



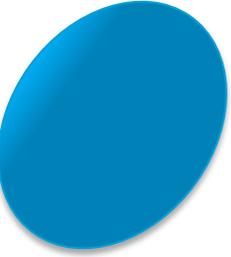
**ILLYRIA AND
SCLAVONIA**

- Many English people did not know much about the regions far away from Italy during the 15th and 16th c.
- Motifs connected to Spain and France appear frequently in English literature of the period
- Italy attracted a lot the educated English people. Therefore, it is predominantly present in English literature (Kostić, 1972)



- Among a few early English writers who mention South Slavic countries of greatest significance is William Shakespeare.
- Shakespeare's *The Twelfth Night* is set in a town of Illyria, and one of the main characters is Orsino, Duke of Illyria
- There are three towns on the Adriatic coast that have been considered as a possible setting of *The Twelfth Night* (Split, Dubrovnik , Zadar)

*** various theories (R. Filipović, J. Torbarina ...)



The Twelfth Night , Act I, Scene II:

Viola: ***WHAT COUNTRY, FRIENDS, IS THIS?***

Captain: ***THIS IS ILLYRIA, LADY.***



“Shakespeare may have known by sight at least some of the people from Dubrovnik, such as Nikola Gučetić or young Pavle Gundulić (Paolo de Gondola), a lively youth who lived in London in 1590s and used to meet his company of young Italians and Englishmen at the ‘Elephant’ inn (an inn of that name is actually mentioned in *The Twelfth Night*). Gundulić mentions in his letters his visits to another inn in London – ‘The Dolphin’ – which was located in the parish of St. Helen Bishopsgate, in which Shakespeare lived in 1597. Judging by what we know of Pavle Gundulić, he is the most likely man from Dubrovnik to have frequented London theatres and met some of the Elizabethan playwrights.”

(Kostić, 1972)



- In the second part of *Henry VI* Shakespeare mentions **Bargulus**, a strong Illyrian pirate

 - In *Measure for Measure* he mentions “one **RAGOZINE**, a most notorious pirate”
(Ragozine derived from Raguseo? Or a Venetian Giacomo Ragazzoni? ...)

 - In *Cymbeline* he mentions “the Pannonians and Dalmatians”
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Cymbeline, Act III, Scene I

“I AM PERFECT

***THAT THE PANNONIANS AND DALMATIANS FOR
THEIR LIBERTIES ARE NOW IN ARMS, A PRECEDENT
WHICH NOT TO READ WOULD SHOW THE BRITONS
COLD:***

SO CAESAR SHALL NOT FIND THEM.”

Cymbeline, Act III, Scene VII

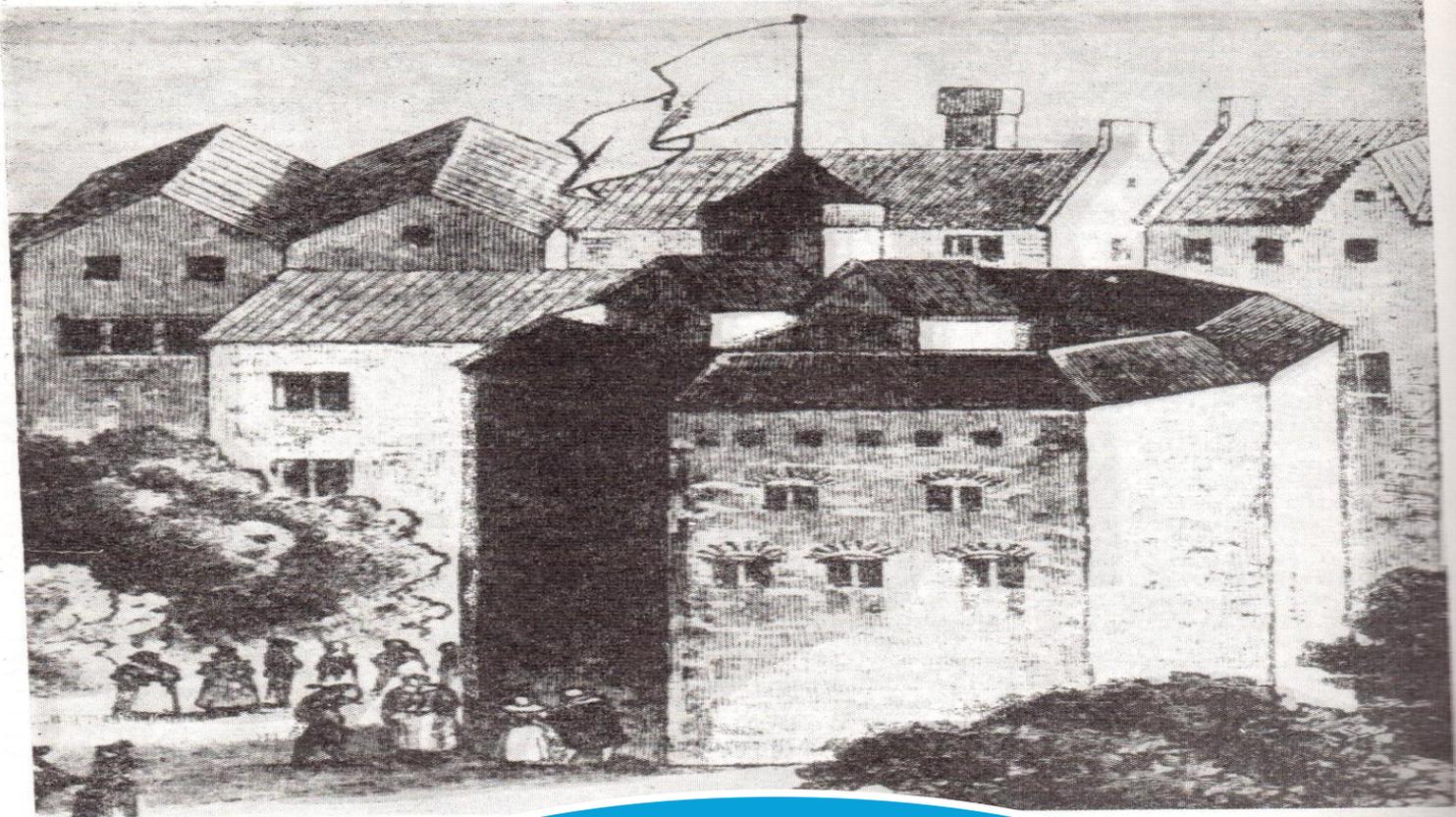
***“THIS IS THE TENOUR OF THE EMPEROR’S WRIT, -
THAT SINCE THE COMMON MEN ARE NOW IN ACTION
‘GAINST THE PANNONIANS AND DALMATIANS; ...”***

- In these instances, according to modern criticism, *Illyria* can be considered a neutral territory, an imaginary region as some other places of Shakespeare's literary world.
- Given the fact that many English writers mentioning certain parts of the Adriatic coast do not name those places as *Illyria* (the archaic term) but rather *Dalmatia* or even *Sclavonia*, we can claim that for the English people from the Elizabethan period the word *Illyria* had primarily classical connotations.

- Therefore, a town in Illyria from *The Twelfth Night* has the same “function” as a forest surrounding Athens in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* – “an imaginary, not defined, classical locality which was not even conceived to be referred to as a real place” (V. Kostić)



- Shakespeare probably came to London in the late 1580s or the early 1590s
- In those days there was a significant number of people from Dubrovnik (the Dubrovnik colony in London)
- Nikola Gučetić – the richest foreigner in England in the late 16th century.
- London had a population of approximately 200 000 people



Shakespeare's
theatre *The Globe*
(ca. 1600)

- There is a possibility that Shakespeare had heard stories about a rich foreigner who lived near the Cross Keys Inn
- There is also a great possibility that Shakespeare could get to know some things concerning the region of Illyria from Pavle Gundulić (Paolo Gondola) who worked for Gučetić as an accountant (Kostić, 1972)

The *Italianate* names (for practical reasons)

Gundulić → *Gondola*

Gučetić → *Gozzi* or *Gozze*

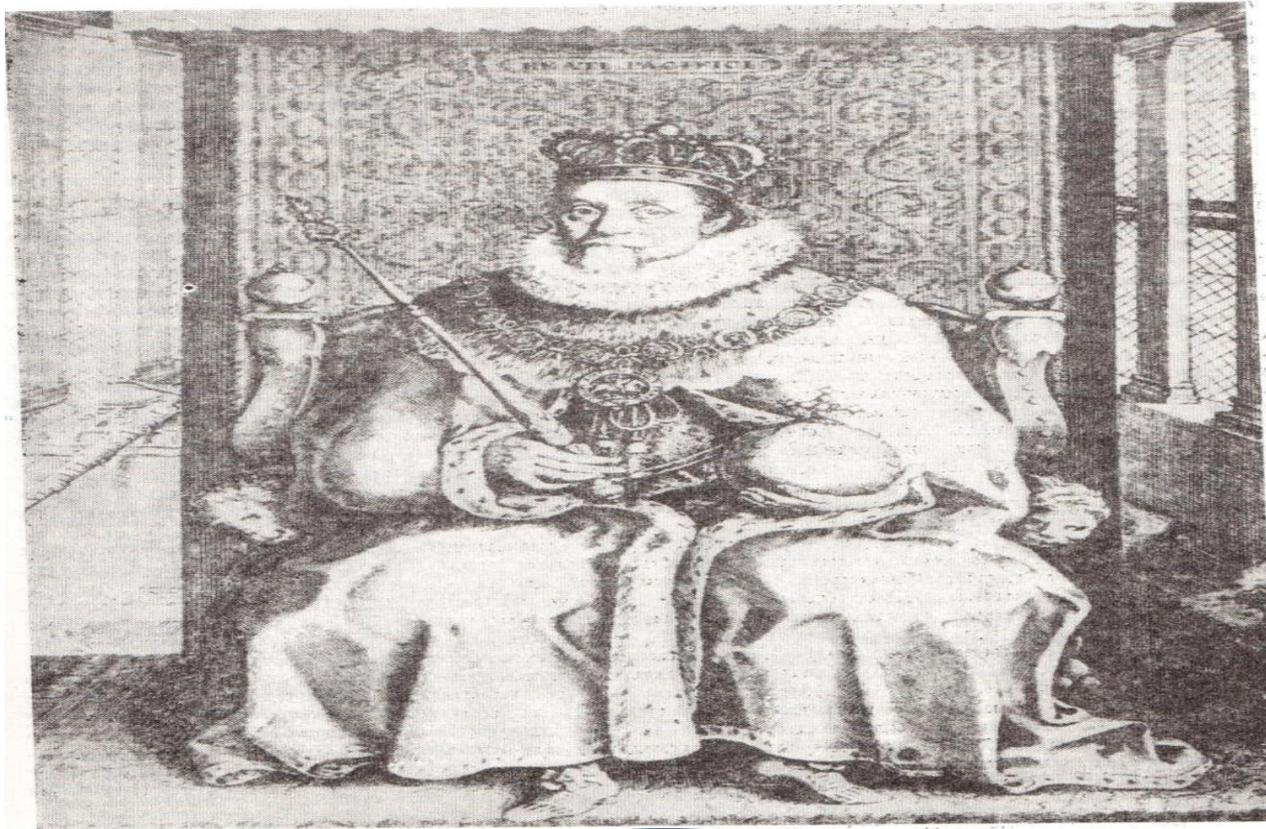
- **Abraham Ortelius**, a geographer from Amsterdam (*Epitome of the Theatre of the Worlde* – translated into English in 1603)
- Several sections dedicated to the South Slavic places
- **Thomas Coryate** in a letter from the East mentions *”Citie of Ragouze heretofore Epidaurus in the countrie of Sclauonia, once called Illyricum”*

- For some English travel writers and chroniclers Illyria was a part of Sclavonia
- Thomas Deloney talks about Illyria in the context of fabulous geography of John Mandeville



- The only English play of the day which presented a contemporary person from our region was Thomas Middleton's *A Game of Chess* (1624)
 - It was the only play of the period that was performed 9 days in a row
 - It was a unique success in the English Renaissance theatre
 - The main protagonists are Marcantun de Dominis (caricatured as the Fat Bishop) and Gondomar, a Spanish ambassador in London (both of them satirized in the play)
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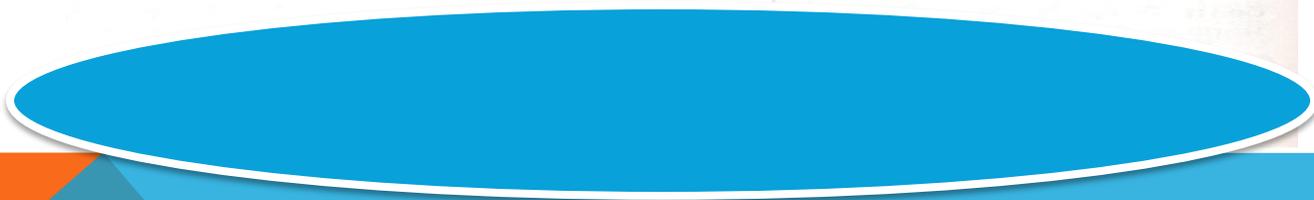
- Dominis was ridiculed because of his greed, Gondomar because of being two-faced and cunning
 - Middleton presented all events in the play as situations in the game of chess (the white figures presented the English and the Protestants while the black figures presented the Spanish and the Catholics)
 - The white king was James I, the black king was the Spanish king Philip IV
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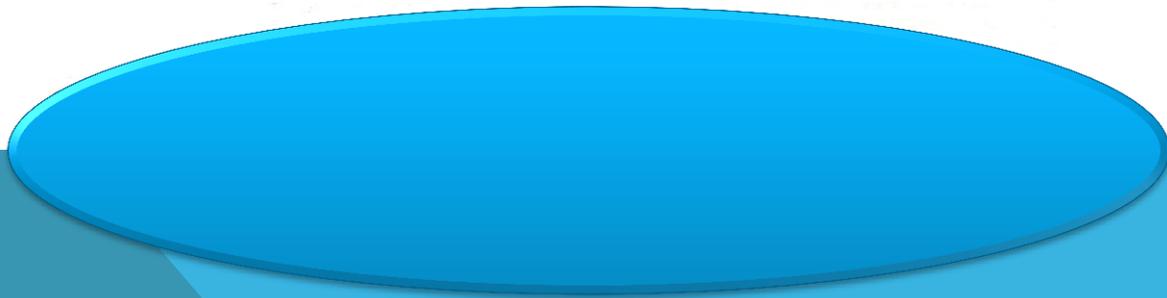


James I



**Marcantun de
Dominis**





Господски је живот сваћати се у удобности,
Седети, јести и хранити се масноћом једног краљевства,
А соком што остане ружити друго.
Ово сам дело написао снагом и крепкошћу
Што дадоше ми по тридесет и шест јела у оброку,
Али понајвише кашом од мушких врабаца,
Да чвршће и боље за душмана прионе.
Оно ће гркљан пререзати њиховом теластом учењу;
А ипак, мало сам касапског мяса јео
Када сам га зачињао.
Од свих ствари белу кућу понајвише хвалим
Због обиља свакојаке хране.
Док сам био заклет члан црне куће
За цео лакат ми је месо окопнело; морадох отићи,
Када су ми већ и ребра испала. Али, право говорећи,
Још положај немам какав одговара
Величини моје личности и ума.
Јесте да добро живим јер сам постао
Мештар постеља, дуге ливаде постеља,
Али на њој нема невена што се отвара и затвара,
Нежних цветића, лепих зеленкада, Венериног биља;

from *A Game of Chess*

- The first Englishman who wrote something about our language was friar Simon (the beginning of the 14th c.)

Sclavi sunt Boemys in lingua multum conformes

- The first book in English in which a few South Slavic words were quoted is Richard Eden's *Decades of the Newe World or West India*

Czar; Krall; Kyrall...

- *In a section of the book Eden discusses “the dominance” of the Sclavonian language*

- As modern criticism points out, the English people could get even a more complex perspective of the Sclavonian language with the English translation of Bartholomaeus Georgieviz's *Epitome* (1570)

This is the first time that the English text is printed in a book with a text in our language

- It contains a dialogue in Sclavonian with a parallel text in English

A SALUTINGE DIALOGUE IN SCLAUONE

TONGUE:

Bogh pomozǎ gospodaru

(God helpe you my patrone)

THE ANSWERE:

Dobro dossao priateliu

(In good time you come my frende)

THE QUESTION

Ieli ouay prau i put u kaliplie?

Is not this the streyght waye in to Galipolis?

THE ANSWERE

Ni brate, Zabludiossi daleko.

No brother, you haue erred greatlye.

- Fynes Morryson: “Illyris, a part of Sclavonia, is subject partly to the Turkes, partly to the House of Austria” (1617) (Kostić, 1972)
- Morryson claims that all the Slavic people speak Sclavonian, the differences exist only in pronunciation

- A Sclavonian – English vocabulary (1595 or 1596) was found among the papers of the English Embassy at Constantinople (Kostić, 1972)
 - The English language - “vretanijski jezik”
 - This vocabulary contains approximately **100** words
 - It was probably written for an English who wanted to study the basics of our language
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