

FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF JOVAN CVIJIĆ  
– Selected Pages and Interpretations –

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Belgrade, 2019

12.

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 дијалектом има само у ~~неколико~~  
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 у Бугарској и ону није исто, јер сам  
 имао реч јужнога дијалекта (а ово  
 су сараје до севернега по Лабај који  
 су јамаро говорећи међу косовским  
 дијалектом) Колашину, нарде да су  
 старински и у велику кућама нама  
 мурске куће на имање које су  
 сараје преко 400 г. једна  
 од сараја мурга, око 90 г. једна  
 да зва за спремање по коме се

## On the Origin of the Population

The manuscript on the Ibarski Kolašin is part of Jovan Cvijić's notebooks, compiled between 1898 and 1905, during his excursions to the areas of Kosovo and Metohija in Stara Srbija [Old Serbia]. Based on the manuscript we concluded that the data was recorded by one of his associates. The first part of the travelogue was officially published in 1911 within the third book of *Fundamentals of Geography and Geology of Macedonia and Old Serbia, Including Surveys in Southern Bulgaria, Thrace, the Neighbouring Parts of Asia Minor, Thessaly, Epirus and Northern Albania* (1911). The latter part was published in *The Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands: Basics of Anthropogeography*, whose first Serbian edition was published in 1922 (Cvijić, 1922a).

According to Cvijić, the region of Ibarski Kolašin “starts just below the village of Ribarić and stretches to the villages of Čabra and Košutovo on the Ibar River near Mitrovica, just to the point where the pure Serbian settlements begin and extend.” It covered 40 villages, with 572 houses, of which 501 Serbian, 61 Albanian, nine houses of Muhajirs from Bosnia and Old Kolašin and one Turkish house (Cvijić, 1911). He stated that Serbian houses were almost always organised as *zadruga* [family cooperative].

The origin of the population of the Ibarski Kolašin dates back to distant times. During his journey, J. Cvijić noted down a story of a 90-year-old man who repeated what he himself had been told by his forbears, that they moved here from Zahumlje. Then the Klicanovići migrated from Drobnjaci (Old Herzegovina) and “almost all of the present-day villagers in Kolašin descended from them.” This supports the claim that the inhabitants of Kolašin are mainly immigrants, some of whom moved here before or after the 1690 Great Emigration of the Serbs. Some families moved from Stari Kolašin [Old Kolašin] and others from the Montenegrin region of Brda [Highlands]. In Milisav Lutovac's opinion (Lutovac, 1954), the present-day population mostly settled in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cvijić stated that the Ibarski Kolašin in mentioned boundaries was never settled by Turks and Arbanasi (Albanians) and that it represented a restored oasis of Orthodox Christian Serbs. However, the Arnauts (albanised Serbs) settled in the villages around Čabar and Košutovo, thus suppressing the Serbs. And so, “this purely Serbian area has become separated from the Serbian region of Mitrovica by a strip of Albanian villages; however, going towards Rožaje, one encounters villages populated by Serbian-speaking Mohammedans.”

There are different interpretations of the name of Ibarski Kolašin. In his travelogues from 1859, the famous Slavist, Alexander Hilferding (1972) called this area Kolašin. On the other hand, Cvijić in his notebooks denoted this area as “Crni” [Black Kolašin], “Stari” [Old Kolašin] or “Ibarski Kolašin”, in order to distinguish it from the Montenegrin or Sandžački Kolašin. Later research conducted by Milisav Lutovac, published under the title “Anthropogeographical Investigations of the Ibar Kolašin” (1954), cast doubt on Cvijić's assertions. In his opinion, “Novi Kolašin” [New Kolašin], or just “Kolašin”, seems a more appropriate name for this area, because “the population which considers Stari Kolašin to be the region whence they came could not have attached the epithet of Stari [Old] to its name Kolašin” (Lutovac, 1954, p. 65).