



The Digital Archive of the Matica Srpska Library: A Cultural Bridge Through Legal Documents



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Matica Srpska Library, Novi Sad, Serbia



Matica Srpska Library

- ❖ The oldest Serbian national library and the first public and scientific library of the Serbs
- ❖ Founded in Pest (Kingdom of Hungary) in 1826, it was established with the Matica Srpska Literary Society to preserve and spread Serbian culture throughout Europe
- ❖ It was relocated to Novi Sad in 1864





Tekelijanum, beginning of
20th century

❖ The Library was officially opened for its readers on August 14, 1838 „for the Slavic people of any language or origin, who are welcome to come and read the books”.

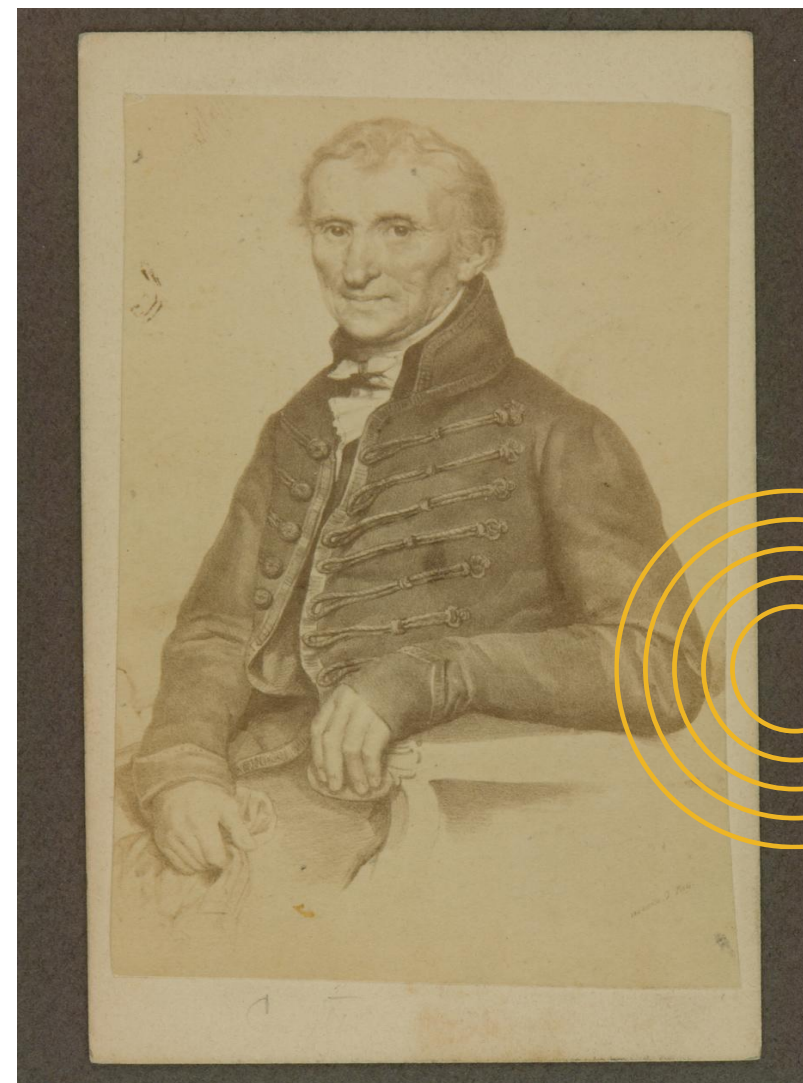
❖ It was situated in Tekelijanum, the institute supporting Serbian students in Pest.



Sava Popović Tekelija

(1761–1842)

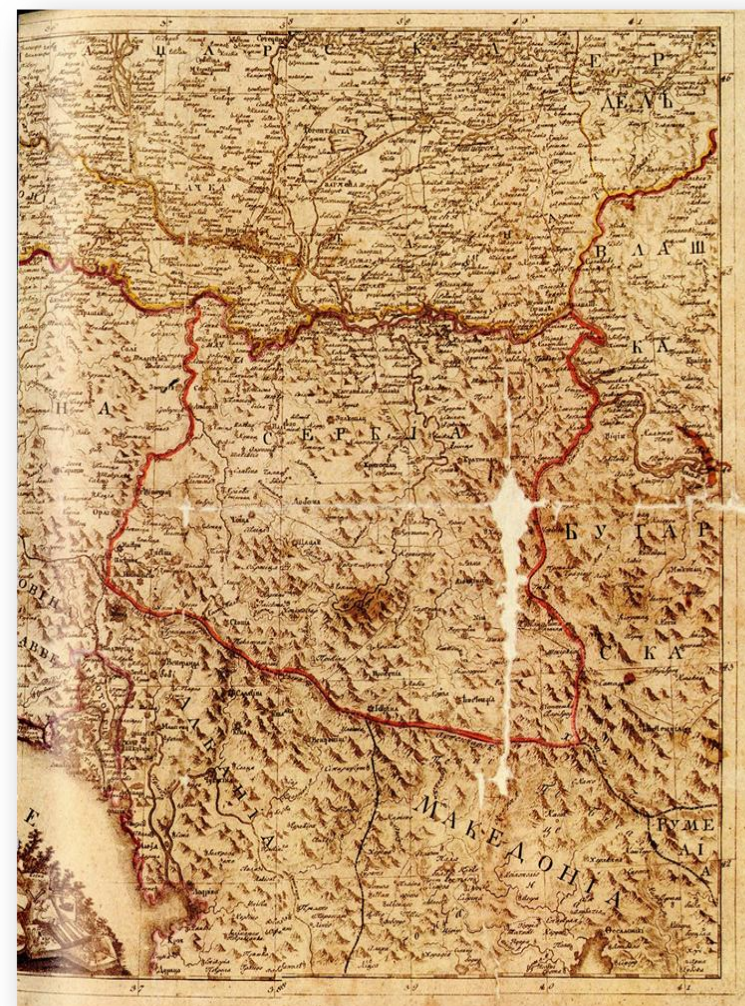
- ❖ Founder of Tekelijanum
 - ❖ Prominent nobleman, philanthropist and benefactor born in Arad (the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Reformed College in Debrecen)
 - ❖ President of Matica Srpska 1838-1842
- 



Sava Tekelija
A lithograph by Anastas Jovanović
from 1850

Education

- ❖ He attended Serbian school from 1767–1770, and Latin school in 1770.
- ❖ He was educated in Buda in 1775, where he attended poetry lectures.
- ❖ In Arad, he attended rhetoric lectures in 1777/78.
- ❖ In Buda, he attended philosophy, geometry, and drawing lectures in 1778/82.
- ❖ At the University of Vienna from 1780–1782, he studied law, physics, anatomy, drawing, botany, and chemistry, and learned to play the flute and master foreign languages—French, Italian, and Spanish.



A part of the geographical map that Tekelija printed in Vienna in 1805



Pierre Tököly
Maréchal de Camp
en Russie

grav. par Ant. Fischer.

DISSERTATIO
IVRIDICA
DE CAUSA,
ET
FINE CIVITATIS,
VNA CVM

POSITIONIBVS
EX VNIVERSA IURISPRVDENTIA,

QVAS
EXANTLATIS EX OMNI IVRE
RIGOROSIS EXAMINIBVS

ANNVENTE INCL. FACVLTA TE IVRIDICA
PRO CONSEQUENDA
DOCTORALI LAVREA
IN CELEBERRIMA
VNIVERSITATE PESTIENSI

PVBLCAE DISQVISITIONI SVBMITTIT
S A B B A T Ö K Ö L Y

DISPV TABITVR
IN PALATIO VNIVERSITATIS
DIE XXVI. MENSIS MAII MDCCCLXXXVII.

PESTINI,
EX OFFICINA IOSEPHI GODOFREDI LETTNER,
AD FORVM PISCIVM IN DOMO TERRENDIANA.

Doctoral Dissertation

- ❖ He enrolled in the Faculty of Law in Buda in 1782.
- ❖ Defended his doctoral dissertation in Latin, *O uzroku i cilju postojanja države* (On the Cause and Purpose of the State's Existence), and became the first Serb Doctor of Law.
- ❖ Published the dissertation in 1786.

Doctoral Dissertation

- ❖ 40 pages comprising 45 paragraphs
- ❖ In the first 29 paragraphs, Tekelija explains the questions concerning the cause and purpose of the state.
- ❖ He argues that the necessary condition for establishing and operating a society where people live in security and peace is the conclusion of a social contract for the purpose of submitting to a common authority.
- ❖ Tekelija explicitly rejected the notions that the cause of a state's creation was human dissatisfaction, natural instincts, or the will of God.
- ❖ Following that are theses from the “entire legal science”: natural law, general public law, international law, Roman law, civil law, criminal law, public ecclesiastical law, private ecclesiastical law, and Hungarian law.



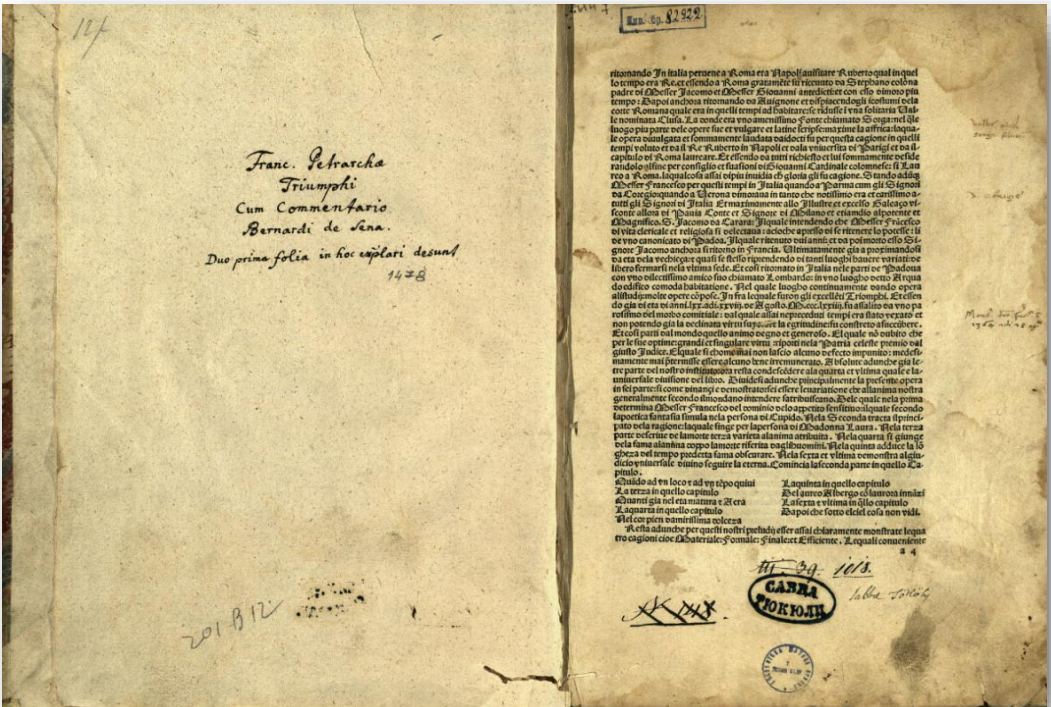
Tekelija's Library

Personal library counting 9.000 volumes of books in varios languages (Latin, Greek, French, German (Gothic script), Hungarian, and others) bestowed to Matica Srpska in 1843.

The oldest printed books in Tekelija's personal library and the Tekelijanum library consist of 2 incunabula—books printed up to the year 1500.



Bible printed in Basel in 1482



I Trionfi (The Triumphs) by Francesco Petrarca printed in Venice in 1478



Dušan's Code

- ❖ Stefan Dušan ruled Serbia from 1331 to 1355. His most significant legal achievement was Dušan's Code (Zakonik), the most important law of Serbia in the Middle Ages.
- ❖ The first part of the Code, which contained 135 articles, was promulgated in 1349. The second part, with 66 more articles, was adopted in 1354.
- ❖ The original Code has not been preserved, only copies remain.
- ❖ This copy from Tekelija's library was created at the beginning of 18th century.

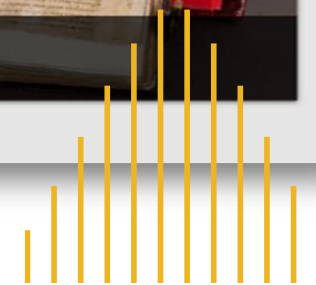
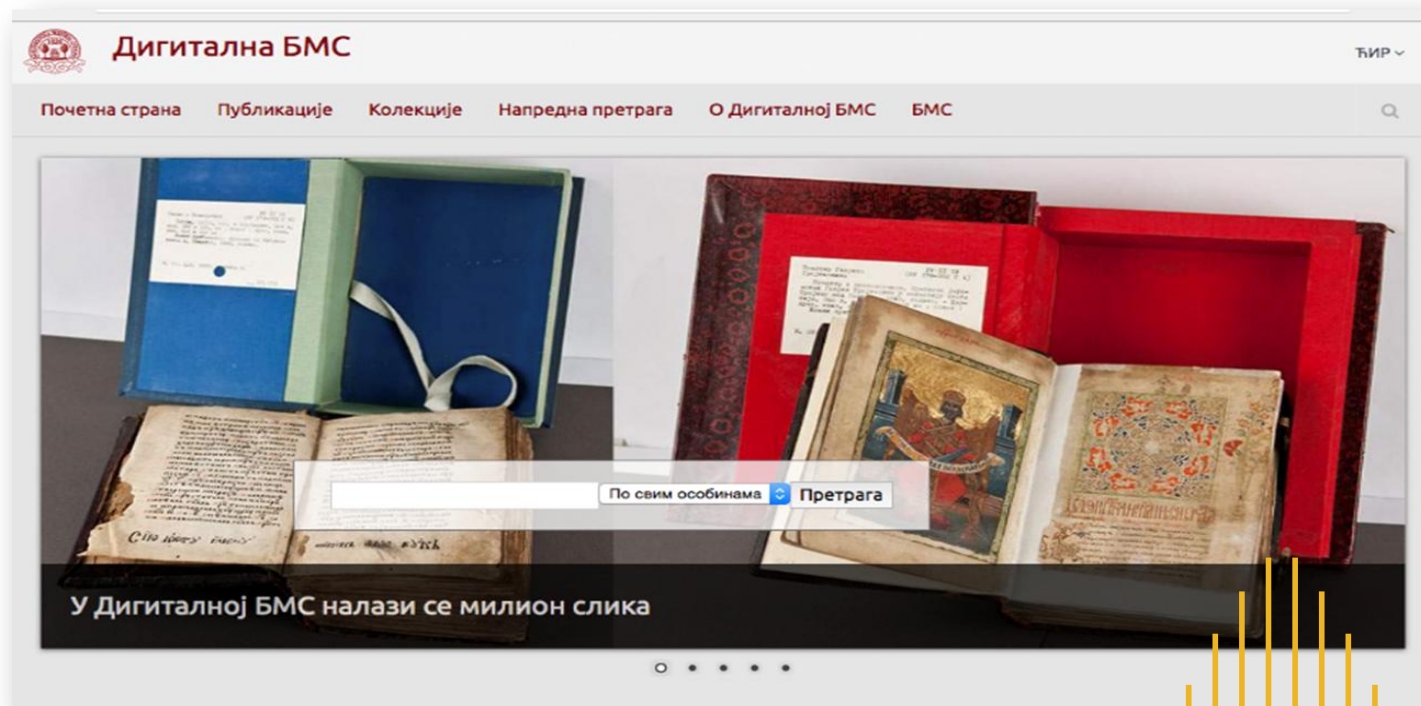
Digital Matica Srpska Library

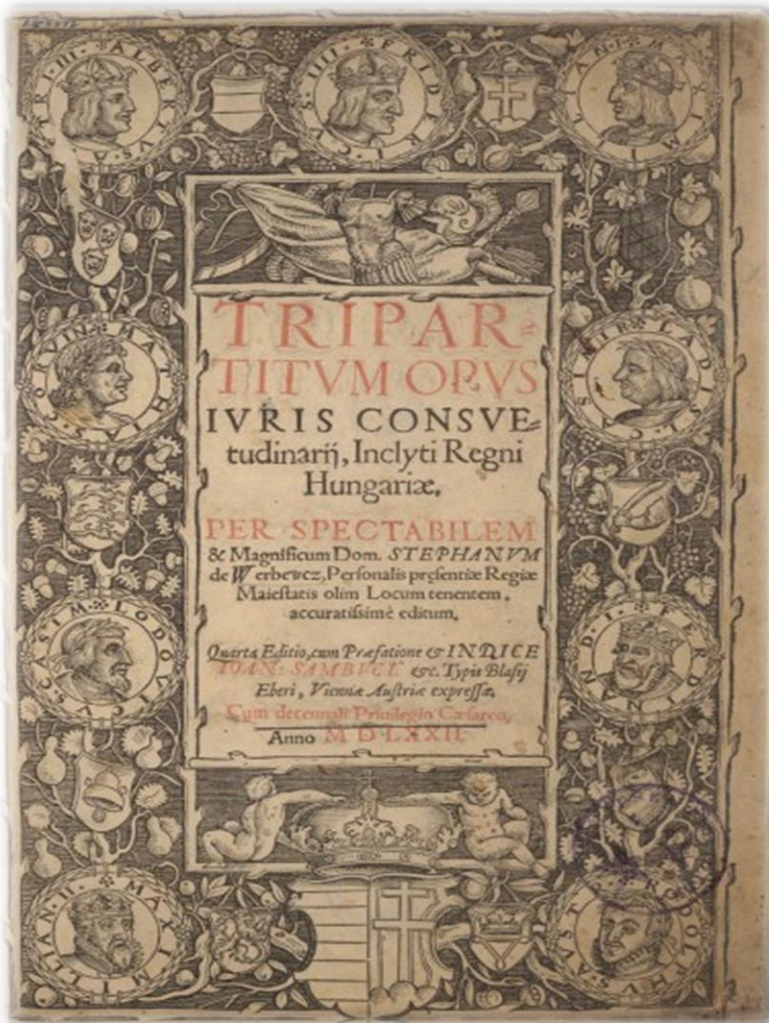
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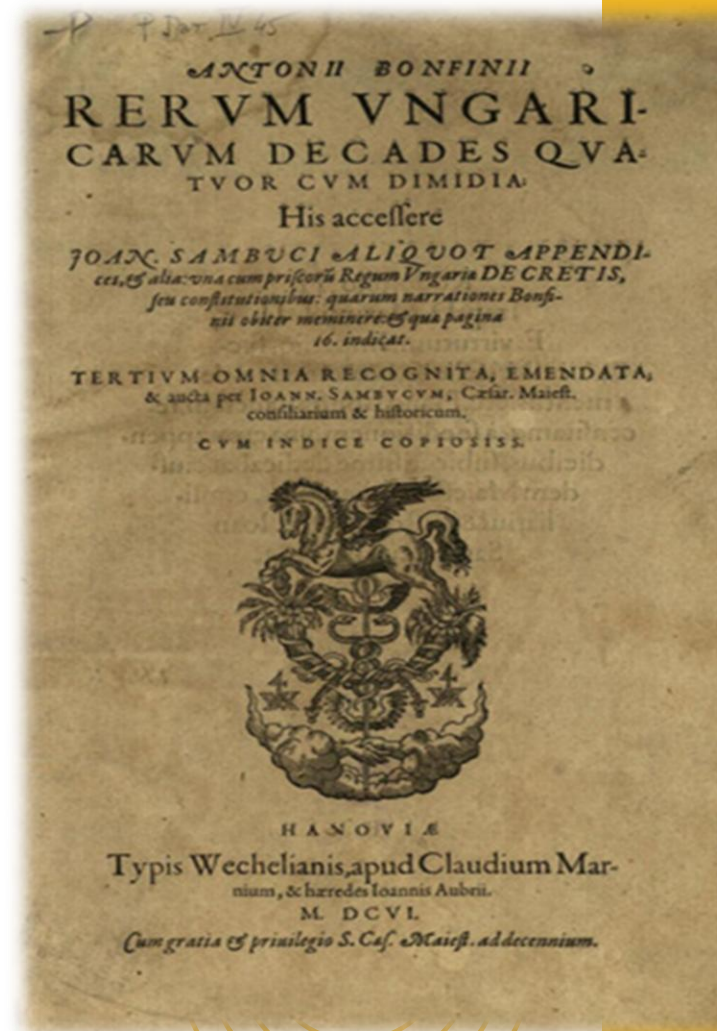
❖ All the illustrations in this presentation are from Digital Matica Srpska Library comprising around 40.000 publications

- ❖ Early books and manuscripts
- ❖ Periodicals
- ❖ Photographs and postcards
- ❖ Maps
- ❖ Art and Music scores





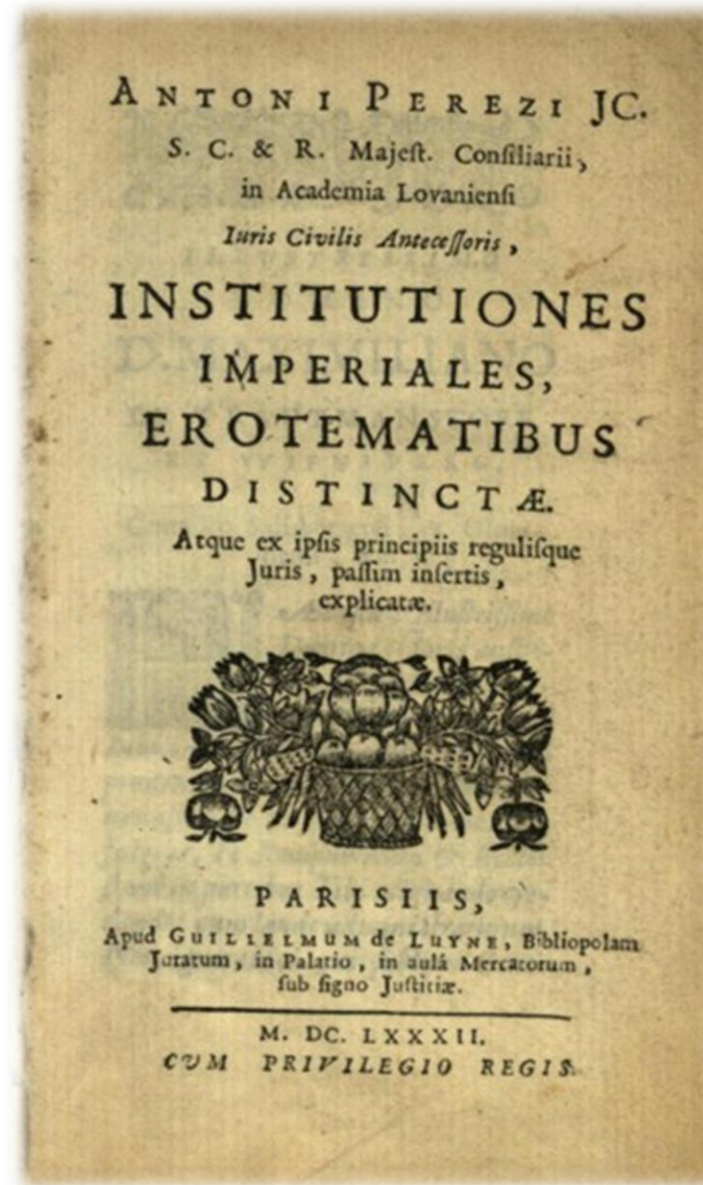
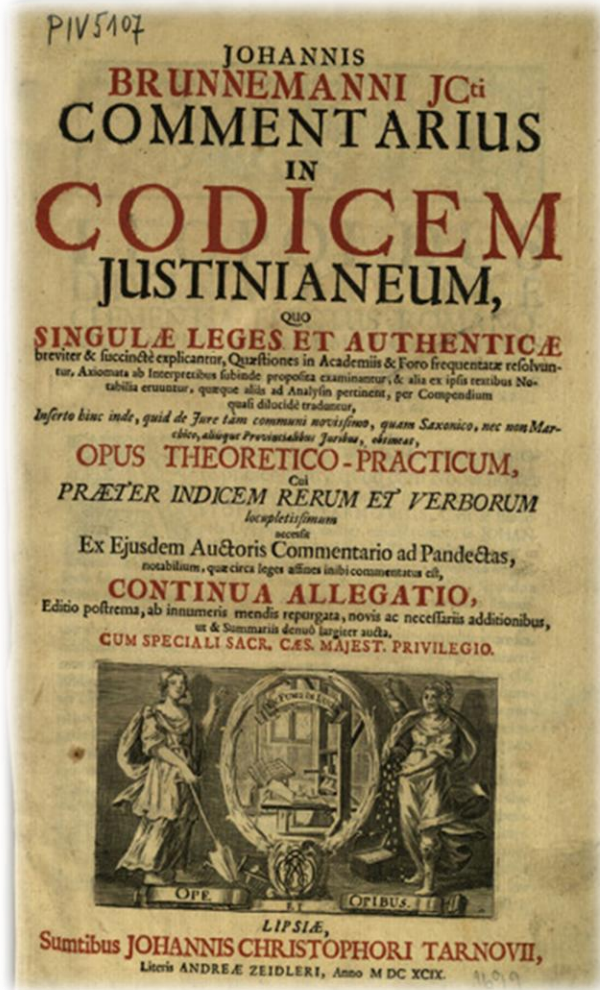
István Werbőczy's
Tripartitum - The Customary Law
of the Renowned Kingdom of
Hungary in Three Parts (1572)



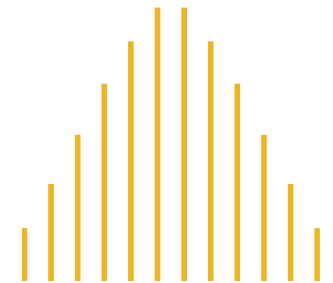
Four and a Half
Decades of Hungarian
Affairs by Antonio
Bonfini (1606)



A Commentary on
the Justinian Code
by Johannis
Brunnemanni
(1699)



Institutes of
Justinian by
Antonio Perez
(1682)





Claudii Ptolomaei Cosmographia
Ulm, 1482

Thank you!

谢谢

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