**DUBROVNIK IN THE 16TH CENTURY**

Dubrovnik experiences economic boom in the 16th century when the local people established successful trade links with the Ottoman Turks to whom they paid taxes in money and goods.They managed to retain their freedom, independence and benefits of free trading all around the Ottoman Empire. Freedom was considered as most important in Dubrovnik Republic. This small state used to have its own flag, coat of arms and army. Spain was the most important guardian of Dubrovnik's freedom while Venice was its biggest enemy.In 1667, there was a strong earthquake when many people died but that wasn't the only problem. The trade routes moved to the Atlantic after the discovery of America which had a negative impact on the local economy.The slogan and symbol of Dubrovnik Republic was Libertas which means freedom.

 **MARIN DRŽIĆ**

Marin Držić was born in Dubrovnik in 1508.He was nicknamed Vidra(otter) because he spent a lot of time in Rijeka dubrovačka (a small place close to Dubrovnik situated on the banks of the river). In 1538, he moved to Siena in Italy where he studied at the university and got acquanted with Italian theatre. In 1541 he became a rector of the university – Dominus Marinus Raugeus. He died in Venice in 1567 where he was also buried. His work was divided in three parts:

1. LIFE IN SIENA (1538 – 1542) – It was here that manu he got acquanted with modern Italian theatre.
2. LIFE IN DUBROVNIK (1542 – 1567) – He lived in poverty. He started writing dramas ordered by rich local people and organised theatre performances.It is in this period that he created his most popular works like Pomet, Tirena, Novela od Stanca, Dundo Maroje and Skup.
3. HIS FINAL YEARS (1562 – 1567) – He spent most of his time in Venice and also in Florence from where he sent conspirational letters to Tuscan ruler Cosim I Medici. In those letters he tried to persuade him to help him destroy local estate-owners.

His works were censured and most of them were printed in the 19th century.

  **DUNDO MAROJE**

Dundo Maroje is Držić's most popular and most performed work. The comedy demonstrates his Renaissance views presented in the character of the servant Pomet and his negative attitude towards the local authorities. It was written as an extension of his comedy Pomet which got lost. It wasn't published in his lifetime and the original manuscript was never found. The only work that was saved is incomplete transcript dating from the second part of the 16th century. The comedy was first performed in Dubrovnik in 1551. It contains two prologues and five acts.

After the introductory presentation negromant (the wizard) called Dugi Nos (Long Nose) announces the secret that will be presented in the comedy. He talks about his trip to Great India(land of magic), India Minor ( land where dwarfs lived and fought with cranes), New India (new continent) and Old India (heaven on earth).

This prologue contains the main idea and the message of the comedy. There are two groups of people 'nazbilj' who are gentle, quiet, reasonable and sophisticated and 'nahvao' who are jealous, unreasonable and punished by nothing.Prologue reveals author's interpretation of human psychology and destiny where we can recognize the ideas of humanistic and Renaissance views. According to it the humanistic idea of man is formed who has to deal with his divine nature presented as knowledge and his beastly nature presented as ignorance. It is through this idea that we can recognize Držić's presentation of extremes like intelligence and stupidity, wisdom and foolishness, 'nazbilj' people and 'nahvao' people.

In this comedy of characters and intrigue we can trace two dramatic lines and two relationships. These are

1. Servant Pomet who helps his master 'Ugo Tudeško' to seduce Laura, the prostitute. It actually presents the relationship between helpless masters and cunning servants.
2. Dundo Maroje who manages to get back his coins and outwit his wild son Maro. It actually presents the relationship between a stingy father and a wasteful son.

It is through these relationships that Držić depicts life as it was in Renaissance Dubrovnik presented through wild youth, stingy old people, strange new comers and foreigners, merchants and prostitutes.

The characters are classified in two groups, servants and masters.Bokčilo, Popiva, Petrunjela and Pomet are sevants while Dundo Maroje, Maro Marojev, Laura and Ugo Tudeščak are masters.

The comedy praises capable, clever, strong individuals and criticises those who are incompetent, wicked and ignorant.The secret announced at the beginning is revealed through the story in which the characters of the masters are presented as 'nahvao' people.

POMET – Of all the characters Pomet is the only one who is self-confident, intelligent and gifted individual (virtuoso) who knows only too well how to take full advantage of the mistakes made by the others. Pomet is certainly one of the most interesting characters of Croatian literature and a perfect example of the complete personality with both positive and negative features.

**CHARACTERS**

Dundo Maroje – a stingy, old man, a merchant who has a completely different attitude towards life from his son, the reason why the two of them don't get on very well. He thinks that saving money is all that matters , that you should be modest and he considers any luxury a sin. However, father's love for his son seems to be stronger and more important than anything else and he ends up leaving all his inheritance to him.

Bokčilo – Maroje's servant, assistant and adviser who keeps talking about Maroje's stinginess.

Maro Marojev – wild and wasteful young man. The minute he gets gold coins from his father he decides to spend them on comfortable life and women. He is thoughtless, doesn't have serious life plans about how to earn money and start a family, enjoys the present moment and lives wasteful life. His father gets him down to the earth, Maro decides to listen to him and leaves the world of fantasy where he used to be free and relaxed. His life motto is ''Money is to be spent''.

Popiva – Maro's servant who does everything to help his master although he tries to take adventage of the circumstances.

Laura – a wealthy lady who came from Croatia. Pomet finds out that her original name was Mandalijana Tudešak and he earns a lot of money for this information. Laura seems to be in love with Maro but she actually loves luxury and wealth he provides to her spending his father's money.

Petrunjela – Laura's servant who like all the other characters is insincere and helps her mistress although she always thinks of her own interests as well.

Ugo Tudešak – he is in love with Laura, becomes her husband at the end of the story and is ready to do anything for love.

Pomet – he is the main character in the comedy. He is hedonistic and finds pleasure in life. He thinks that you should seize the day because you cannot turn back the clock. He is always in a good mood and his life motto is ''Don't worry, be happy''. He's lazy, greedy and very resourceful. Although he's only a servant, he is wise, clever and witty which makes him unique. He is dominant and has control over the others including those who belong to high society.