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Length: 20 minutes

Panel: 6. Turning points in the Reception of Classical Antiquity

The Turning Points in the Studies of Ancient History amongst Serbs during the 19th century

Abstract: The paper will discuss the beginnings of studies in ancient history among Serbs in the 19th century. At that time, Serbian people were going through difficult times. Those who lived south of the Sava and Danube rivers fought for the liberation from the Turkish rule, and those who lived in the Habsburg Monarchy, fought for cultural, ideological and political survival. An important part of that struggle was the founding of Serbian schools in the Habsburg Monarchy, and subsequently the founding of Serbian schools in the liberated Serbia. The paper will present in what way education and education systems were important for the beginnings of studies in ancient history among Serbs. Bearing in mind that Serbia did not have a university at the start of the 19th century, the paper will present the influence which European science had on the development of classical studies among Serbs, because the first Serbian scholars received their education at different European universities (Wien, Berlin, Munich, Karlsruhe, Leipzig, Budapest, Moscow, Kiev). It is important to note, though, that in Serbian churches, monasteries and medieval courts from the 13th century onward, even under the Turkish rule from 15th-19th century existed cultural centers, where Greek language was taught and Greek/Byzantine books were translated into Serbian language of the time.

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