

*The Hagiographic Quality of Serbian Alexander Romance  
and Barlaam and Joasaph*

*Summary*

The analyzed works have been adapted to the hagiographic canon in different ways. Adjusting to the implicitly prescribed scheme is the fundamental manner in which a prose text becomes acceptable to the prevailing discourse. The characters are shaped after the heroes of hagiographies. In the Hagiography of *Barlaam and Joasaph* the basic plot is dramatized following the form of martyrology and the worthiness of the anchorite life is re-emphasized. The relation between the secular and spiritual spheres of being is resolved in line with the Indian and Christian traditions. *Serbian Alexander Romance* retains a “seed” of historicity, which is indicated by the fact that Alexander can never become a saint, he is not entirely allowed to cross over into the Christian paradigm.

*Keywords:* Serbian Alexander Romance, Barlaam and Joasaph, hagiography, genre, Christianization.