

SUMMARY

Nikola Nalješković (ca 1505–1587), Croatian writer of Dubrovnik, incontrovertibly occupies a very prominent place in the history of Croatian literature. Nikola Nalješković dealt with astronomy and issues of calendar reform. During his lifetime he published the work *Dialogo sopra la sfera del mondo* (Venice, 1579).

Nalješković also produced a rather heterogeneous and capacious oeuvre of lyrics and dramas, although, like the majority of Renaissance authors in Dubrovnik, he did not write epics. His large book of *canzoniere* has placed him among the most productive of Croatian Petrarchans (181 poems), and his many epistles (37 poems) record his vigorous communications with a broad circle of friends and acquaintances, not from the Dubrovnik milieu alone. The contradictions within the oeuvre that historians of literature justly point out (there are for example 12 obscene masks that sort oddly with 15 religious poems) are nevertheless not unusual or untypical for Renaissance man. Certainly the most important part of his work lies in the dramas (4 pastoral plays, 2 farces and 1 comedy), particularly the farces and *Comedy VII*.

In the second half of the 19th century Nalješković's works were printed in the series of Old Croatian Writers (books 5 and 8), on the basis of some very recent transcriptions. The chief source for the preparation of this critical edition is the *Šipanski rukopis* [*Šipan Manuscript*], the oldest (probably from the 18th century) to contain all the literary writings of Nalješković. The entire literary oeuvre of Nikola Nalješković is contained in a single volume for the first time in the present critical edition.