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THE CARTOGRAPHIC INVISIBILITY OF THE ŠARANSKA RIVER IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA

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Abstract: In the basin of the Binačka Morava (Binač Morava) in Kosovo and Metohija lies the Šaranska River, which flows into it as a left tributary. It is about 23 kilometers long and begins in the territory of the municipality of Gnjilane, in the area of the village of Paralovo. On geographical maps along its course, the hydronyms Brasaljska reka and Livočka reka are inscribed. The main focus of this paper is the analysis of available cartographic and written material about the Šaranska River, as well as a comparison with data collected during field research of its valley and the course itself. The paper aims to determine the occurrence of the hydronym Šaranska Reka on geographical maps throughout history and field research of its valley with a survey of the local population on the use of the hydronym Šaranska Reka, as well as laying the foundations for similar research in the future.

Keywords: Šaranska reka, Brasaljska reka, Livočka reka, Brasaljce, Livoč, Kosovo and Metohija, hydronyms, cartography

Introduction

The discrepancy in the naming of river courses on geographical maps and in written literature, in relation to the “situation on the ground”, i.e. how the local population calls them, is a topic that has been researched to a lesser extent in the Balkan Peninsula.

In her book “Hydronyms of Serbia”, Dr. Zvezdana Pavlović presents a very detailed overview of all hydronyms that appear among the people and on geographical maps. Pavlović does not explain the reasons for the different names, but from her book, we have an insight into all the hydronyms used to name individual river courses.

In his doctoral dissertation from 2023, “Historical Cartography of Serbia and Old Serbia in the Second Half of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries”, author Žarko Ilić deals with the issue of cartography of the territory of Serbia and analyzes historical inaccuracies found on maps.

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<https://rb.gy/4pxjlu> - ћирићна верзија рада „Картографска невидљивост Шаранске реке на Косову и Метохији“

Dejan Miloradov, in his manuscript of the book “Šargan (is) not a carp” (in Serbian: Šargan (ni)je šaran), cites two examples of different naming of river courses among the people and on geographical maps – Šaranka (Slijepi potok) between Kneževo and Travnik and Šaranica (Praštava reka) on the slopes of the Rila mountain in Bulgaria.

The following is a list of available literature dealing with this topic:

1. Pavlović, Z. (1996). *Hydronyms of Serbia*, vol. 13. Belgrade: Institute of Serbian Language, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.
2. Žarko, I. (2023). *Historical Cartography of Serbia and Old Serbia in the Second Half of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries*. (Doctoral Thesis). Belgrade: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy.
3. Miloradov, D. (manuscript). *Šargan (is) not a carp*. Novi Sad: Matica srpska

This study, grounded in available research and data, presents the first comprehensive investigation into the naming of individual river courses in both scholarly literature and fieldwork and observations.

Description of the river flow

The source of the river is located at a location known as Markova Česma at about 800 m above sea level. The Brasaljska River flows from there towards the south in the immediate vicinity of the hamlets (mahalas) of Vučini, Živinci, Mečkari, Došljaci and Petkovići or through them. On the left bank, the Brasaljska River receives several tributaries: Žljebić (300 m upstream of the mahala of Živinci) and Svinjarnik (about 300 m upstream of the mahala of Mečkari). On the right bank, the Đokin stream flows into the Brasaljska River (near the hamlet of Došljaci) (Priština 631-4-3, 1972).



*Figure 1. Part of the Šaranska River near the village of Paralovo
(Source: private archive, Snežana Dančetiović, village of Paralovo)*

The hamlet of Hodžovići begins in the village of Brasaljce, after which the river was named. In this part of the stream, it flows near or through the hamlets (neighborhoods) of Hodžovići, Redžovići, Šešivarci and Maljok Mala. On the left bank, it receives the tributaries Hajdučki kladenac (near the Hodžovići neighborhood) and Latinac (about 1 km southwest of the hamlet of Donje Brasaljce). On the right bank, it receives the Kopiljački potok (near the Hodžovići hamlet) and Gušavac (about 1 km southwest of the village of Donje Brasaljce). From here, the Brasaljska River is known as the Livočka River and continues to flow in a south-easterly direction. It flows through the neighborhood of Mejir Mala (village of Brasaljce), then through part of the village of Koretište and the hamlet of Jabučje (hamlet within Gornji Livoč), where downstream there is a small artificial reservoir - Livočko Lake (Priština 631-4-4, 1972; Uroševac 681-2-2, 1972). The lake was built for water supply and recreation purposes in 1968 (Kojić, 2018).

About 500 meters downstream from the dam, the Livočka River receives its right tributary, the Duboki Potok, and downstream from the village of Gornji Livoč - the Nisin and Stojanov Potok. Parallel to the Duboki Potok, the Kalifa Potok flows in from the left. There are no significant tributaries up to the mouth. The Livočka River also flows through the village of Donji Livoč, continues southeast, and about 1 km east of the village of Donja Budriga, flows into the Binačka Morava as its left tributary. The mouth is located at about 470 m above sea level.

Written sources about the Šaranska River and the villages in its valley

In the Middle Ages, the Šaranska River is not mentioned, but records do exist concerning the villages located in its valley, primarily present-day Brasaljce and Gornji and Donji Livoč (at that time a single settlement). Brasaljce is mentioned in the Ottoman registers “Ottoman defter of the District of Branković (1455)”, under the name Brajisaľjci (Turkish transcr. brayslx), i.e. Brajsalić. At that time, the village was deserted and was repopulated by the Arbanasi at the end of the 18th and during the 19th centuries (Stamenković, 2011; Hadžibegić, 1972; Urošević, 1996).

Livoč is mentioned in the 14th century in the “Panteleimon Charter of Princess Milica” (Urošević, 1931), where it is listed under the name Livoča (село Ливочю на Биньчь Моравь - village of Livoč on Binč Morava) (Reading in the Imperial Society, 1846: 244/33). Interestingly, the village is “located” on the Binačka Morava, which was expected since it was the main stream in the 14th century in the area of Kosovo Pomoravlje, and Livoč is 2 to 3 kilometers away as the crow flies. Today, these areas are mostly inhabited by Arbanasi, and the Serbian population is present in Gornji Livoč.

It is particularly interesting to highlight a document from the first half of the 16th century, more precisely from 1531, where Domenik Kuripešić, a Slovenian diplomat in the Austrian service, in his travelogue “Itinerarium, Wegrayß Kün. May. potschafft gen Constantinopel zu dem Türckischen keiser Soleyman. Anno XXX - MLXXXI” most likely mentions the present-day village of Brasaljce or its immediate surroundings. Namely, since the travelogue was written in German, its later translations also provide certain interpretations by the author-translator. The first interpretation is by Petar Matković, a Croatian geographer and professor at the University of Zagreb (Matković, 1881):

“...Od Prištine (*Priscina*), u polju Kosovu, podjoše kroz nekoliko sela, pa sa brda *Farma*, vidiše Novobrdo (*Novowerdu*) i spustiše se zatim u dolinu k selu Livoč (*Livotz*). Odovud krenu poljem pa preko brda *Presa* u selo *Roboto*. Iza toga u liepo i dobro obradjeno polje Topolnicu (*Topolnitza*), pa onda opet preko gore Bresa (sic!) u selo *Khatum*.

(...) Od Prištine dakle udariše putnici jugoiztočno, vjerovatno putem, što vodi uz Grčanicu i Bresaljicu (šarenu) u Livoč. (...)“

(ENG),,...From Priština (*Priscina*), in the field of Kosovo, they rode through several villages, then from *Farma* hill, they saw Novobrdo (*Novowerdu*) and then descended into the valley to the village of Livoč (*Livotz*). From here, they went through the fields and over the hill of *Presa* to the village of *Roboto*. Beyond that, into a beautiful and well-cultivated field of *Topolnitza*, and then again over *Bresa* Hill (sic!) to the village of *Khatum*.

(...) From Priština, the travelers therefore continued to the southeast, probably along the road that stretches near Grčanica and Bresaljica (šarena - colorful) to Livoč. (...)“

Interestingly, Matković explains that Kuripešić very likely traveled along the valley of the Bresaljica River, which he “labels” with the epithet “šarena” (colorful). Since the translation is from 1881, and on Austro-Hungarian maps the Šaranska (Brasaljska) River appears under the name “Šarena” (Scharena), it is very certain that Matković found his explanation there. More will be said about the hydronym “šarena” itself in the second part, which deals with cartographic sources.

A later translation of Kuripešić’s travelogue is from the mid-20th century, where the translator Đorđe Pejanović provides additional explanations and interpretations (Kuripešić, 1950):

U ponedjeljak, 26 septembra, krenusmo iz Lovača poljem, pa preko brda Bresalja (*Presa*) i sela Rapatova (*Roboto*) dođosmo u lijepo obrađeno polje, Topolnicu. (*Topolnitza*), pa opet preko brda Bresalja (*Presa*, *Bresa*)¹²³ u selo Katun (*Khatum*) i tu prenoćismo.

(¹²³) *Matković misli da je to ime sačuvano u današnjem mjestu Bresalju na Bresaljnici nedaleko od Gnjilana.*

(ENG) On Monday, September 26, we started from Lovač through the field, and over the hill of Bresalje (Presa) and the village of Rapatova (Roboto) we came to a beautifully cultivated field, Topolnica. (Topollnitza), Then again, over the hill of Bresalja (Presa, Bresa)¹²³ to the village of Katun (Khatum) and spent the night there.

(¹²³) Matković thinks that this name is preserved in the present-day village of Bresalje on Bresaljnica, not far from Gnjilane.

In addition to the new version of the name of the village of Brasaljce (Bresalj), from the mentioned source, we learn another version of the name of the Šaranska (Brasaljska) river – Bresaljnica. In the original work in German, the river is not mentioned anywhere, but only the hill Presa/Bresa (Curipeschitz, 1551), so both translators actually have original interpretations, which can very likely be correct if we take into account the geographical designations of the surrounding villages.

The Šaranska River has been discussed as a hydronym by several authors from the late 19th century to the present. In their letters, notes, dictionaries, monographs, and books, this stream is mentioned under different names, including the Brasaljska River and Livočka River.

Todor Stanković, Serbian consul in Priština (1890-1892 and 1897-1898), in his work entitled “Travel Notes from Old Serbia”, mentions the Šaranska River (Stanković, 1910):

Положај на којем је Лабљански хан, вододелница је између речице Шаранске, која иде на југ као Моравина приточица и речице Сутеске, која иде у почетку северно, па окрене западно, где са Мраморском постане једна под именом Грачанка, која утиче у Ситницу а ова у Ибар. Шаранска река према томе шаље воду Морави, која извире из Кара-Дага т. ј. са северне стране Скопске Црне горе, а Сутеска пак преко Ситнице и Ибра шаље воду Морави која извире из планине Голије у Краљевини Србији. Положај на коме је Лабљански хан, управо је вододелница обе Мораве.

(ENG) The location of Labljanski Han is the watershed between the Šaranska River, which flows south as a tributary of the Morava, and the Suteska River, which initially flows north, then turns west, where it becomes one with the Mramorska River under the name Gračanka, which flows into the Sitnica River and the latter into the Ibar River. The Šaranska River, therefore, sends water to the Morava River, which springs from Kara-Dag, i.e. from the northern side of Skopska Crna Gora, and the Suteska River, in turn, via Sitnica and Ibar, sends water to the Morava River, which springs from the Golija Mountain in the Kingdom of Serbia. The location of Labljanski Han is precisely the watershed between both Morava rivers.

From the above description, it can be concluded that the Šaranska River originates near the Labljanski han in the village of Labljan. Today, there is a service facility at the site of the Labljanski han, and the watershed is the ridge of an unnamed hill with the highest point at 867 m above sea level (Priština 631-4-3, 1972). All waters that flow from the northern slopes flow towards the Labljanska River and further towards the Gračanka basin, while waters from the southern slopes flow towards the Šaranska River.

Branislav Nušić, as Serbian consul in Priština, mentions the Šaranska River in one of his letters. He sent a letter to Tadeus Terkan on July 4, 1893 (Peruničić, 1985):

У Шаранској реци Ђоки Мећкаревићу, доброме домаћину, лопови су везали руке и ноге усијаним ланцем, и тражили паре. Ђока је грдно осакаћен, а за лоповима не трага нико.

(ENG) In the Šaranska River, thieves tied Đoka Mečkarević's hands and feet with a red-hot chain and demanded money. Đoka was badly mutilated, and no one is looking for the thieves.

The letter also represents a plea for assistance, reflecting the dire situation of the Serbian population in the Gnjilane Kaza of the Ottoman Empire at that time. Here, Nušić emphasizes the Šaranska River as a microregion within the Kosovo region, and not explicitly as a hydronym.

Dr. Zvezdana Pavlović, in her dictionary "Hydronyms of Serbia" from 1996 lists the Šaranska River, but also its synonyms (Pavlović, 1996):

Брасаличка р., г. ток Брасаљице л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

Брасаљица р. = Брасаљска р. = Ливочка р. = Љивочка р.

Шаранска р., л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

Брасаљска р. = Брасаљица р. = Ливочка р. = Љивочка р. =

Шаранска р., л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

Ливочка р. = Брасаљица р. = Љивочка р., л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

Љивочка р. = Ливочка р. = Брасаљица р., л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

Шаранска р. = Брасаљска р. = Брасаљица р. = Ливочка р. =

Љивочка р., л. Биначке Мораве л. сас. Ј. Мораве [...].

(ENG) Bresalička R., upper course of Bresaljica R., left tributary of Binač Morava, left headstream of S. Morava [...].

Brasaljica R. = Brasaljska R. = Livočka R. = Ljivočka R.

Šaranska R., l. t. of Binačka Morava l. hs. of S. Morava [...].

Brasaljska R. = Brasaljica R. = Livočka R. = Ljivočka R. =

Šaranska R., l. t. of Binačka Morava l. hs. of S. Morava [...].

Livočka R. = Brasaljica R. = Ljivočka R., l. t. of Binačka Morava

l. hs. of S. Morava [...].

Ljivočka R. = Livočka R. = Brasaljica R., l. t. of Binačka Morava

l. hs. of S. Morava [...].

Šaranska R. = Brasaljska R. = Brasaljica R. = Livočka R. =

Ljivočka R., l. t. of Binačka Morava l. hs. of S. Morava [...].

From the attached, we see that Brasaljica, Brasaljska reka, then Livočka and Ljivočka reka are all synonyms for Šaranska reka. Further analysis of the above sources cited by Pavlović in her dictionary reveals that Šaranska reka is mentioned by Atanasije Urošević in the book “Novobrdaska Kriva Reka” in two places (Urošević, 1996):

Под именом Криве Реке подразумева се планинска област северно од Горње Мораве и Изморника. У њој се поред целог слива Криве Реке, северне притоке Јужне Мораве, убрајају још и сливови Брасаљске или Шаранске реке.

Старинаца у њему (Паралово) нема, јер је село поред пута са Косова за Мораву, преко спојених долина Мраморске и Шаранске Реке, те се често избегавао овај положај и на тај начина вршила смена његова становништва.

(ENG) The name Kriva Reka refers to the mountainous area north of the Gornja Morava and Izornik. In addition to the entire Kriva Reka basin, a northern tributary of the South Morava, it also includes the basins of the Brasaljska or Šaranska River.

There are no old people in it (Paralovo), because the village is located next to the road from Kosovo to Morava, across the connected valleys of the Mramorska and Šaranska River, and this location was often avoided, thus changing its population.

In the first part, where the location of the Kriva Reka microregion is described, Urošević emphasizes that the Brasaljska and Šaranska River are synonyms. In the text about the village of Poneš (Urošević, 1996), it is stated that “Muadžerska Mahala is next to the Brasaljska River”. The same hydronym is also found in the description of the location of the villages of Brasaljce and Paralovo (Urošević, 1996). In these places, the Šaranska River is not mentioned as its synonym.

In his second book, “Gornja Morava i Izornik”, Urošević mentions the Brasaljka River but under the name Brasaljka, describing the transport connection between the Morava and Kosovo regions (Urošević, 1931). On the other hand, the Livočka River appears in three places (Urošević, 1931).

The hydronyms Brasalička reka, Brasaljica and Brasaljska reka appear as synonyms of the same stream, and are also mentioned by Jovan Mišković, general of the Serbian army and president of the Serbian Royal Academy, in his book “Hydrography of the Independent Principality of Serbia” from the end of the 19th century (Mišković, 1880):

Брасаљица или Љивочка Река. Има два крака: десни има свој почетак под селом Жеговом, протиче кроз село Понеж и зове се Понешка Река. Леви крак долази са брда Гламе, тече кроз село Паралово, и ту се зове Марков Поток, а испод села Брасаловаца прими с лева Брасаличку Река; па се под Марковачким Брдом оба крака састају, одакле се зове Брасаљица или Љивочка Река, протичући кроз село Љивоч, па код села Великинаца утиче у леву обалу Мораве.

(ENG) Brasaljica or Ljivočka Reka. It has two branches: the right one begins below the village of Žegovo, flows through the village of Ponež and is called Poneška Reka. The left branch comes from the Glame hill, flows through the village of Paralovo, and is called Markov Potok. And below the village of Brasalovci, it receives the Brasalička Reka from the left; then below Markovačko Brdo (Hill) both branches meet, from where it is called Brasaljica or Ljivočka Reka, flowing through the village of Ljivoč, and near the village of Velikinac it flows into the left bank of the Morava.

Mišković gives the first detailed description of the entire course of the river, listing many source streams and the hydronym Markov Potok, by which the local Serbian population in modern times calls the source of the Šaranska River. Zvezdana Pavlović, in her book “Hydronymic System of the South Morava River Basin”, gave a more detailed description and meaning of the hydronyms of the Brasaljska R. and Livočka R. (Pavlović, 1994):

БРАСАЛИЧКА РЕКА (г. ток Брасаљице, I).- Мишк. 46. име није мотивисано неким топонимом. Оно је суфиксални дериват хидронима Брасаљица чији је, као ток, саставни део. Имамо случај да су изворишни део реке и њен ток деривати истог корена. Исп. Брасалица р.

БРАСАЉИЦА р. (л. Биначке Мораве, I) = ЛИВОЧКА РЕКА = ЉИВОЧКА РЕКА. — [...]. Према ојкониму Брасалце, ИмМ. Ојк. је од породичног имена Брасалци изведеног од антропонима *Брасал из Браслав < Братислав.

ЛИВОЧКА РЕКА (I. Биначке Мораве, I) = БРАСАЉИЦА р. = ЉИВОЧКА РЕКА.- [...]. Река је именована према селу које се првобитно звало Ливоча, потврђено у XIV в. „... село Ливочю на Биньчъ Моравъ“ „... По том су биле двије, а двије су и сада, горња и доња, код садашњега Гилана“ (РКС). Данашњи ојконими су у мушком роду, Горњи и Доњи Ливоч, ИмМ. Ојк. је грађен суфиксом -оч. Њиме се означава место на коме се на специфичан начин обавља глаголска радња: место на коме је разливена вода; вода која лије; ток који се разлива. Ојк. је изведен од глаголске основе *lei- ‘лити, тећи’. [...].

(ENG) BRASALIČKA RIVER (upper stream of Brasaljica, I).- Mišk. 46. The name is not motivated by any toponym. It is a suffixal derivative of the hydronym Brasaljica of which, as a stream, it is an integral part. We have a case where the source part of the river and its stream are derivatives of the same root. Ex. Brasalica R.

BRASALJICA r. (l.t. of Binačka Morava, I) = LIVOČKA RIVER = LJIVOČKA RIVER. — [...]. According to the oikonym Brasalce, ImM. Oik. is from the family name Brasalci derived from the anthroponym *Brasal from Braslav < Bratislav.

LIVOČKA RIVER (l.t. Binačka Morava, I) = BRASALJICA R. = LJIVOČKA RIVER.- [...]. The river is named after the village originally called Livoča, confirmed in the 14th century. "... село Ливочю на Биньчъ Моравъ (village of Livoča on Binč Morava)"... According to that, there were two, and there are two now, the upper and the lower, near the present-day Gnjilane" (RKS). Today's oikonyms are in the masculine gender, Gornji and Donji Livoč, ImM. Oik. is formed with the suffix -oč. It denotes a place where a verbal action is performed in a specific way: a place where water is spilled; water that flows; a stream that flows. Oik. is derived from the verb stem *lei- 'to pour, to flow'. [...].

Here we learn that the listed hydronyms are synonyms of the same stream, and that their origin is the oikonym for all three rural settlements – Brasaljce and G. and D. Livoč. With certainty, based on all of the above, we can conclude that both names are of Serbian origin. The hydronym Šaranska reka, nor its origin of the name, is not mentioned anywhere in this book by Pavlović. In the monograph "From the Murmur of the Šaranska River", the author Stanislav Kojić, a professor of biology, describes the villages of Poneš, Paralovo, Labljane and Gornji Livoč, also provides information about the Šaranska River. Kojić explains that the listed villages are "along the main road Gnjilane-Priština along the Livočka River, which in its source course consists of the Brasaljska River, with a tributary of the Šaranska River" (Kojić, 2018). It remains unclear in what sense the author uses the word "tributary" here, since this completely changes the "hierarchy" of the streams.

Later in the monograph, in the section on the village of Paralovo, it is mentioned that the settlement is located "on both sides of the Brasaljska River, which in its upper reaches is called Paralovačka, and in its lower stream Livočka River" (Kojić, 2018). Here we learn for the first time that there is another hydronym – "Paralovačka Reka", but we do not find it anywhere else in the literature.

Dejan Miloradov, an expert associate in the Department of Literature and Language of Matica srpska, explains the origin of the hydronym Šaranska Reka in the manuscript of his book "Šargan (ni)je šaran" (The Šargan is not the carp). The author states that "šaran" is a phonetic variant of the old Serbian word for the poisonous snake *Vipera ammodytes* (horned viper), which in the past was called "šargan" (Miloradov, manuscript). Since the Šaranska River valley is the natural habitat of the horned viper, hence its name. Therefore, the origin of the hydronym is in the herpetonym, not the ichthyonym, which would be the first assumption. As evidence, it is also stated that the carp fish (*Cyprinus carpio*) does not live in these waters, nor have there ever been conditions for it to live in them in the past.

Finally, the “Rules on the Determination of Water Bodies of Surface and Groundwater” from 2023, published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, lists the Brasaljska and Livočka Rivers as watercourses on the territory of Serbia, but this document does not mention the hydronym Šaranska River, either as a synonym or as a separate stream (Legal Information System, 2023).

Cartographic sources about the Šaranska River

Considering the length of the Šaranska River and its hydrographic importance, its course was depicted on medium and large-scale geographical maps (topographic maps). Early and late medieval maps of this area were not detailed enough, so the first mention of the river’s name must be “searched” for in modern cartography from the 18th and 19th centuries, and onwards.

The oldest map found on which the course of the Šaranska River is drawn and its name is inscribed is a work of French cartography, more precisely by the cartographer Pierre Lapie from 1822. On the aforementioned map we encounter the hydronym Savona reka (Lapie, 1822). This toponym is very likely a mistake in transcription or field recording and it is most likely that the name Šarena reka has been changed.



*Figure 2. Fragment of a French map from 1822 showing the Šaranska River
(Source: Lapie, 1822)*

The source used by Lapie to compile this map was very likely a description by the French officer Guillaume de Vaudoncourt, who produced a detailed map of European Turkey with an accompanying document describing the administrative division into sanjaks (de Vaudoncourt, 1818). It is unusual that the name Lacco R. appears further down the map, and it seems to refer to the Binačka Morava, but this is difficult to conclude and confirm from the source.

a) Austro-Hungarian and German cartography

The oldest Austro-Hungarian geographical map showing and recording the course of the Šaranska River dates from approximately 1830, and the author is the Austrian cartographer Franz Fried. The map of Serbia, Bosnia, Turkey, Croatia, Herzegovina and the country of Montenegro published by Artaria from Vienna shows the course with the name Savona reka (Fried, 1830?). It is almost certain that the main source for the creation of this map was the map by P. Lapie. In 1861, the German diplomat and philologist Johann Georg von Hahn published a “croquis” of the South Morava basin, which he calls “Bulgarian Morava” in his travelogue (von Hahn, 1861). The course of the Šaranska River is also drawn on the map, and it is marked with the name Šar(e?)nka (Croquis des westlichen Gebietes der Bulgarischen Morava, 1861). Based on the notes of J. G. von Hahn, the German cartographer Heinrich Kiepert made a map of the Drim and Vardar river basins, and on it we find the name Scharena (Kiepert, 1867). The map by Friedrich Handtke from 1877, which shows European Turkey, is very interesting, and there we encounter the hydronym Scharanka (Handtke, 1877).



Figure 3. Fragment of an Austro-Hungarian map from ~1830 showing the Šaranska River (Source: Fried, 1830?)

The Military Geographical Institute in Vienna published several detailed geographical maps of the Balkan Peninsula in the period from 1876 to 1918. In all editions, the Šaranska River appears with different names. The first collection of maps at a scale of 1:300,000 dates from 1876 and on it we notice the hydronym Bresaljca r (M.12 Pristina, 1876). On the map from 1877, the river is inscribed as Bresaljica (Šarena) (Pristina, 1877), and in 1912 as Bresaljica (39°43' Pristina, 1912), while on the edition from 1918 the hydronym is recorded – Bresalce R (39°43' Pristina, 1918).

It is interesting to note that the lower course of the Šaranska River appears on some Austro-Hungarian maps under the names Livoč (39°42' Skopje, 1898) and Livoča (39°42' Skopje, 1900; 39°42' Skopje, 1906; H 8 Skopje, 1910; 39°42' Skopje, 1916 & 39°42' Skopje, 1917).

The hydronym Livoča appears on several other Austro-Hungarian maps from the beginning of the 20th century by various publishers. The Viennese publisher “Rudolf Lechner,” in a map of the Balkan Peninsula issued after the Second Balkan War (1913/14),² labels the entire course of the Šaranska River with the hydronym Livoča (Übersichtskarte des südlichen Kriegsschauplatz, 1915?). “Freitag & Berndt” from Vienna published two geographical maps, one in 1916, where the upper course of the Šaranska River was named Bresaljica, and the lower course as Livoča (G. Freytags Karte von Bulgarien, 1916), and the other two years earlier (1914), with a very interesting error. Namely, on that map the river is written as Liboča (G. Freytags Karte von Serbien, 1914), and the explanation most likely lies in the incorrect transcription from Cyrillic to Latin: bb. This error is also unusual due to the fact that the village of Livoč is written completely correctly on the same map – Livoč.

A war map from 1914 showing positions and fortifications in Serbia and the central Balkans had an unusual printing error, so the Šaranska River became “oča” (Übersichtskarte der Befestigungen auf dem Balkán, 1914). Two years later, another map in German showing the course of the Šaranska River contained a major material error. Next to the stream where the name Šaranska River should be written, there is the hydronym Leskovica (Mittel-Serbien, 1916). Leskovica is another (older) name for the Kriva River (Mišković, 1880), so here there was an error in writing the name next to the corresponding streams. On the same map, near the course of the Kriva River, there is the hydronym Desivojka, and Desivojka is the left tributary of the Kriva River (Stanojević, 1929).

In the first half of the 20th century, several maps of Albania were printed in Vienna, showing part of the Kosovo Pomoravlje region and even the course of the Šaranska River. On the oldest map, from 1917, we encounter the hydronyms Breslace r. and Livoča (Albanien, 1917), while on the later ones from 1928 and 1940, only the second name appears – Livoča (Karte von Albanien, 1928; Karte von Albanien, 1940).

An analysis of all available maps in German has revealed a frequent occurrence of incorrectly transcribed toponyms from the wider area of Novo Brdo, Priština and Gnjilane. The most realistic explanation for such omissions can be found in poorly collected field data, “rewriting” of previously incorrectly recorded names, and inadequate transliteration and adaptation to the spirit of the German language.

² In the bibliographic information on the official website where the geographic map was published, the year of publication is listed as 1880; however, the map’s content and the depiction of state borders clearly indicate that the map could not have been created earlier than 1913.

b) Ottoman cartography

Ottoman cartographers generally presented their territories in Europe as a depicted whole, without showing details (rivers, settlements, administrative divisions), and until the end of the 19th and the very beginning of the 20th century, no geographical map showing the Šaranska River can be found in Ottoman sources.

The first modern Ottoman atlas, the *Cedid Atlas*, was printed in Istanbul in 1803. It shows the Balkan Peninsula, but without too much detail, and the Binačka Morava valley is not shown in it.

A detailed map of the Kosovo Vilayet from 1883 shows the entire Binačka Morava basin, with all tributaries, including the Šaranska River. Along the course of the Šaranska River, there is a name in Ottoman Turkish: Berese(lice, ?) suyu (Kosova vilayeti haritası, 1883). The name of the stream clearly points to the village of Brasaljce, while the second part of the name “suyu” means “stream”. Translated into Serbian, it would mean Brasaljski potok, which confirms the motivation for naming river courses from the nearest oikonyms.³

A map of the Balkan Peninsula was published in the Ottoman atlas of 1893 (*Yeni Coğrafya Atlası*, 1893) in which the Kosovo Vilayet is shown, but not the Šaranska River, while the map from the atlas of 1898 shows the course of the river, but its name is not written (*Yeni Coğrafya Atlası*, 1898). About a decade later (1909) in the new Ottoman atlas the Kosovo Vilayet is shown in detail, but there are no other river courses in it except the Morava River (*Memâlik-i mahrûse-yi şâhâne'ye mahsûs mükemel ve mufassal atlas*, 1909).

Between 1900 and 1902, a series of detailed topographic maps of the remaining territory of the Ottoman Empire on the Balkan Peninsula was produced by the Presidency of the General Staff of the Empire. The mentioned maps are distinguished by very detailed orography and hydrography. The “Pristina” sheet presents the course of the Binačka Morava with its tributaries, one of which is the Šaranska River, which is designated by the hydronym – Lîvôç deresi (transl. Livoč deresi), which translated into Serbian would mean – Livočki potok (*Rumeli-i şahane haritası*, 1901–02).

Shortly after the last published atlas, the Balkan Wars began, which also led to the liberation of the territories of Kosovo and Metohija from Turkish rule, and this area also “left” the sphere of interest of Ottoman cartographers.

³ Translation and interpretation from Ottoman Turkish by Dr. Ognjen Krešić, Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA).

c) Russian and Soviet cartography

The oldest Russian map that shows the territory of Serbia and its surroundings in detail was created in 1828, and is the work of Major General Hatov. The map is very informative for the beginning of the 19th century and on it we also find a detailed division of the Ottoman Empire into sandzaks. In the then Vučitrn sandzak there is also the Šaranska River, and along its course there is the following hydronym: Р. Савоноріька (transcr: R. Savonoreka) (Hatov, 1828). We can assume that Hatov used Lapje's map from 1822 as a model and basis, so the mentioned hydronym is a translation or transcription into Russian of the name Savona reka.

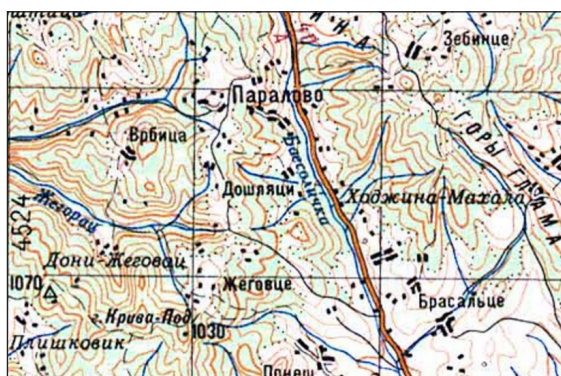


Figure 4. A fragment of a Soviet map from 1976 showing the Sharan River (Source: *Pristina K-34-16*, 1976)

The Balkan Peninsula came into the sphere of more intense interest of Russian cartographers in the second half of the 19th century, especially after and during the Crimean War (1853–1856). The first detailed map of the European part of Turkey of that era was created in 1876 in Saint Petersburg and brings us a very informative view of the Binačka Morava basin. The Šaranska River is also drawn, and at the end of its course is the name Брешска (transcr: Breshska) (Map of European Turkey, 1876).

The origin of this name and what exactly it refers to is not clear, since this is the first and only appearance. The question remains whether it is a “corrupted” version of the hydronym Brasaljska, since no similar term has been found in the literature and sources, or whether it is more likely a writing error. In the following period, from 1905 to 1916, the Šaranska River is regularly shown on maps of the Balkan Peninsula and the border areas of Austria-Hungary, but its hydronym is absent on them. The same situation is found on the map of the southern part of the Balkan Peninsula from 1929 (Strategic Map of Central Europe, 1929).

Croquis were one of the first methods of mapping the territory of Serbia at the end of the 19th century, and were done by military officials. One such croquis was created at the very beginning of the 20th century and shows the Gnjilane area during the Serbian-Turkish wars of 1877/78 (Kroki Gnjilanske okoline [...], 19??). The drawing shows the valley of the Šaranska River in great detail. Between Paralovo and the village of Markova, the stream is inscribed as Марков поток (transcr: Markov potok), and from Brasaljce (Bresalovci) to Gornji Livoč as Бресалјичка река (transcr: Bresaljička reka). The lower course from G. Livoč to the confluence with Binačka Morava is called Ливочка река (transcr: Livočka reka).

At the very end of the 19th century, more precisely in 1900, Dimitrije Antula created the Mining Map of the Kingdom of Serbia at a scale of 1:400,000, and the Šaranska River is recorded with the hydronym Бресалца р. (transcr: Bresaljca r.) (Antula & Simeonović, 1900).

Dragutin Deroko, a geographer and cartographer, a contemporary of Jovan Cvijić, published in 1904 the General Map of Old Serbia and Macedonia in 12 sheets. On two sheets, one can see the course of the Šaranska River, where in the upper course is the hydronym Бресалце р. (transcr: Bresalce r.) (Derok, sheet II, 1904), and in the lower course Livoča (Derok, sheet V, 1904). The same two names are found on the map from the period 1910-1916, published by the Geographical Department of the General Staff at a scale of 1:150,000. The listed hydronyms can be seen on sheet E7 Priština (Map of the Kingdom of Serbia and neighboring countries, 1910–16).

Stevan Bošković, a surveyor and cartographer, a general in the Serbian and Yugoslav armies, prepared a very informative map of the Serbian kingdoms and neighboring regions in 1914. On it, the course of the Šaranska River is named by only one hydronym – Ливоча (Livoča) (Bošković, 1914).

During the First World War, the Geographical Department of the Supreme Command based in Corfu produced a map of the Yugoslav lands at a scale of 1:200,000. On the Z-5 Priština sheet, the Šaranska River is drawn with two hydronyms – Бресалјца (Bresaljica) (upper course) and Ливоча (Livoča) (lower course) (Map of the Yugoslav lands, sheet Z-5, 1916–18). In the same period, another interesting series of maps was created at a scale of 1:100,000, and on the Priština sheet, we encounter the hydronyms Бресалце р. (Bresalce r.) (upper course) and again Livoča (lower course) (Topographic map of southern Serbia and northern Albania, 1916?).

The period after the First World War brought a new series of detailed maps, now of the common state – the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In the period from 1929 to 1940, the Military Geographical Institute of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia issued a series of topographic maps at a scale of 1:100,000. The course of the Šaranska River appears on two sheets – Kumanovo-Skopje and Lebane. The first sheet shows the upper course of the river with the hydronym Бресалјца (Bresaljica) (Kingdom of

Yugoslavia, sheet Kumanovo-Skopje, 1939), and the second sheet shows the lower course and the hydronym Ливочка река (Livočka reka) (Kingdom of Yugoslavia, sheet Lebane, 1939).

After the Second World War and the change in the social and political system, new maps were produced for the needs of the Military Geographical Institute of the then FPRY and SFRY. In the period from 1950 to 1958, the Institute published an album of maps of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia at a scale of 1:150,000. The course of the Šaranska River is drawn on sheets Lebane 155-3 and Kumanovo 166-1. In the upper part of the course, it is called Bresaljička reka, and in the lower part Livočka reka (Album of maps of the FNRJ, 1950–58).

The Yugoslav Lexicographic Institute in Zagreb published an eight-volume Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia during the 1960s. Volume 6 also presents a map of Priština and its surroundings at a scale of 1:300,000, and the course of the Šaranska River is named Livočka reka (Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia, 1965).

During the period from the beginning of the 1960s to the end of the 1980s, several editions of topographic maps of the SFRY were printed and published at scales of 1:25,000 (Priština 631-4-4, 1972; Priština 631-4-3, 1972; Uroševac 681-2-2, 1972),

1:50,000 (Priština 631-4, 1985; Uroševac 681-2, 1985) and 1,100,000 (Priština 631, 1987; Uroševac 681, 1987). All editions show the course of the Šaranska River, in great detail with all tributaries from the source to the mouth. The 1:25,000 scale map is particularly detailed and comprehensive. Regardless of scale, all maps contain two hydronyms – Bresaljička reka (upper course) and Livočka reka (lower course).

e) Other cartographic sources

In addition to the above, the Šaranska River is also drawn and inscribed in several other individual cartographic sources – British, Russian, French, Italian and American cartography.

Particularly interesting, although it does not have the river's name inscribed, is the map by the French cartographer and military engineer in Napoleon's army, Gaetano Palma, from 1811, on which the course of the Šaranska River. The map is very detailed for the very beginning of the 19th century, and it is specific that it is bilingual, with toponyms written in French and Greek.

A British map from the beginning of the 19th century shows the Balkan Peninsula during the Ottoman rule. Although at first glance quite detailed, the map has many shortcomings and a large number of material errors, so in the vicinity of Priština there is a place called Kassovo and the non-existent Metrovitza river. The course of the Ibar is not drawn, and South Morava is called East Morava. The location of most of the settlements and the entire hydrographic network are very questionable. At the

place of the Šaranska River, however, there is a stream named – R. Lacco, for which no source has been found that would explain its origin (Turkey in Europe, 1832). This British map was created about ten years after Lapie's map and it is clearly visible from the style and toponymy that it was "copied" from it, since the hydronym Lacco is also found there, but in a different location, slightly upstream.

One map in Hungarian from 1914 shows the territory of the entire Serbia. It is quite detailed with a large number of different toponyms, especially in terms of settlements. The Šaranska River is drawn and shown on this map, and next to its course is the name – Livocsa (transcr. "Livoča") (Szerb háború kézi keréké, 1914).

During World War II (1941), the Italian Military Geographical Institute (Italian: Istituto geografico militare) published a series of 40 maps showing the territory of the then Kingdom of Yugoslavia at a scale of 1:100,000. The Lebane sheet also shows the Šaranska River, and the hydronym Bresalička potok is inscribed next to it (Carta Jugoslavije, 1941).

In the same historical period, the Geographical Section of the General Staff within the British War Office published a series of detailed topographic maps of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1943, in cooperation with the American Cartographic Service. On the 1:250,000 scale map, the hydronym Livočka appears (Yugoslavia-Skoplje, 1943), while the more detailed edition at the 1:100,000 scale contains two names – Bresalička R., in the upper part of the course (Yugoslavia-Lebane, 1943) and Livočka R., in the lower part of the course (Yugoslavia, Kumanovo-Skoplje, 1943). It should be noted that the latter maps are reproductions of the Yugoslav ones from 1939.

After the NATO aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency of the USA produced maps at the scale of 1:100,000 for the needs of American troops stationed in Kosovo and Metohija. On one of them, the Šaranska River is represented by the already established toponym Brasaljska Reka (Priština, Serbia 3280, 2000).

f) Modern digital cartographic sources

In modern digital cartography of the 21st century, numerous online programs and applications provide detailed maps of practically the entire world. One of the most well-known such tools is Google Maps. Today, state geodetic authorities maintain geoportals offering extensive detailed data displayed on interactive maps—cadastral information, settlements, administrative divisions, hydrography, topography, and more.

On the geoportal of the Republic Geodetic Authority of Serbia, you can view a topographic map at a scale of 1:250,000, which shows the course of the Šaranska River, and next to it are the hydronyms Брасалјска река (Brasaljska reka) (upper

part of the stream) and Ливочка река (Livočka reka) (lower part of the stream) (Geoportal Serbia).

The geoportal of the temporary institutions in Pristina contains a topographic map at a scale of 1:250,000 for the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. In the valley of the Šaranska River, hydronyms in Albanian can be seen - Lumi Bresalc and Lumi Livoç. On a more detailed topographic map of a larger scale (1:25,000), five different hydronyms can be seen along the river's course. In the vicinity of the river source, next to the village of Paralovo - L. Parallove, then around Brasaljce - L. Bresalc, and from Poneš to the mouth, there are as many as three variants - L. Livoq, L. Livogj and L. Livoç (Geoportal Kosova). It is noticeable that there are no names written in Serbian on the maps.

Several free tools with cartographic content are available on the Internet, among which Google Maps, OpenStreetMaps, MapCarta and BingMaps stand out. The most popular and most used are certainly Google Maps, and on them you can see the almost exclusive representation of the Albanian language for the area of Kosovo and Metohija. The Šaranska River is marked with two names, Lumi i Livoqit and a particularly interesting hydronym between the villages of Gornji and Donji Livoč – Lumi i Muhaxherve (Google Maps). The latter name is certainly related to the Muadžerski mahala of the village of Gornji Livoč.

OpenStreetMaps, MapCarta and BingMaps have a common feature with Google Maps in terms of naming the Šaranska River. The Albanian language is dominant on all tools and only one, already seen hydronym appears – Lumi i Livoqit (OpenStreetMaps; MapCarta; BingMaps).

It is noticeable that in all publicly available and free cartographic applications, the Albanian language completely dominates in toponymy, and there are almost no names in Serbian. This disproportion and obvious favoritism of one language has the consequence that Serbian toponyms, and especially hydronyms, are gradually “dying out” in the virtual (online) world, which is certainly more frequently used today than in printed and written cartographic materials.

It would be expedient and useful to do everything possible to “return” Serbian names primarily in areas where the Serbian population is the majority or has a certain percentage. This would achieve at least a minimal “toponymic linguistic balance” that has been completely disrupted in the last decade or two.

Field research of the Šaranska River valley

During the summer of 2024, a field research was conducted along the upper and middle course of the Šaranska River, during which the local Serbian population was

surveyed in the villages of Labljane, Paralovo, Poneš, Izvor and Jasenovik. Data from the villages in the lower reaches – Donja Budriga and Gornji Livoč – were collected “remotely” (Appendix No. 6).

Table 1. List of villages and their neighborhoods visited during the field research

Village	Neighborhood
Labljane	Đorgovci
Paralovo	Stamenkovci, Došljaci, Perići
Poneš	Museljačka
Izvor	Dimovići
Jasenovik	Filipovac
Gornji Livoč	/
Donja Budriga	/

The target group of the survey was the elderly population from the aforementioned villages (at least 80 years old), who had spent most of their lives in that area. During the survey, an identical question was asked: “What is the name of the stream that flows through the valley along the main road towards Gnjilane?” The survey collected responses from twenty people from all villages. The answers of almost all respondents were the same – “Šaranska reka”. A respondent from Donja Budriga confirmed that the lower part of the stream is indeed called Livočka reka among the Serbian population, and the upper part is called Šaranska reka.

Table 2. Number and percentage of responses received from respondents according to hydronyms

Total number of respondents	Šaranska reka	(%)	Brasaljska reka	(%)
20	19	95	1	5

The only exception was the respondent from Gornji Livoč, who confirmed that the lower part of the river is known as Livočka (emphasizing that this name begins at the confluence of the Gušavac stream and the Brasaljska river). This also provided us with the first field data that someone among the Serbian population calls the Šaranska reka - Brasaljska reka.

All other respondents were not familiar with the hydronym Brasaljska reka and/or Brasaljica, nor had they encountered it. We received this confirmation in all villages and hamlets where Serbs live in the upper and middle reaches of the river. The villages of Izvor and Jasenovik are geographically oriented towards the Novo Brdo region, but the population also is economically linked towards the Šaranska river valley, and this is why the locals know this river. A respondent from Poneš said about the Brasaljska River that it is: “probably a tributary of the Šaranska River that flows through the village of Brasaljce”.

The research was not carried out in the eponymous village of Brasaljce, because there has been no Serbian population there since the mid-20th century, nor in Donji Livoč, for the same reason. It is precisely the village of Brasaljce that is potentially key to the “problem” of naming the Šaranska River on maps. Namely, this village is the only settlement positioned on the Šaranska River itself along the Priština-Gnjilane highway and, as such, is ideal for field research. Other villages along the river valley are located on the surrounding hills and are relatively inaccessible, unless you turn off the main road.

The Šaranska River valley is gorge-like in its upper and middle parts, and from Livočko Lake it opens widely towards the Gnjilane Basin. In this part there are two more larger villages – Gornji and Donji Livoč, which are positioned on the river itself. The village of Donja Budriga is located a few hundred meters from the mouth of the Livočka River into the Binačka Morava.

During field research, moving from one hamlet (mahala) to another took about twenty to thirty minutes, although the distance between them, in some cases, was less than one kilometer. The reason is the very poor roads, made mainly of crushed stone. Researchers of the 19th and 20th centuries, while these areas were still under Ottoman rule, almost certainly faced an even worse transport infrastructure. The main road at that time was the Priština-Gnjilane highway, and the only settlements along the road were Brasaljce and Livoč.

We can safely say that researchers (travel writers, cartographers, etc.) who visited these regions obtained most of their data precisely by visiting the aforementioned village, and since there were no Serbs in it, but exclusively Albanians, the answer they could get was that the stream was called the Brasaljska reka.

In Albanian, the Šaranska (Livočka) river is called lumi i Bresalcit and lumi i Livoçit (Tahiri et al, 2012; Pešikan, 2010). Translated into Serbian, the names mean – Brasaljska reka and Livočka reka. The above findings indicate that the Šaranska River was named among the Albanian population after the villages through which it flows – Brasaljce and Livoč, whose names are certainly of Serbian origin.

In order to present a clear picture of the ethnolinguistic situation during the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Novo Brdo region and the upper Morava, based on which one can speak about the influence of some of the languages on the researchers of that time, it is necessary to consult official censuses.

We know from sources that Brasaljce was a deserted village in the middle of the 15th century (Serbian Encyclopedia). In the 17th century, the Novo Brdo mines were active in the immediate vicinity of the settlement, and mining colonists – Catholics – also moved in. In the middle of the 18th century (around 1730), the settled Arbanasi found a Serbian population that eventually left the village. At the beginning of the 19th century, the last Serbian family left Brasaljce (Urošević, 1996).

The Ottoman registry book from 1850 does not list the Christian population of Brasaljce, which suggests that there were no Serbs in it (Üsküb eyaleti Priştine kaymakamlığı [...], 1850). According to the census data from 1901, only a Muslim population lived in Brasaljce (Rumeli İslâm Araştırmaları Dergisi, 2020). A source from 1935 confirms that even in that period, no Serbs lived in the village, but exclusively Albanians (Urošević, 1996).

Table 3. Ethnic composition of the Brasaljce settlement according to the results of the 1948-2011 census.

Year	Total population	Serbs	Albanians	Other
1948.	2.913	1.086	1.821	6
1953.	3.192	1.222	1.925	45
1961.	1.694	7	1.679	8
1971.	2.071	13	2.056	2
1981.	2.399	0	2.396	3
2011.	2.823	0	2.823	0

Sources: Population Census 1948; 1953; 1961; 1971; 1981; 2011

At first glance (Table 3), it is noticeable that in the 1948 and 1953 censuses, the share of Serbs in Brasaljce was around 40%, but this is a consequence of various administrative-territorial reforms of districts and municipalities during the first years after World War II (Official Gazette of the People's Republic of Serbia, 1955). The ethnic and religious structure of the village of Brasaljce in the last approximately 200 years largely suggests that its homogeneous population composition and favorable location had a decisive influence on researchers, travel writers and geographers/cartographers who moved through these areas.

Conclusion

From all of the above, it can be concluded that the situation “on the ground” and the cartographic and bibliographical picture do not match. The Šaranska River as a hydronym is present among the Serbian population of the Kosovo Pomoravlje, but despite this, it is not found on any map in the Serbian language from the beginning of the 19th century to the present day.

It is a fact that in Austro-Hungarian cartography at the beginning and middle of the 19th century, various forms of hydronyms associated with the Šaranska River appeared – Šarenka, Šaranska and Savona reka. The hydronym Šaranka (Scharanka) is particularly important here, because it best reflects the spirit of the Serbian language

in naming natural phenomena, processes and geographical objects through the use of the folk herpetonym “šaran” for the snake species - horned viper (in Serbian scientific literature: poskok).

However, despite the initial closeness to the hydronym Šaranska reka, the name of this stream in the second half of the 19th century, both in the Austro-Hungarian and in all other cartographies, is lost to the oikonym of the village of Brasaljce. Certainly, the influence of the Albanian form of the hydronym, the proximity of the village of Brasaljce to the main road and the “laziness” of the explorers of that time influenced the herpetonym “šaran” to disappear from the maps.

Most geographical maps of the 19th and 20th centuries were created by copying and translating the first ones. Such is the case with the French map by Pierre Lapie from 1822, which was the source for most maps in the next 30–50 years, which was clearly noticeable in the style, design and toponyms. The once incorrectly written hydronym “Savona reka” appears in the following decades on Austro-Hungarian, French and Russian maps, without any verification and revision of toponyms.

If foreign cartographers can be “justified”, it remains unclear why the hydronym Šaranska reka is unknown in Serbian cartography. The first maps of these areas did, in principle, follow the Austro-Hungarian ones, but despite this, we did not encounter the “copying” of the hydronym Šaranka, but the oikonymically derived hydronyms Brasaljska reka, Brasaljica, Bresalce, etc. immediately appear.

Even after the liberation of the territory of Old Serbia and its incorporation into the Kingdom of Serbia, field research did not lead to the “discovery” of the Šaranska River, but rather, it apparently continued with the “rewriting” of existing toponyms and hydronyms.

We can confidently say after four days spent on field research of the Šaranska River valley that field work is not easy – it requires time, patience, great effort and good organization, and certainly getting to know the local population. All of this was much more difficult for our colleagues in the 19th and early 20th centuries, who traveled from neighborhood to neighborhood on horses and in carts.

In the 21st century, the Šaranska River has still not been “discovered” on modern maps. Despite the existence of digital topography, various possibilities for recording terrain and, in this case, most importantly, fieldwork and surveying the local population, toponyms that are 150-200 years old are still being copied today, without checking the “local” condition.

Based on the fieldwork conducted, research of all available maps, conversations with the local population and a review of available written sources, the Brasaljska reka should be renamed on maps to the name Šaranska reka, both for historical and contemporary reasons that support this. For all of the above, a new geographical map of the Šaranska River valley is attached to this paper (Figure 6).

ДОЛИНА ШАРАНСКЕ РЕКЕ географска карта

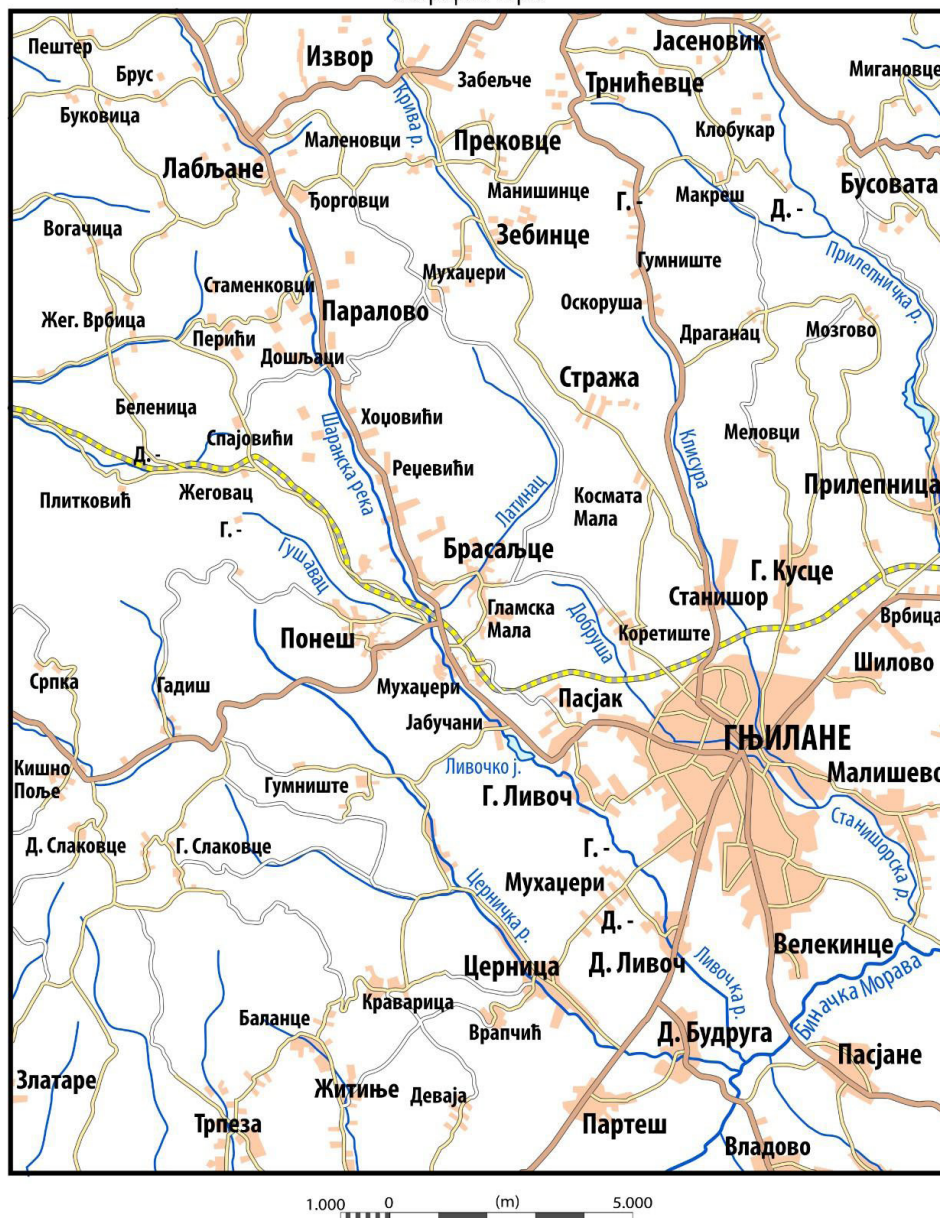


Figure 6. Geographical map of the Šaranska River Valley (Source: Author)

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