

IRISH NOBILITY IN CROATIA (18TH-20TH CENTURY)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb

26th October 2018

Faculty Hall, 9.30 a.m.

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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Doctoral programme of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in
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Count Laval Nugent of Westmeath
August Prinzhofer, 1849
Coat of Arms of Henrik Baron Kavanagh-Ballyane

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**IRISH NOBILITY IN CROATIA
(18TH-20TH CENTURY)**

PROGRAMME

9.30 a.m.

Opening:

H.E. Olive Hempenstall, Ambassador of Ireland to Croatia

Vesna Vlahović-Štetić, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Iskra Iveljić

9.45 a.m.

Keynote speaker: **Terence Dooley** (Maynooth University), The Decline and Fall of the Irish Aristocracy c.1879-1923

Nataša Štefanec (University of Zagreb), The Croatian-Slavonian Aristocracy in the 18th Century: Ethnic Origins, Patterns of Promotion and Sources of Income

Ivana Horbec (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb), The Croatian-Slavonian Nobility in the 18th Century: Political Activity, Vertical Mobility and Relationship with the Viennese Court

Ivan Mirnik (Archaeological Museum, Zagreb), The Nugent Museum in the Past and in the Present

10.55 a.m. Discussion

11.15-11.30 a.m. Coffee break

11.30 a.m.

Desmond Maurer (The Centre for Historical Studies at International Forum Bosnia, Sarajevo), Corrigenda et Marginalia: On Connecting the Irish Nobility and Croatia

Dragan Damjanović (University of Zagreb), Noblemen and Burghs in 19th century Croatia: Historization, Aestheticization and Architectural Historization

Iskra Iveljić (University of Zagreb), Everyday Life of the Kavanagh-Ballyane Family in Mali Tabor and Graz

Vladimir Brnardić (Croatian Television, Zagreb), Habsburgs' Wild Geese

12.45 Discussion

1 p.m. Lunch

SUMMARIES

Terence Dooley

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE IRISH ARISTOCRACY C.1879-1923

This paper examines the decline of the Irish nobility from c.1879 to 1923. It does so through the prism of their country houses. The history of decline can be written as a narrative of the cumulative impact of one major social or political crisis after another reaching from the Great Famine of 1845-51, through the Land War era of the 1880s, to the revolutionary period of 1920 to 1923 when over 300 country houses were maliciously burned by revolutionaries who continued to regard them as oppositional symbols, or by agrarian agitators seeking the redistribution of their remaining estate lands. In post-independence Ireland, there was no place in the national patrimony for the country house, while the nobility were made redundant in a state that did not recognise titles. From the 1920s, many of the nobility, disillusioned by the new political order, abandoned their houses to dereliction and decay as they chose to emigrate. Country houses were in danger of becoming part of a lost heritage had not there been a fundamental shift in political and public attitudes towards them in recent years. This paper concludes with an examination of the reasons for this shift in attitudes.

Nataša Štefanec

THE CROATIAN-SLAVONIAN ARISTOCRACY IN THE 18TH CENTURY: ETHNIC ORIGINS, PATTERNS OF PROMOTION AND SOURCES OF INCOME

Croatian early modern area was a conglomerate of territories with various socio-economic systems. In a rather small space one could encounter communal societies of Mediterranean type, mountain ranges inhabited with seminomadic herders, imperial military frontiers settled by militarized population (*peasant-soldiers*) and feudal society of East-European type, which

was in perennial migratory flux due to the vicinity of the Ottomans. In the 18th century, the feudal template in the 'Slavonian' area that witnessed court-supported arrival of European aristocracy after the Great Turkish War (1693-1699), diverged from the one in the 'Croatian' area, which developed more conventionally, from a medieval template. Comparing the two regions, the presentation will address different patterns of formation of its multi-ethnic elites, which determined their projected channels of promotion and general political influence. As for the sources of income, albeit one can state that the agriculture remained the fundamental economic activity, aristocrats from both regions attempted to make profits in manufacture. Where they differed the most was their approach to military offices. It was almost obligatory for 'Croatian' aristocrats to engage on the Military Frontier and to use their military exploits for the promotion at the Habsburg court.

Ivana Horbec

THE CROATIAN-SLAVONIAN NOBILITY IN THE 18TH CENTURY: POLITICAL ACTIVITY, VERTICAL MOBILITY AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VIENNESE COURT

During the 18th century, the Croatian-Slavonian nobility found itself at a turning point: important changes were taking place in domains on which the honour and prestige of the nobility rested. After the end of the continuous anti-Ottoman wars and with stricter organization of a military service, the military role of the nobility took a back seat. Through extensive state-building processes, Croatian-Slavonian nobility was faced with a new power system while traditional attainments of social order clashed with the interests and priorities of the developing state. On the one hand, the nobility had to struggle to preserve their privileges; on the other hand, this opened up new possibilities for nobles – in particular, the prospect of political careers in the Habsburg power system. The paper aims to explore the modalities of political participation practiced by Croatian-Slavonian nobility in the 18th century, as well as to analyse the conditions under which the nobility adapted to the new requirements of vertical mobility. The emphasis will be put on the middle and lower nobility: they made up more than 90% of the

Croatian-Slavonian nobility, they were oriented to local politics, and they were forced to adapt their strategies in communication with the places of influence at the Court of Vienna.

Ivan Mirnik

THE NUGENT MUSEUM IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT

Field-Marshal Prince and Count Laval Nugent of Westmeath was not only a great and successful general and politician, but also a great lover of antiquities and art collector, whose manifold collections formed a real museum. We do not know when he began collecting works of art, but it must have been even before King Ferdinand IV of Naples gave him the concession to excavate at Minturno near Naples. These excavations resulted in a respectable number of ancient marble statues, which were partly restored at the Bourbon Museum in Naples and later in Venice and Trsat by Giacomo Paronuzzi. At the same time Laval Nugent acquired a large collection of Greek vases. Both the ancient statues and vases can be seen in the Zagreb Archaeological Museum. There were also several bronze antiquities, but we do not know where they ended up. The considerable numismatic collection was bequeathed by Laval's grand-daughter Margherita of Trieste to the Florence Archaeological Museum. Other works of art, such as paintings and furniture, were partly dispersed and partly brought to the Rijeka Historical and Naval Museum of the Croatian Litoral, where only a few items can be seen. Some portraits of Laval Nugent and more recent architectural fragments are kept at the Croatian History Museum in Zagreb and some personal items in Vienna at the Military Museum.

Aidan O'Malley

**HYBRID IRELANDS: UNEARTHING THE LAVAL NUGENT
FAMILY IN THE WORKS OF HUBERT BUTLER AND
REBECCA WEST**

Hubert Butler's 1947 essay, 'Fiume, Sushak and the Nugents', and Rebecca West's account of her visit to Laval Nugent's castle in Trsat in *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1941) are the focus of this presentation. These texts, by two of the most perspicacious Anglophone observers of mid-20th century Yugoslavia, offer partial renditions of the afterlife of the Laval Nugent family. At the heart of these portraits are records of death, degeneration and problematic burial, and the two writers—one Protestant Irish, the other Anglo-Irish British—cast these motifs and themes in an Irish context. This paper, therefore, explores how the Laval Nugents and other, related, encounters in Trsat and Sušak, were mobilised by Butler and West to express their differently hybrid senses of identity. In the process, it casts a light on how the perspectives of these writers on the multi-layered historical, religious, political and cultural fabric of Yugoslavia were influenced by their attitudes to Irish history and experience.

Desmond Maurer

**CORRIGENDA ET MARGINALIA: ON CONNECTING THE
IRISH NOBILITY AND CROATIA**

Starting from the accounts given by Rebecca West and Hubert Butler of Jane Shaw and of the Von Buttlar Moscons, accounts which create connections that did not in reality exist and are indicative of the care needed in treating such impressionistic memoirs (Jane Shaw was not related to Bernard Shaw, as both West and Butler should have known; equally the Von Buttlar Moscons were not related to some mythical Irish Moscons, but by marriage to the Cavanaghs and Butlers account of them is riddled with basic errors), followed by a review of the heraldic and genealogical manuals (both British and Austrian), I argue that other than the Cavanaghs and the Nugents, we must seek the connections with the Irish nobility largely through the

activities of individuals based outside of Croatia and active in the Imperial military service or the Church. While the brothers Barry and Freiherr von Bancroft are good examples of this, the best way of approaching it is through the role of the Wallis family and of Fieldmarshals Taaffe, Browne and Lacy and General O'Dwyer in the liberation of Slavonia (under the leadership of Eugene of Savoy), the various conquests and sieges of Belgrade, as Governors of Belgrade in the first half of the 18th century, and at the battle of Banjaluka, as well as their role in the reorganisation of the Maria Theresan army and so (indirectly) of the Military Border during her reign. This is the context required to understand the presence of the Cavanaghs and the Nugents in Croatia as part of wider networks of both families in Italy and Austria, as well as why their contemporaries, the Kellys, O'Donnells, O'Neilans, etc, are to be found with possessions in Austria and Bohemia, but not to the same extent at all in the Hungarian lands.

Dragan Damjanović

NOBLEMEN AND BURGS IN 19TH CENTURY CROATIA: HISTORIZATION, AESTHETICIZATION AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORICIZATION

The romantic fascination with the Middle Ages developed by the 19th century European intellectual elites, theretofore interested primarily into Ancient art and architecture, turned their attention to medieval architectural monuments. They became particularly interested in burgs and forts because these structures could be associated with historic events and personalities, who, at the time gradually started entering national narratives in Europe.

Croatia closely followed these European trends. Ivan Kukuljević Sakcinski's mid-19th century work on the historization, documentation and monument protection in Croatia clearly indicates that burgs were his priority interest. The attempt to rescue the burg of Cetingrad in 1860s shows that the Croatian authorities quickly developed awareness about the importance of the protection of this part of heritage. Even the first ordinances on monument protection issued by the Croatian Provincial Government in 1895 were related to the conservation of burgs, while the attempt to tear down

the Frankopan's burg in Kraljevica prompted Crown Prince and Archduke Franz Ferdinand to intervene, which consequently led to the foundation of the Provincial Committee for Monument Protection in Croatia and Slavonia in 1910.

Lastly, the fascination with medieval forts led numerous European and Croatian aristocratic and bourgeois families to repair, aestheticize and historicize their own properties. Drašković's castle in Trakošćan, Prandau and Normann's in Valpovo, Cséh's in Erdut are merely a few of the burgs repaired or partially rebuilt in the 19th century. All this forms a context within which to examine the work of Laval Nugent (and partly his son Albert) in Trsat, Sušica, Dubovec, Bosiljevo and other places. He purchased the residences of the Frankopans, with whom he identified due to his wife's background, and had the buildings restored in the Romantic revival style, attempting not only to save them from decay but also to bring back some of their old glory. He thereby created picturesque architectural complexes that are among the most significant early examples of revival styles in Croatian architecture.

Iskra Iveljić

EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE KAVANAGH-BALLYANE FAMILY IN MALI TABOR AND GRAZ

Members of Irish noble family Kavanagh-Ballyane came to the Habsburg Monarchy in the 18th century. They were officers and settled also in Bohemia and Hungary. The latter lineage came to Croatia through marriage of Simon Henry Kavanagh Baron Ballyane (1784-1830) to Leopoldina Moscon, heiress of the Rattkay family, owners of Mali and Veliki Tabor. Since then four generations of the Kavanagh-Ballyane family lived in Mali Tabor, continuing their heritage to the present day through Croatian noble family Marjanović, who took the name Marjanović Kavanagh. On the basis of Henry Kavanagh's diary from 1860s, it is possible to shed light on their everyday life. The Kavanaghs had a wide circle of friends in Croatia, Austria, Germany, USA and Great Britain, consisting of noblemen, officers, but also middle-class people. In Mali Tabor they gathered and inspired local intelligentsia, including writers Janko Leskovar and Rikard Jorgovanić. They

cherished Irish and English ties, Henry wrote his diary in English, read English papers and English and Irish authors. Family ties were close, and the extended family encompassed Americans through Henry's American wife Kate, whom her husband loved dearly. Family members were often in Graz, regularly paying visits to friends, going to the theatre, balls, playing croquet, exploring the surroundings of Graz and Hochgebirge, walking and in winter skating. Henry attended coffeehouses and was a passionate chess player.

Vladimir Brnardić

HABSBURGS' WILD GEESE

Religious conflicts and the mostly bloody suppression of Irish uprising against English supremacy at the beginning of the 17th century and much more after conclusion of the Peace of Limerick in 1691 and the flight of James II after the defeat of his Catholic troops, were behind the flight of the Irish „Wild Geese“ to the Europe continent. Many of them made their way to Spain, Russia and above all to France but many of them came to Austria, where they served the Habsburgs. Their families remained loyal to the Austrian monarchs over the generations, and, as a result, seven field-marsals, over 100 generals and admirals and less than 500 Irish officers served in the imperial forces until the end of the Monarchy. Many proved to be courageous and brave so 26 of them out of 1.250 decorated received the highest Habsburg's decoration, The Military Order of Maria Theresia. Many of „Wild Geese“ served in Croatia, especially in the wars against Turks and on the Military Border. The most famous of them was count Laval Nugent of Westmeath (Ballynacor, 3 November 1777 - Bosiljevo, 22 August 1862), who marked the Croatian history of the 19th century.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Vladimir Brnardić graduated history at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb in 1997 and since then he works as journalist, scriptwriter, director and editor in the Documentary-historical program of Croatian television. He has a keen interest in the history of Central and Eastern European military organisations from 16th to 19th century. Beside his work as a journalist and editor of *TV kalendar* he took part and realised many documentary historical movies. He continuously publishes articles on Croatian military history in magazines *Hrvatski vojnik* (Croatian soldier) and *Vojna povijest* (Military history). He was associate of *Croatian biographical lexicon* and editor of Military and Military history in edition of *Croatian encyclopaedia*. In edition of Osprey in *Men-at-Arms series* he published 4 books; “Napoleon Balkan’s Troops”, two books on “Imperial Armies of the Thirty Years’ War (1) Infantry and artillery” and (2) Cavalry” as well as „WW2 Croatian Legionaries“. As consuler he is engaged in re-enactment and founding of many historical units like Kravat regiment in Zagreb, Trenck’s Pandours from Požega, Uskok’s from Klis, Hussars from Karlovac, 1st and 2nd Banal Grenz Infantry Regiment etc. Since 2016 he is a chief editor of the Documentary department of Croatian television.

Dragan Damjanović (1978) is associate professor at the Art History Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. His main research interests are related to the history of Croatian and Central European art and architecture of the 19th and early 20th century. The focus of his research is primarily on intercultural connections in Central and South Eastern Europe – issues of national styles, Neo-Gothic, Neo-Byzantine, Neo-Renaissance, Art Nouveau and early Modern Art and Architecture. He similarly takes interest in Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish buildings and secular architecture. He is the principal investigator of two projects financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. He is the author of fifteen monographs and of several exhibitions on 19th-century architecture. In 2016 he organised a major international conference Art and Politics in Europe in the Modern Period.

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Terence Dooley is Professor at the History Department of Maynooth University. He specialises in Irish social and political history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly the history of Irish country houses and the landed class; land and politics in independent Ireland; the working of the Irish Land Commission from 1881 to 1992; the revolutionary period 1916-23; and local history in Ireland. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate modules related to all of these areas of specialism. He is also Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates which sits within the History Department at Maynooth University. The establishment of this Centre was directly linked to the academic and popular success of T. Dooley's first major monograph, *The decline of the big house in Ireland* (2001). He is also a member of several public service committees and a regular contributor on radio and television.

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Ivana Horbec (Zagreb, 1977) studied history at the University of Zagreb, where she obtained a PhD in Early Modern History in 2009. She is employed as a senior research fellow at the Croatian Institute of History. She took part in several national and international scientific projects. From 2014 to 2018 she was the principal investigator of the project „From Proto-modernisation to Modernisation of Croatia's School System“, financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. Horbec obtained research scholarships at the Georg-August University in Göttingen, Institute for East European History at the University of Vienna and the Hungarian Academy of Science in Budapest. She published editorial works and scientific papers with socio-political and juridical themes in the field of Croatian, Hungarian and Austrian history of the Early Modern Age. Her research interest is focused on social, legal and institutional history and, in particular, on the issue of formation of proto-modern public administration in Croatian lands.

Publications: <https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/znanstvenici/236730?chunk=50;>
[http://isp.academia.edu/IvanaHorbec;](http://isp.academia.edu/IvanaHorbec) <https://scholar.google.hr/citations?user=eHuQV2cAAAAJ&hl=en>

Iskra Iveljić is Professor of Croatian 19th century History at the History Department of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research is focused on various aspects of modernization, on the middle-class elite and on aristocracy in northwestern Croatia in the 19th and early 20th century. Both her studies of middle class and nobility encompass political, economic and cultural aspects, gender issues and the relationship towards children and teenagers. She was the head of the History Department (2008-2010) and its Chair of Croatian History (2014-2016) and is now heading the Doctoral programme of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in European and World Context.

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Aidan O'Malley received his PhD from the European University Institute (Florence) and is an Assistant Professor at the department of English, University of Rijeka. He is the author of *Field Day and the Translation of Irish Identities: Performing Contradictions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). With Eve Patten, he edited *Ireland, West to East: Irish Cultural Connections with Central and Eastern Europe* (Peter Lang, 2014), and he also edited (with Ina Gjurgjan) a special issue of the *European Journal of English Studies* (2013) on 'Myths of Europe: East of Venice'. He has written numerous other articles and chapters on Irish literature, culture and translation. Forthcoming publications include: 'Becoming 'European': Irish Writers and Europe, 1940-1980', in, Claire Connolly, Marjorie Howes and Eve Patten, (eds.), *Irish Literature in Transition 1940-1980* (Cambridge University Press); 'Seamus Heaney and Translation', in, Geraldine Higgins, (ed.), *Seamus Heaney in Context* (Cambridge University Press), and, 'Virtually There: Spectral Ireland and European Stereotypes in the Novels of Paul Murray', in, Jürgen

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Desmond Maurer holds a Master's in Classics from Edinburgh University (1991). Four years of postgraduate research into Greek religion and magic at Trinity College Dublin were interrupted by a break in the Balkans from which he never returned. The 15 years from 1995 to 2009 were spent working for the United Nations System in Croatia and then Bosnia in various capacities. He was the first editor of the Bosnian state news agency's English language service (BHPress) and taught history, literature and literary theory for seven years at the University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Philosophy (Arts). He is currently the director of the Centre for Historical Studies at International Forum Bosnia, in Sarajevo and in the process of completing his doctorate in Modern and Contemporary Croatian History at Zagreb University. His translations from the Bosnian of scholarly and literary works in the fields of history, philosophy, religious studies and theology, economics, political sciences and literary criticism have been published by such international publishers as Oxford, Cambridge, Brill, Springer, Routledge, Fordham, and Palgrave Macmillan.

Ivan Mirnik was born in Zagreb, studied architecture and archaeology. From 1970 to 1973 he was employed as archaeologist-conservationist at the Institute of Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb; from 1973 to his retirement in 2011 he worked at the Zagreb Archaeological Museum Numismatic Department. Then he spent the academic year 1974/75 at the University of London Institute of Archaeology and the British Museum Dept. of Coins and Medals. In 1978 he was nominated senior curator, and also obtained the Ph.D. degree at the University of London Institute of Archaeology. In 1982 he became Museum Councillor and in 1984 a Scientific Councillor (with the rank of a university professor).

He also organized quite a number of exhibitions. I. Mirnik has published more than 400 books and original scientific/scholarly and professional papers with various topics (archaeology, numismatics, history, protection of monuments, genealogy, heraldry).

Biography: <http://www.enciklopedija.hr/natuknica.aspx?id=41153>

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Nataša Štefanec (1973) is Professor of Early Modern history at the History Department of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, where she has taught since 2001. She defended her Ph.D. thesis on the (re)organization of the Habsburg-Ottoman military border in the 16th century at CEU Budapest in 2004. She has obtained various scholarships for research and teaching in Austria, Hungary, Germany and the UK. Her research focuses on early modern Croatian and Central European history, the history of nobility, military border systems in Central and Southeastern Europe, social practices of frontiersmen on Habsburg-Ottoman borderlands, demography, and the history of violence.

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