

THE ITALIAN-ALBANIAN DICTIONARY by MONTE GIOVE, THE MANUSCRIPT OF 1848

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Abstract

The Italian-Albanian dictionary is a manuscript written in 1848. The author is the Franciscan priest Luca da Monte Giove who has served in Albania (Pult, Dukagjin) for about 20 years. The dictionary has the following order: It starts with the hand-made cover. Then, there follow three pages where Da Monte Giove writes a letter in Italian to the Archbishop G. Labella who had been appointed by Propaganda Fide to supervise the work for drafting the dictionary. In a separate page we can see the “approval” of the former Archbishop *dh: ɣ, ll: λ, th: ʃ, y: ɣ, z: c*. The main part of this dictionary (around 323 pages) is occupied by the wordlist. In the end of the *Work* there is an additional part of 8 pages marked with Roman numbers. The three first pages and four lines of the fourth one contain proper names of persons. The title of the following part is *The most common names of cities and nations*. The four last pages contain “Albanian Proverbs and Phrases” along with their respective translation into Albanian. The dictionary has more than ten thousand Albanian words. The alphabet used in the work of Monte Giove is similar to the one of Da Lecce, in other words it belongs with the traditional alphabets used by the old authors who wrote in Albanian. The inventory of the signs used contains 50 graphemes that stand for 50 phonemes used by the author to write the Albanian words. The five new letters used here are: In the analysis for the lexicon we notice that: The nouns are distinguished by the inflection, which is attached to the root in other cases. The adjectives are usually given in the neuter gender anticipated by the article “te”. The verbs are provided mostly in the infinitive form followed by and “I” or “a” and “va”. In the *grammar phenomena* we have analyzed the nouns, adjectives and especially the words who afford some interesting forms for the history of the Albanian language. The additional appendix is divided in three parts: *Proper names*. There is an array of 82 names of persons in alphabetical order. The second part bears the title *The most common names of cities and nations*. Here we have a total of 16 names of places. The third part bears the title: *Albanian proverbs or sentences*.

Keywords: **Ploteso fjalet kyce**