

A PEOPLE'S METROPOLITAN OF HERZEGOVINA, YOANIKY PAMUCHINA¹

Abstract:

The article is about Archimandrite of Mostar Yoaniky Pamuchina, one of the most outstanding figures in Herzegovina in the 19th century. He is known for his literary work and charitable activities. On a number of occasions he several times acted as a negotiator during the unrest in the region, and from 1860 to 1864 unofficially served as the Metropolitan of Herzegovina.

Keywords:

Herzegovina, Yoaniky Pamuchina, Mostar, A.F. Hilferding, a Metropolitan of Herzegovina, Vuk Karadzich.

АННОТАЦИЯ: К.В. МЕЛЬЧАКОВА. «ГЕРЦЕГОВИНСКИЙ “НАРОДНЫЙ” МИТРОПОЛИТ ИОАННИКИЙ ПАМУЧИНА».

В статье идет речь об одном из самых выдающихся деятелей Герцеговины XIX столетия, архимандрите из Мостара Иоанникии Памучине. Он известен своим литературным трудом и благотворительной деятельностью, неоднократно выступал переговорщиком герцеговинцев с турками во время волнений в регионе, а с 1860 по 1864 гг. неофициально исполнял обязанности Герцеговинского митрополита.

Ключевые слова:

Герцеговина, Иоанникий Памучина, Мостар, А.Ф. Гильфердинг, герцеговинский митрополит, Вук Караджич.

Yoaniky Pamuchina (1810–70) is rightfully considered one of the messengers of Herzegovina's national revival. He spoke Greek, Turkish and Russian and for some time he was the unofficial metropolitan of Herzegovina. He was known for his literary work, engaged in charitable activities and dreamed of becoming a successor to the cause of the linguist and reformer of the Serbian language, Vuk Karadzich (1787–1864).

Pamuchina was born in the Herzegovinian village of Zgradina near Trebinje. At baptism, he received the name Boshko, studied at the monasteries of Duzhi and Zavala, and in the latter he received monastic tonsure in 1829 under the name Yoaniky. From 1835 he was the spiritual leader of the church in Mostar; from 1853 he became an archimandrite and one of the regular authors of the magazine “The Serbo-Dalmatian Journal.” Between 1846 to 1867 about 30 of his publications were published in this journal: folk songs, proverbs, sayings, superstitions, riddles, compositions with historical and ethnographic themes, as well as descriptions of events that he himself had witnessed.

¹ The work was carried out with the financial support of the RFBR (grant № 18–512–76004).



Yoaniky Pamuchina

Among his works are two biographies. These are the biographies of the well-known hieromonk Seraphim Sholai and the vizier of Herzegovina, Ali Pasha Rizvanbegovich. They are important historical sources, detailing the life of Herzegovina in the first half of the 19th century.

In 1857 he managed to become acquainted with the Russian diplomat and scholar Alexander Hilferding, when he visited Mostar. Later the Russian scholar wrote about this meeting in his essay, "Bosnia, Herzegovina and Old Serbia," as follows: "[Yoaniky Pamuchina] rendered great services to the Orthodox people in Herzegovina. Originally from the Trebinje region, he had no opportunity to receive an education other than through self-study;

self-taught, he became familiar with the Greek language and became a scholar, something very remarkable for that region; he has a special passion for word production and philological explanations of Serbian and Slavic words; having penetrated the spirit of Slavic speech and having a thorough understanding of his people, he speaks the Serbian language so perfectly that only the famous Vuk Karadzich can compare with him in this regard."

Hilferding was impressed by Pamuchina's literary talent. He therefore asked the archimandrite to compose an essay on one of the most prominent personalities in the history of Herzegovina in the 19th century, Ali Pasha Rizvanbegovich (1783–1851). Pamuchina's work, "The Life of Ali Pasha Rizvanbegovich, Commissar, Herzegovinian Vizier," first saw the light of day in Russian in 1859 and was reprinted four years later. The work was translated into Serbian only in 1976. It is an important historical source, since its creator witnessed many of the events he described. In addition to the personality of Ali Pasha, who was famous in Herzegovina, much attention is paid to ethnographic sketches of the life of the people of this region.

This was not the first work published in Russia by Pamuchina. Three years earlier he had published an article entitled "The Trial of a Christian Girl in Mostar in 1841" in the pages of the Slavophile magazine *Russkaya beseda* ("The Russian Conversation"). In it the author told the story of Rista, who preferred death over

adopting the Mohammedan faith. She withstood the fury and persuasion of Muslims, did not apostatize and was "saved."

Modern scholars highly appreciate Pamuchina's work in collecting Herzegovina's oral folk art. Father Yoaniky was a big fan of the work of the famous Vuk Karadzich. He did not know him personally, but contacted him through a merchant from Dubrovnik, Jovo Layinovich. Karadzich did not work in Herzegovina, so Pamuchina can be safely called the successor of the great Serb in collecting and preserving the folklore of this region.

Hilferding pointed out that the Herzegovinians highly valued Pamuchina and called him the "people's man." He put forth great efforts for the good of the church and his countrymen, and was respected not only among Christians, but also Muslims. Pamuchina organized the sending of his compatriots to study in Serbia and Russia. He entered the history of Mostar as a benefactor of a local school. In 1869 he appealed to the Asian Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a request to invest his personal savings (800 "chervontsi" — gold coins) in a Russian state bank and to remit the interest to the Mostar school.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, several attempts were made to nominate local clergymen to the post of Metropolitan. In 1850 the Orthodox community of Mostar turned to Russia with a request to facilitate the appointment of Yoaniky as the Metropolitan instead of the "hated Greek" Joseph. However, this action was unsuccessful. Moreover, Pamuchina had to hide for some time from Turkish persecution in Dubrovnik. He returned to Mostar only in 1853. Seven years later Metropolitan Gregory of Herzegovina died, and the local population, with the support of Serbia and Russia, began to seek the appointment of a Serb from Herzegovina as the Metropolitan. The main candidates were Nicephor Duchich and Yoaniky Pamuchina. They clashed with each other, but Duchich ultimately yielded to his opponent. The Orthodox community of Mostar turned to the Patriarch of Constantinople, Cyril VII, with an official request to approve Father Yoaniky as the new Metropolitan. In the same year, another uprising broke out in Herzegovina. The new metropolitan was not approved in Constantinople, but until 1864 the throne of metropolitan was in fact unofficially occupied by Pamuchina.

He actively collaborated with the Moscow Slavic Committee and the Archpriest of the Russian Embassy Church in Vienna, M.F. Raevsky, and was engaged in the redistribution of aid coming from Russia.

Pamuchina also displayed diplomatic abilities, repeatedly helping to resolve conflicts between the Ottoman authorities and the Herzegovinian rebels. For example, during unrest in the province in 1857–58 he acted as a negotiator on behalf of the Turkish government. His attempts to peacefully negotiate with the rebels were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, Pamuchina's efforts were beneficial: thanks to his reports, it was possible to prove that neighboring Montenegro was not the organizer of the unrest. This conclusion contradicted the facts fabricated by Turkish military leaders and British agents. The intrigues of local officials thus became apparent to the sultan. However, such diplomacy led to Pamuchina's

falling out of favor with the Mostar pasha. Later, for his assistance in establishing peace in Herzegovina, he received the pectoral cross from the Russian government.

In 1862, on the occasion of the Millennium of Russia, at the initiative of M.F. Raevsky, it was decided to award Russian medals to outstanding figures from among foreign Slavs. The primary candidate from Herzegovina was Pamuchina. On 8 September, he was presented with the Order of St Anne, 3rd class. The initiative to award Pamuchina came from Hilferding. In addition, the list of the Metropolitan's awards includes the Turkish medal of Medzhidiye.

The Pamuchina's passing was a great loss for the people of Herzegovina. In 1871 the Russian vice-consul in Mostar, N.A. Ilarionov, wrote the following: "having lost the famous archimandrite Yoaniky Pamuchina, who died at the end of last year, the Orthodox inhabitants of Herzegovina now have, with a few minor exceptions, almost no worthy and somewhat educated pastor..."

Yoaniky Pamuchina's numerous works are of interest to this day to historians, philologists and ethnographers studying Herzegovina. Since 2012 the library of the Zakhum-Herzegovina diocese in Mostar has borne the name of Yoaniky of Pamuchina.

Translated by Igor Kaliganov

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ilih Zb.* Joanikije Pamuchina, vukov sl'edbenik u Hertsegovini // Rad XI-og kongresa Saveza foloklorista Jugoslavije u Novom Vinodolskom 1964. Zagreb, 1964. S. 301–305.
- Kovachevich V.* Zhivot i deo Joanikija Pamuchine. Pale: Srpsko prosvetno i kulturno drushtvo «Prosveta», 2009.
- Kosik V.I.* Ioannikii // Pravoslavnaia Ėntsiklopediia (<http://www.pravenc.ru/text/577986.html>).
- Churkina IV.* Protoierei Mikhail Fyodorovich Raevskii i iugoslaviane. Moskva, 2011.
- Shipovats N.* Hertsegovachki kaluđer i kn'izhevniitsi 1 // Danica. Srpski narodni ilustrovani kalendar za 2001 godinu. Beograd: Vukova zaduzhbina, 2000. S. 332–349.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Yoaniky Pamuchina
2. The old church in Mostar.
3. The library named after Yoaniky Pamuchina.
4. The cover of the book by V. Maslesha "Chronicle. Procopy Chokorilo, Yoaniky Pamuchina, Staka Skenderova." Sarajevo, 1976.
5. Alexander Fyodorovich Hilferding. A portrait with the signature "Hilferding." Moscow, State Archive of the Russian Federation, F. 1463, inv. 1, st. u. 802.
6. Mikhail Fyodorovich Raevsky.
7. Ali Pasha Rizvanbegovich.
8. The journal "Serbian-Dalmatian magazine."