

Three Hungarian researchers and three periods of the history and culture of the Albanian people

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Abstract

The object of this study is the contribution of three Hungarian researchers: the publicist, the editor and the historian Windisch (Karl Gottlieb von Windisch, 1725 -1793); the outstanding historian, medievalist, latinist and germanist Thalloczy (Ludwig von Thallóczy, 1857-1916); and the geographer and ethnographer of international dimensions Nopcsa (Baron Nopcsa 1877-1933). Their selection is not random; it reflects the up to now development in the science of Albanology and our goal as researchers and evaluators to place them on the Pantheon of the Albanian studies. These three names represent, at the same time, three particular dimensions of our national history: the fate of an ethnicity detached from its national territory in certain historical and cultural circumstances (Windisch); documentation of the Albanian space in a particularly controversial period of the Middle Ages in Albania and the Balkans (Thalloczy); and the wealthiest historical, ethnographic, material, spiritual and linguistic landscape of the Albanian people in the beginning of the twentieth century (Nopcsa). Therefore, let us state in the very beginning that recognition of their contribution also implies the recognition of some of the most important achievements of the Albanian studies.

Keywords: Windisch, Thalloczy, Nopcsa, Albania, Albanology, the Middle Ages, language, history, ethnography, culture.

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