where the climate is more severe and unsuitable for growing this plant (Zaninović, 1997, pp. 77–78; Baran, 2005, pp. 66–72). This is supported by Strabo's record, according to which wine was not produced in the interior of Dalmatia, because the land behind the Dalmatian coast is hilly and cold, and there was not much grapevine

(Strab. VII 5, 4; VII 5, 10). In addition, Dion Cassius reports that, apart from in small amounts and of low quality, olives were not grown and wine was not produced deep in the interior (Dio. XLIX 36, 2). However, M. Zaninović states that, as early as the Bronze Age or the Iron Age, the Illyrians were familiar with grapevine, and that grapevine growing was much older in the Illyrian islands and the east Adriatic coast and its nearby hinterland than in the countryside (Zaninović, 1996, pp. 261–272; Baran, 2005, pp. 66–72). The presence of wild grapes in nutrition was confirmed by archaeological discoveries of types of fruits that were consumed by the Illyrian lake dwelling inhabitants in the village of Ripač near the town of Bihać and in the village of Donja Dolina near the town of Bosanska Gradiška (Benac, 1951, p. 275). However, the doubt remains whether the ripe grapes were cultivated there or whether it was brought from the south (Zaninović, 1996, pp. 264–265).

We find out from M. Zaninović that Greek wine was imported in the Illyric region, and that Adriatic wine was exported to the east. The author thus draws the conclusion that the viticulture was a basis of economy for both The Greeks and the Illyrians (Zaninović, 1996, pp. 261–272; Baran, 2005, pp. 66–72). It is believed that wine production and trade on the island Issa satisfied the Illyrian rulers' needs, which additionally contributed to their aspirations to rule the island (Zaninović, 1997, pp. 77–78). Narrative sources report that this island was the origin of wine that no other wine could match (Polyb. II 4, 6; XXIX 5, 7; Liv. XIV 30; Zaninović, 1996, pp. 261–272). They also mention a great tendency among the local (Illyrian) population towards drinking. Thus, Polybius explicitly states that Teuta's husband, Argon, died of intemperate consumption of alcohol, while celebrating the triumph over the Aetolians in 231 BC. Besides, narrative sources say that the Celts, with the help of a poisoned food and drink stratagem, defeated the Ardiaei (Polyb. II 4, 6; Zaninović, 1996, pp. 261–272). It was also written down that the last Illyrian king Gentius displayed the inclination towards enjoyment in drink (Polyb. XXIX 5, 7; Liv. XIV 30).

An interesting epigraphic monument as well as an ancient device for obtaining (filtering) wine also testify to the traditional vine cultivation and wine production in the south of Dalmatia. The signboard was found in the south of the province of Dalmatia, and it can be found today in the Kotor City Lapidarium (Martinović, 2008, pp. 26–27). *D(is) M(anibus) S(acrum) / Statiae / Frunitae / Stat(ius) vinde/miator mar(itus) / (bene) m(erenti) fecit / (q)uae v(ixit) an(norum) LVI*

(CIL III 6358). What is particularly important on the signboard is the sign poster's cognomen, which denotes his profession — winegrower. The fact that we are talking about the only signboard from the south of the province of Dalmatia which directly points to the economic structure of the inhabitants in ancient times, makes this monument exceptionally important (CIL III 6358; Martinović, 2008, pp. 26–27).

Alongside the data about the agricultural activities of the Adriatic coast inhabitants, the discoveries in its nearby hinterland are very important, maybe even more important for us. We are talking about the localities *Leusinium* (the village of Panik, near the town of Bileća) and *Asamo* (the suburb of Bihovi near the town of Trebinje). Namely, based on significant data that are grounded on archaeological remains from these localities, i.e. Roman corporate estates and their business facilities (*villae rusticae*), it can be concluded that such facilities — where, among other products, wine and oil were produced — were not rare in the south of Dalmatia (Nikolajević-Stojković, 1955, p. 159; Jovanović, 1963, pp. 127–137; Bojanovski, 1969, pp. 27–55; Paškvalin, 1974, pp. 289–293). The viticulture pursuits of this population is confirmed by the abovementioned corporate estate from the valley of the Trebišnjica in *Leusinium* (the village of Panik), where a glass cup with the inscription *V(I)VAS* is found, from which people might have drunk local wine (Čremošnik, 1961, pp. 172–182; Čremošnik, 1974, pp. 44–58; Čremošnik, 1976, pp. 107–108, 118, 129; Paškvalin, 1974, pp. 289–293; Bojanovski, 1977, pp. 67–70).

Near Marina (the suburb of Bihovi near the town of Trebinje), in a locality known as Lijesak, the traces of a villa were discovered, due to which the entire complex was characterised as agricultural holdings (Odavić, 1975, pp. 68–69). Of particular importance are the remnants of ancient device for obtaining oil and wine, a so-called torcular (*torculum* and *persorium*) found on this spot (Paškvalin, 1974, pp. 289–293; Busuladžić, 2002, pp. 191–196). The room (10,50x6, 60 m) in which winepress was set was a separate part of the building. The first part of winepress was the area with a winch, which was set on stone columns, the so-called *stipites*. It is thought that a long bench (so-called *subsellium*) could also be found in this part and it served as a resting place for workers. The remains of animal bones, as well as industrial and fine pottery were found near the winch. The other part of winepress was a square space 4,07 x 3,90 m in size and 0,75 in height. The area of this part of winepress

was called forum. The base of the forum had smooth surface and was made of the mixture of lime and pounded brick, so it had reddish colour. The forum was reached by the staircase (two stairs have remained). In the upper part, at the left end of the forum, there was a grooved channel through which oil or wine flowed into allotted containers (amphoras). The room that housed winepress had a front door on the north side. Numerous ancient winepresses were discovered in the coastal region of Dalmatia (the ancient city Salona, the town of Zadar, the town of Šibenik, the island of Korčula, the town of Čapljina, the town of Trebinje) (Nikolajević-Stojković, 1955, p. 159; Jovanović, 1963, pp. 127–137; Bojanovski, 1969, pp. 27–55; Paškvalin, 1974, pp. 289–293). What makes these objects particularly interesting for us is precisely the discovery of winepress. These devices were also found in Mogorjelo archaeological site (picture I), in the area of Brotnjo and in the suburb of Višići (Bojanovski, 1969, pp. 27, 36–37; Čremošnik, 1965, p. 168; Busuladžić, 2002, pp. 191–196).

Intensive wine production in Roman provinces is testified by written records from the first century AD. Improved wine production and scarcity of grain were the main reasons for Domitian to issue a proclamation declaring that nobody in Italy can plant a vineyard and that in provinces the vineyards must be cut down so that only half of them remain (Suet. Dom. 7). It is believed that such measures, without any doubt, affected Dalmatia as well. Numerous traces of Greek Roman pottery (amphoras) and winepress (a device for obtaining oil and wine) from the suburb of Bihovi near the town of Trebinje, and the localities of Mogorjlo and Višići near the municipality of Čapljina bear witness to wine and oil production in the south and south-east of Dalmatia (Čremošnik, 1965, pp. 147–260; Pašalić, 1967, pp. 116–118; Bojanovski, 1969, pp. 27–55; Čremošnik, 1976, pp. 41–164; Paškvalin, 1976, pp. 289–293; Bojanovski, 1972, pp. 185–214; Zaninović, 1977, pp. 767–801; Škegro, 1991, pp. 189–190).

It is evident that for the population that settled in what is now eastern Herzegovina (South Dalmatia), over time — up to the present day — wine growing has become a part of everyday life. Earlier settlers of this region, who had been growing vine from the earliest times are largely responsible for that (Zaninović, 1996, pp. 261–272; Baran, 2005, pp. 66–72).

CONCLUSION As we have seen, vine has been grown in eastern Herzegovina from a long time ago, and the wine was equally used by the old Illyrians and by today's inhabitants of this area. We especially have to emphasize the eastern Adriatic coast and its nearby hinterland, since the climate of these areas is beneficial for grapevine growing, as opposed to the interior, where the climate is more severe. Even though vine had been grown in the Mediterranean as far back as Middle Neolithic — presumably earlier — the archaeological studies indicate that from early age, even the interior knew of grapevine (grape seeds from the villages of Ripča and Donja Dolina). It is believed that in the hinterland of the east Adriatic coast grapevine has been cultivated at a higher rate since the second half of the third century AD. Greek wine was imported in the Illyric region, and the wine from Issa was transported to the east, while its production was the basis of economy of both population.

An interesting epigraphic monument, which can be found today in the Kotor City Lapidarium, testifies to the traditional vine cultivation and wine production in the south of Dalmatia. What is particularly important about the signboard is the sign poster's cognomen, which denotes his profession — wine-grower. The fact that we are talking about the only signboard from the south of the province of Dalmatia, which directly points to the economic structure of the inhabitants in ancient times, makes this monument exceptionally important. In the same way, the discovery of winepress in Marina, in the suburb of Bihovi near the town of Trebinje, contributes to getting acquainted with economic conditions in eastern Herzegovina during the Roman times. It is believed that the winepress that was found served for grape processing and production of wine. Judging by the modest size of facilities discovered in the valley of the Trebišnjica, it is assumed that those were smaller individual properties.

So far, there are no reliable epigraphic data that would enable fixing date of the discovered building and winepress. Incidentally found archaeological material on this site refers to the time span from the second to the fourth century, and suggests that, in today's eastern Herzegovina, people were intensively engaged in wine and olive oil production; while many sites with rustic villas indicate the development of agriculture and stock breeding. These testimonies are of significant historical value, because they in detail identify the economic conditions and the tradition of wine production in eastern Herzegovina, from ancient times to the present day. Even

though we can positively talk about intensive flow of life in the valley of the Trebišnjica River in ancient times on the basis of past research, systematic research would, nevertheless, give a fuller picture of some of its aspects.

ABBREVIATION AL BIH: Arheološki leksikon Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo.
 ANU BiH: Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo.
 CBI: Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja, Sarajevo (Godišnjak).
 CIL: Corpus Inscriptiones Latinarum, Berolini.
 GZM BiH: Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja u Bosni i Hercegovini, Sarajevo.
 VAMZ: Vjesnik arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu, Zagreb.
 WMBH: Wissenschaftliche Mittheilungen aus Bosnien und der Herzegowina, Wien.

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ГЛИГОР М. САМАРЦИЋ

УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У ПРИШТИНИ СА ПРИВРЕМЕНИМ СЈЕДИШТЕМ
У КОСОВСКОЈ МИТРОВИЦИ, ФИЛОЗОФСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ
КАТЕДРА ЗА ИСТОРИЈУ

РЕЗИМЕ

О ТРАДИЦИЈИ ВИНОГРАДАРСТВА
(НЕКОЛИКА ПРИМЈЕРА СА ЈУГА ДАЛМАЦИЈЕ)

У раду се презентују подаци о привредним приликама у долини Требишњице и њеном ближем окружењу у античко доба. Писана изворна грађа и археолошки налази указују на основне гране привређивања у вријеме римске власти. Нађен је значајан број материјалних остатака који свједоче о тадашњим привредним занимањима у долини Требишњице. На Миринама, у Бихову код Требиња, откривен је објекат привредног карактера, односно остаци античке направе за добијање уља и вина. Исто тако, значајан је натпис пронађен на југу провинције Далмације, гдје когномен постављача натписа означава његово занимање – виноградар. Ова свједочанства имају изузетну историјску вриједност, јер поближе указују на привредне прилике и традицију производње вина на подручју источне Херцеговине, од античког доба до данас.

Кључне речи: виноградарство, традиција, југ Далмације, источна Херцеговина, долина Требишњице, Мирине, Паник.