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*Sibe Miličić's Viennese doctorate: an addition to the biography*

*Summary*

The starting point for this article is the doctoral thesis entitled “Die inhaltlichen und formellen Unterschiede zwischen Leopardis Primi Idilli und Grandi Idilli” presented by Josip Sibe Miličić (1866-1944) to the Faculty of Arts of the University of Vienna, where the author read both Romance and Slavonic studies, and where he gained his doctoral degree in 1913. The aim of this paper is to present and analyse the thesis, both in terms of its form and its content, in order to highlight the reasons for young Miličić's choice of subject, his approach to Leopardi's poetic works, and, lastly, the critical skills with which he examines the academic literature on the Italian poet. Despite being drafted on the standard model for academic texts of the early 20th century and compilatory in style, the thesis displays its author's poetic bent in its exposition of the themes central to the Italian poet's work, themes which would guide Miličić as translator of Leopardi and which would mark some of his own literary leitmotifs. Furthermore, treating, as it does, a hitherto unknown manuscript, we may consider this paper a further step towards a complete biography of Miličić.

*Keywords:* Sibe Miličić, Giacomo Leopardi, doctoral thesis, Idylls, youth, nature, pessimism.