

MICHIEL DE VAAN

Old Albanian

Introduction – Part 2: Authors and Texts

Roadmap

- Preliterary fragments
- Buzuku
- Budi
- Bardhi
- Bogdani
- Da Lecce
- Matranga
- Variboba

Preliterary fragments

Baptismal formula, 1462:

Unte paghesont premenit Atit et birit et spertit senit

'I baptise you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit'

MoAlb.:

unë të pagëzoj për emrit të atit e
I you baptise in name ART father.GEN and
të birit e të shpirtit shenjtë
ART son.GEN and ART spirit.GEN holy

Preliterary fragments

The vocabulary of Arnold von Harff, 1497:

von Harff	meaning	Modern Geg
<i>vene</i>	wine	<i>vêné</i>
<i>dreck</i>	devil	<i>dreq</i>
<i>kale</i>	horse	<i>kalë</i>
<i>pesa</i>	five	<i>pêsë</i>

Preliterary fragments

The Easter Gospel, ca. 1500

line 10:

ατα πραθον(ε) λαουσι(τ) σε ουν γκρε σευδεκου(ριτ)

Phonological interpretation:

ata pra thonë llausit se u ngre së vdekurit
they then say people.DAT that REFL rise.AOR.3SG LINK dead.ABL.SG
'They then say to the people that he rose from the dead'

Gjon Buzuku

Meshari (1555) ‘Missal’

- Liturgical manual for Catholic priests, translated from Latin
- Oldest book in Albanian
- Language more archaic than later texts
- Northwest Geg dialect

The spelling of Buzuku

Uses a contemporary North Italian script, plus some additional signs from Bosančica, that is, Bosnian Cyrillic as used on the Dalmatian coast:

- <ž> for /θ/ <th> and /ð/ <dh>
- <Σ> for /ts/ <c> and <ΣΣ> for /tʃ/ <ç>
- <ε> for /z/ <z>, /dz/ <x> and /dʒ/ <xh>
- <ħ> for /c/ <q>, /f/ <gj> and /g/ <g>

The spelling of Buzuku

Underspecification:

- <u> can render /y/ and /u/
- <ë> can render /y/ or /u/
- <e> can render /e/ or /ə/ <ë>

The spelling of Buzuku

Long vowels are written with digraphs, aa = /ā/, etc.

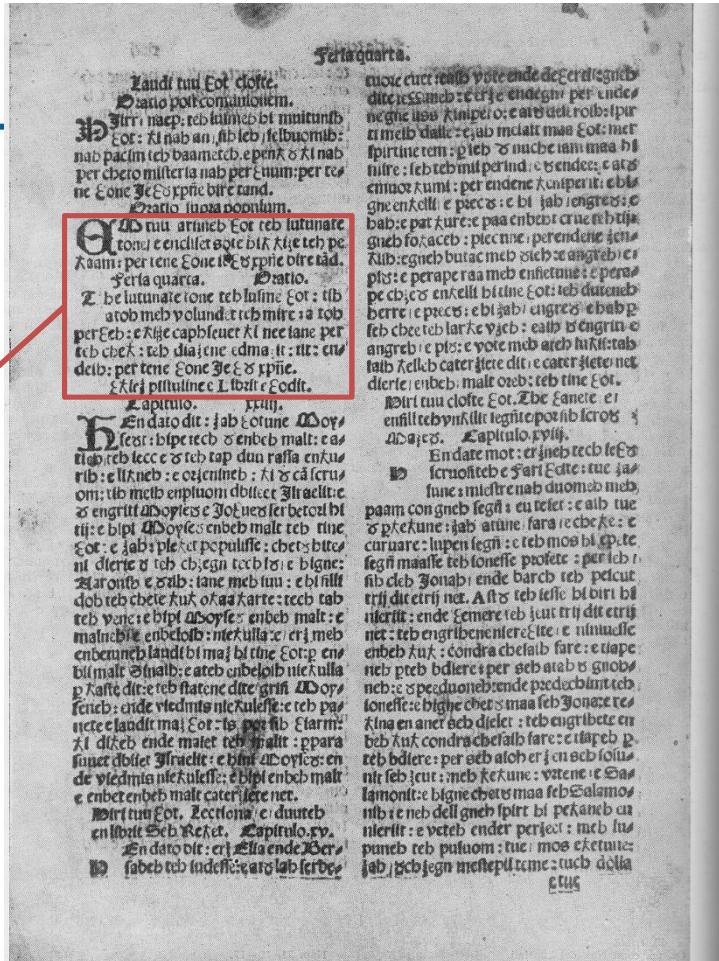
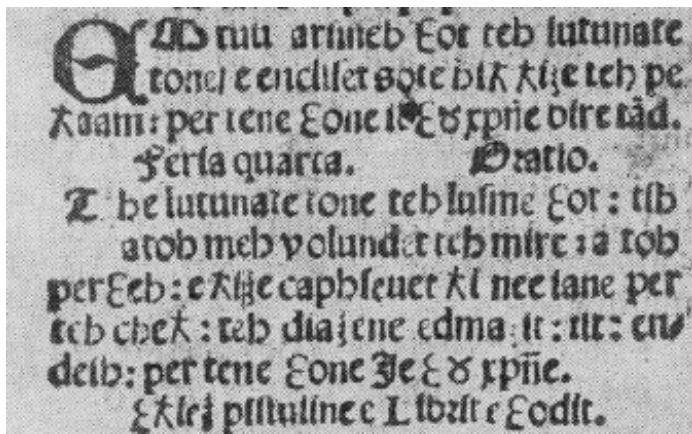
Exx. *chaa* = /kā/ 'has' PRS.3SG, *bdiim* = /bdīm/ 'to keep watch'

Short vowels are written as <V>, often <-Vh> word-finally:

do = /do/ 'he wants', *pueti*, *puetih* = /pyeti/ 'he asked' AOR.3SG

Gjon Buzuku

Facsimile of p.126 of the *Meshari*



Pjetër Budi

Catholic bishop in northern Albania, Geg dialect.

Three works in Albanian:

- *Dottrina Christiana* (1618)
- *Rituale Romanum* (1621)
- *Speculum Confessionis* (1621)

Mainly translations from Latin and Italian,
but also original poetry in Albanian

The spelling of Budi

B. Budi's spelling is more in line with Italian than Buzuku's, but he keeps 3 Cyrillic letters :

<Ѣ> for /ð/	<y> for /j/
<ѢѢ> for /θ/	<g> or <gi> for /tʃ/
<Ѥ> for /z/	<ch> or <chi> for /c/
<Ѧ> for /y/	<z> for /ts/, <c> for /tʃ/
	<z> for /dz/, <gi> for /dʒ/
	<sc(i)> for /ʃ/, <x> for /ʒ/

Pjetër Budi

facsimile of p.187v
of *Dottrina Christiana*

Maapare Giarpnis.

TVizzane oifij,
Giarpene chiofsc malecuom,
Chraut&rescitez mij,
Chi une cam chrij iuom .
Gizemotne chiofsc detuor,
Meu hiccune rreschiane,
Perzec me chrahanuor,
Ezeene mee ngrane.

Nde perveperate tij ,
Nde zeene emalecoi ,
Eme faa cundrestij ,
Giellene iapermettoy .

Maapare Giarpnis.

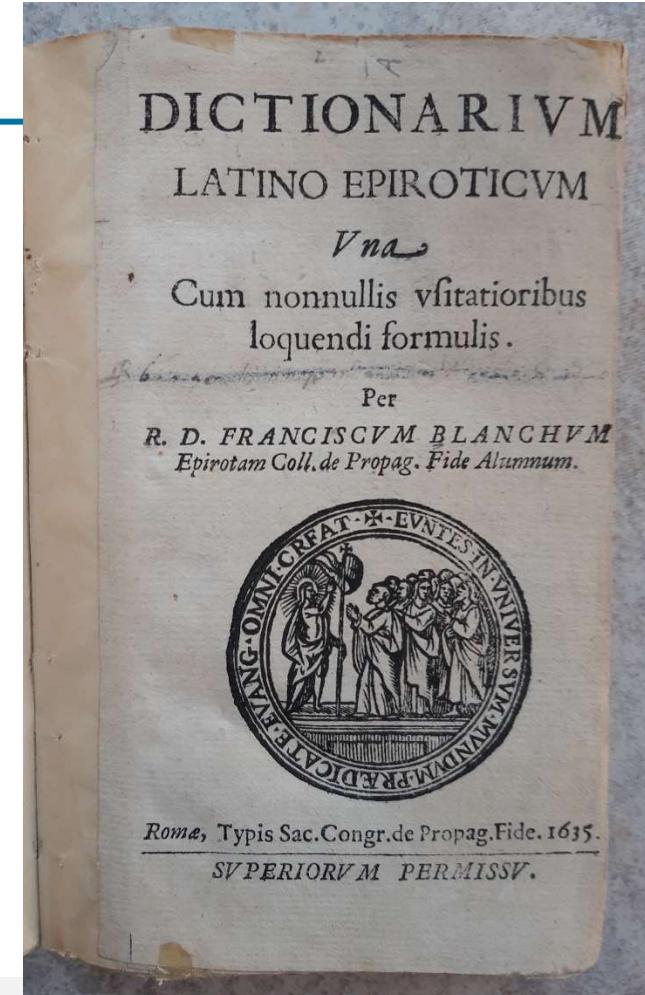
TVizzane oifij,
Giarpene chiofsc malecuom,
Chraut&rescitez mij ,
Chi une cam chrij iuom .
Gizemotne chiofsc detuor,
Meu hiccune rreschiane,
Perzec me chrahanuor,
Ezeene mee ngrane.
Chiofse anemichiesij ,
Eforzuome nderiu ,
Aschu sigizze nierij ,
Te vrafscine gure endru .
Gizze motne tu pergiuom ,
Nierijne mee fane ,
Eay tue pergiuom leftuom ,
Chi giaall memoste lane .
Ndeectone at& nk^zey ,
Evesse eiy ligieroiy ,
Chi urzene ecaperzeiy ,
Embe menij etrafoiy .

Tui-

Frang Bardhi

Dictionarium latino-epiroticum (1635)

- Latin-Albanian dictionary, plus proverbs
- Geg dialect
- Includes a “Bluff your way into Albanian” for travellers, incl. Turkish phrases



Old Albanian – Introduction, Part 2

Frang Bardhi, some travel phrases:

Mirese erxe michoo.

= Mirë se erdhe, mik-ō.

'Welcome, friend.'

Aaste cheio uxa ghi ve n Cruu?

= A âshtë këjo udha qì ve n Krū?

'Is this the road going to Kruja?'

Iò vellaa eharuechee largh.

= Jo, vëllā, e harruekē larg.

'No, brother, you have erred far.'

Frang Bardhi, some more travel phrases

Cu ve vellaa hoi? Oò qu ve ò i Arbenesce

= Ku ve vellā oj? O: Ku ve, o i Arbëreshë?

'Where do you go, oh brother?' Or: 'Where are you going, Albanian?'

Prei stamboli ndepelchiefte tine εot ghi aste mbi Ghielt.

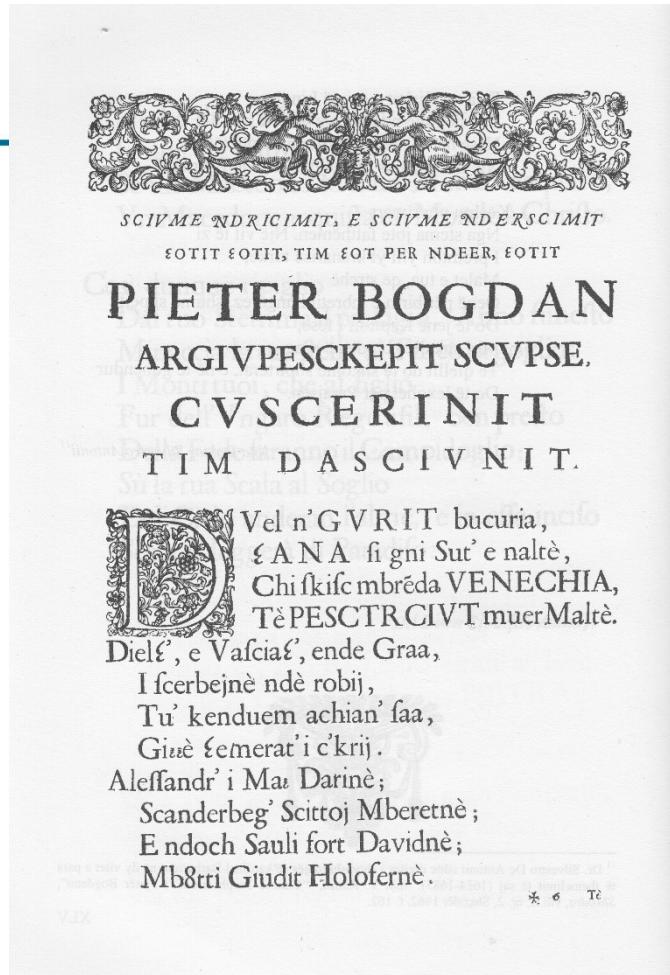
= Prej Stambolli ndë pëlqeftë Tine Zot qi âshtë mbi qieellt.

'To Istanbul, if it please Our Lord who is in heaven.'

Pjetër Bogdani

Cuneus Prophetarum (1685)
'Band of Prophets'

- Archbishop of Skopje
- Eastern Geg dialect
- First fully literary creation in Albanian
- incl. Italian translation



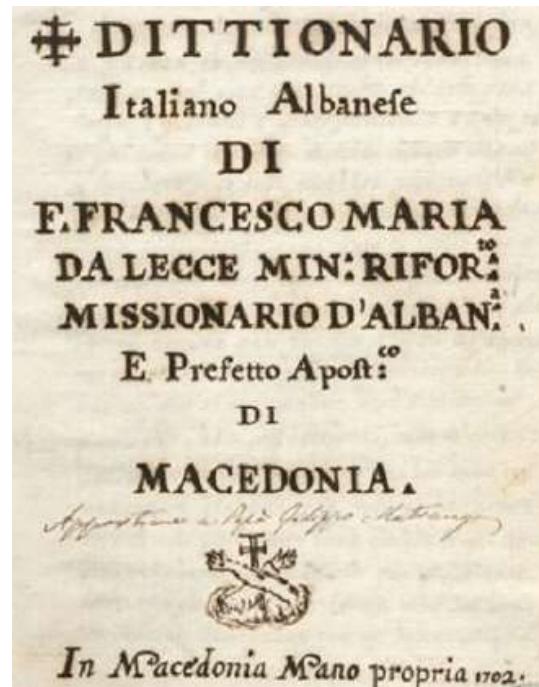
The spelling of Bogdani

Bogdani's alphabet is even more aligned with Italian:

<Ѣ> for /ð/	<ꙗ> for /j/
<ѢѢ> for /θ/	<ꙗꙗ> for /g/
<Ѩ> for /z/	<ꙗ> or <ꙗи> for /ʒ/
<Ѩ> for /y/	<ѿ> or <ѿи> for /c/
<Ѩ> or <Ѩи> for /ə/	<ѿ> for /ts/, <ѿи> for /tʃ/
	<ѿ> for /dz/, <ѿи> for /dʒ/
	<ѿи> for /ʃ/

Da Lecce, the first linguist

- Francesco M. da Lecce
- Italian-Albanian dictionary (ms. 1702, published 2009)



Schippetaarit.
 Ketë dictionaar, oh Schippetaanitdakjum,
 e akteua, io per coti q' tande chi di maa
 fort, se unaj, uec per ueche, chi iam per se-
 laigu, e giuhene e schippetareuet e kam po-
 sogni cufue te huoi. E pese dicesia, se cu
 u larguem, piei iuse, laigdhet piei meie kio
 giuha: prata lestoua me riestitune nde-
 sorie fialere, chi tuna nder iu. Nde mos e
 paicia uum mite, po te lute, per te miettar,
 mos m'sciaa: se aq' une chiesia cuur kare giu-
 he: po per sja patu fuchijn, e dijen de' ceioua
 me mare gchapin e giuhese stundige iu. E
 nde chiosse ti chi candon ketë Dictionaar
 ie piei take, as ti, ob beccuemi, mos m'chiesc:
 per se ti e di uet, vaa festy'r na bie' neue, me
 nkezzem giuhene cane, mbe giuhe r'arbez-
 ne. E nde pac paam cund iericia loria kez

Da Lecce

- *Osservazioni Grammaticali Nella Lingua Albanese* (1716)
- First published grammar of Albanian



Annotationi delle Lettere particolari.

- I.  Questa figura ha valore di *d*, e deve pronunziarsi con la lingua tra denti v. g. *fjet*, cioè, dieci, numero.
- II.  Questa figura, benchè appaja la medesima con quella di sopra: essendo però radoppiata acquista il suo valore, di *sira* greco, o arabo: e deve pronunziarsi come la lettera *s*, italiana, morsicata però tra denti, acciò facci altro suono, e per conseguenza altro significato, come *ffrom*, dico.
- III.  Questa figura appare, che sia numero, e pure ne caratteri albanesi è una vocale: il suo valore naturale si è
A del-

Pronomi Possessivi ..

Sing.	<i>Il Mio.</i>	<i>La Mia.</i>	<i>La Cofa mia.</i>
<i>N. senz art.</i>	<i>Em. Mio.</i>	<i>Eme . Mia.</i>	<i>Tem . Cofa mia.</i>
<i>N. coll'art.</i>	<i>Emi il Mio.</i>	<i>Emëja . la Mia.</i>	<i>Temte . la Cofa mia.</i>
<i>G. Timit.</i>	<i>del Mio.</i>	<i>Simefe . della Mia.</i>	<i>Tim . della Cofa &c</i>
<i>D. Timit.</i>	<i>al Mio.</i>	<i>Simefe . alla Mia.</i>	<i>Tim . alla Cofa mia.</i>
<i>A. Temen.</i>	<i>il Mio.</i>	<i>Temeñe . la Mia.</i>	<i>Temte . la Cofa mia.</i>
<i>V. ò Em.</i>	<i>ò Mio.</i>	<i>ò Eme . ò Mia.</i>	<i>ò Tem . ò Cofa mia.</i>
<i>Abl.</i>	<i>prei Simi, t.</i>	<i>Prei fine, vel prei dal mio.</i>	<i>Prei Simi dalla Cofa mia .</i>

M.

Plur.	<i>Li Miei.</i>	<i>Le Mie.</i>
<i>N. senz art.</i>	<i>Temii.</i>	<i>Mici .</i>
<i>N. coll'art.</i>	<i>Temiite.</i>	<i>li Mici</i>
<i>Gen.</i>	<i>Temivet.</i>	<i>delli Mici</i>
<i>Dat.</i>	<i>Temivet.</i>	<i>alli Mici</i>
<i>Acc.</i>	<i>Temite.</i>	<i>li Mici.</i>
<i>Voc.</i>	<i>ò Temii.</i>	<i>ò Mici.</i>
<i>Abl.</i>	<i>prei semiisci , t. dalli.</i>	<i>prei Semijase, vel, it. dalle, Mici .</i>

F.

Plur.	<i>Li Miei.</i>	<i>Le Mie.</i>
<i>N. senz art.</i>	<i>Temija .</i>	<i>Mie .</i>
<i>N. coll'art.</i>	<i>Temijat .</i>	<i>le Mie .</i>
<i>Gen.</i>	<i>Temijavet .</i>	<i>delle Mie .</i>
<i>Dat.</i>	<i>Temijavet .</i>	<i>alle Mie .</i>
<i>Acc.</i>	<i>Temijat .</i>	<i>le Mie .</i>
<i>Voc.</i>	<i>ò Temija .</i>	<i>ò Mie .</i>
<i>Abl.</i>	<i>prei Semijase, vel, it. dalle, Mie .</i>	<i>prei Semijase, vel, it. dalle, Mie .</i>

Il Plurale del Neutro come del Feminino .

Sing.	<i>Il Tuo.</i>	<i>La Tua.</i>	<i>La Cofa tua.</i>
<i>N. senz art.</i>	<i>Iote .</i>	<i>Tua .</i>	<i>Tat . Cofa tua.</i>
<i>N. coll'art.</i>	<i>Iotiia .</i>	<i>la Tua .</i>	<i>Tatt . la Cofa tua .</i>
<i>G. Tit.</i>	<i>del Tuo .</i>	<i>della Tua</i>	<i>Titt . della Cofa tua</i>
		<i>State .</i>	<i>Titt .</i>
		<i>State .</i>	<i>D 2 Titt .</i>

Luca Matranga

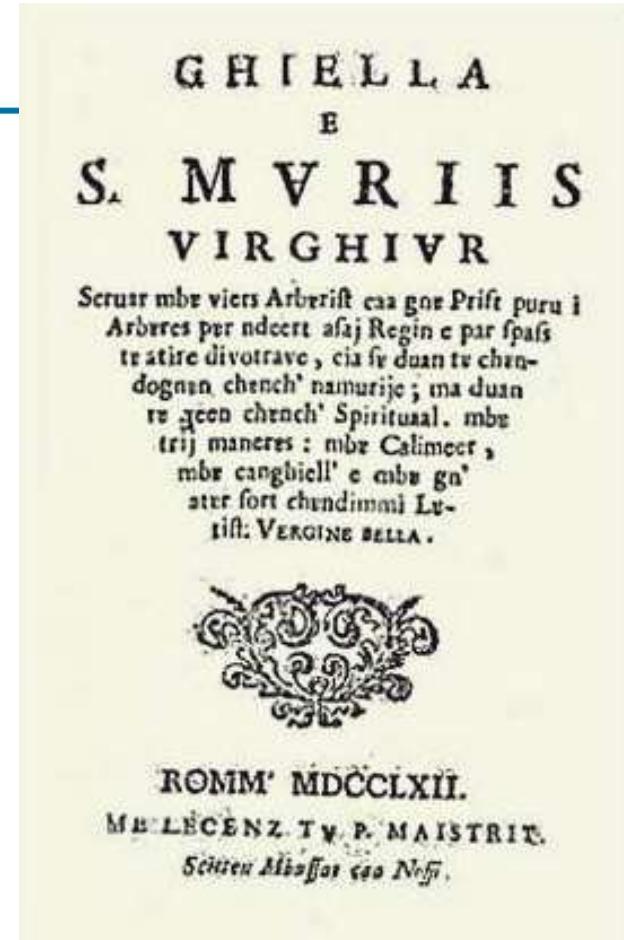
- *E mbsuame e kreshterë ‘Dottrina Christiana’ (1592)*
- Translated from Italian into Siculo-Albanian (Tosk).

Sample phrase:

original	cú i dá inazót cætá tæ diétæ úrdær? pærpára ndǽ nómt tæ viétær é pastái...
translit.	<i>Ku i dha inëzot këta të dhjetë urdhër? Përpara ndë nomt të vjetër e pastaj...</i>
English	Where did Our Lord give these 10 commandments? First in the Old Law and then...

Giulio Variboba

- *Ghiella e Shën Mëriis Virghiër*
'The life of the Virgin St. Mary' (1762)
- Poem in Arbëresh dialect from Calabria



Faleminderit për vëmendjen tuaj!

Thank you for your attention!