

Manuscript Map of the Croatian Lands by Lučić, Gradić and Buffalini, Produced for the Pontifical Croatian College of St. Jerome (1663)

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Abstract

A manuscript geographic map of the Croatian lands is housed in the Pontifical Croatian College of St. Jerome in Rome. It was drawn by the architect and geographer Pietro Andrea Buffalini of Rome in 1663, based on details provided by Ivan Lučić of Trogir, the historian, and Stjepan Gradić of Dubrovnik, an all-round scholar (and possibly by other co-authors). Although the map has no title, the cartouche describes its contents and purpose: the depiction of the four Croatian kingdoms (sic!) – Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia and Bosnia. These were the kingdoms from which those who were entitled to exercise the rights of the Congregation of the Illyrian (Croatian) Nation were able to gain access to the Pontifical College. Since the ecclesiastical-legal and historical-geographic contexts of how the map arose have already been analysed in the scholarly literature (although its authorship remains contested), this research relates to its geographic content. The aim was to analyse the quality of the content according to its basic elements (natural-geographic and socio-geographic), based on a comparison of earlier and contemporary maps, along with the appertaining geographic names. Through our research into the original map, we established that Ivan Lučić was one of the co-authors, though he did not entirely succeed in fulfilling the intention he declared in *Memorie istoriche di Tragurio ora detto Trau* (1673): “I made this new map of modern Illyria, which consists of four provinces: Dalmatia, Croatia, Bosnia and Slavonia, and I corrected as well as I was able, using sketches and notes, the printed errors which have occurred thus far, prompting anyone who cares to do so to examine the accurately drawn positions and add any corrections which seem better than those I have printed”. In other words, in spite of his progress in depicting certain geographic elements, Lučić (and the other co-authors) admitted he did not have sufficient knowledge of the geographic features of the depicted area, since he had certainly not traversed it all himself, let alone published topographic observations, or organised and conducted rigorous surveying procedures. The co-authors of the map of the four Croatian spatial units, officially categorised as kingdoms, were thus restricted to commonly applied methods in terms of compiling content on small-scale maps such as those produced in the second half of the 17th century. On the basis of compilations of existing maps, they occasionally added or amended geographic contents with which they were familiar, or which they had gleaned from available archive documents. Although their scientific focus was broad, Lučić, Gradić and their anonymous collaborators were unable to make great steps forward from the geodetic point of view. Their greatest contribution was in the area of toponymy.

Keywords: geography, cartography, map, Ivan Lučić, Stjepan Gradić, Pietro Andrea Buffalini, Pontifical Croatian College of St. Jerome, Croatia