



Bulletin

ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES NO. 24 New London, Connecticut October 1993

PERSPECTIVES ON CROATIAN STUDIES

Ivo Banac

Another year has passed, and it cannot be claimed that the English-speaking world profitted from new and particularly insightful studies on the various aspects of Croatian history, culture, and current developments. One reason for this dearth of qualified information is the absence of a critical mass of researchers, notably researchers trained in this country and conversant with modern methodologies. That is why a handful of us who teach in research universities must be mindful of our duty to train young specialists in Croatian studies.

This year's ACS program in Honolulu is a departure from our usual pattern. We are not depending on panelists from Zagreb. Instead, we want to provide a platform for new and fresh faces of our graduate students and young faculty, who have not always received the support and encouragement they deserve. With that in mind, too, we publish a few research notes by some of our younger members who have crisscrossed Europe from Rome to Moscow and from Vienna to Zagreb and Zadar in their pursuit of research topics in Croatian studies. And we continue to make new contacts: two respected Russian Croatologists, Natalija Vagapova and her son, Sergej Romanenko, have recently joined the ACS.

When I say that real researchers receive no sufficient support, I mean literally that the initial steps taken by various Zagreb organizations since the independence have not been encouraging. Of course, the war is still going on, but there seems to be money for various ill-conceived meetings whose growing number contributes to a declining sense of unease about pseudoscholarship. An exception to this trend has been the interest in new projects characteristic of the revitalised Institute for Contemporary History, whose staff includes our old member Dr. Jure Krišto. Professor Elinor M. Despalatović and I recently had several meetings in Zagreb with Dr. Mirko Valentić, the director of the Institute, and Dr. Krišto, who edits the Institute's journal, *Časopis za suvremenu povijest*. We agreed on several important initiatives, including the Institute's collective membership in our association. We hope that this is the beginning of a long and fruitful co-operation.

INSTITUT ZA SUVREMENU POVIJEST

(Institute of Contemporary History)

Mirko Valentić

Today's Institut za suvremenu povijest (Institute of Contemporary History) was founded thirty-two years ago, in 1961, in Zagreb, as Institut za historiju radnickog pokreta Hrvatske (Croatian Institute for History of the Worker's Movement). From the beginning, the Institute encouraged research in fundamental issues and problems of national and world history so that gradually the name of the Institute became too narrow a frame for its activity. The broader orientation of the Institute was reflected in its programs, staffing, and its publications. The change of name, in 1990, to Institut za suvremenu povijest, was thus the logical consequence of its development and growth. There is no doubt

that the crisis of communism in Yugoslavia and the attendant democratisation of public life made the change of name inescapable and natural.

The founder of the Institute and its first director was Franjo Tujman (1961-1967), followed by Dušan Bilandžić (1967-1969), Zlatko Čepo (1969-1986), and Zorica Stipetić (1986-1991). The present director of the Institute is Mirko Valentić, elected to the post in 1991.

The Institute has already made a significant contribution to the historical sciences in Croatia in the form of a large body of monographs, studies both analytical and synthetic, and papers on a variety of topics. Most of the papers, project proposals, reports, and biographical and chronological items have been published in the Institute's own journals, *Časopis za suvremenu povijest* (The Journal of Modern History), published since 1969, and *Povijesni prilozi* (Contributions to the Study of History), published since 1982.

History of Croatia in the 19th and 20th centuries has been the focus of the Institute's activity. But the Institute does not, indeed cannot, define itself so narrowly. Therefore its activity will reach into the earlier periods of Croatian history. There is already, for example, research going on in the history of Wallachians in the Balkans and in Croatia, as well as a large project on the history of Croatian Military Frontier.

A new name also meant a new agenda. The Institute in 1990 defined the following projects to be pursued by the teams of its researchers:

1. The Military Frontier - sources and studies (16th to 19th cent.)
2. Social classes and religious communities in Croatia, 1848-1918.
3. Croatian society in the Kingdom of the Serbs, the Croats, and the Slovenes.
4. Demographic losses in Croatia during WW II.

5. Development of CP monopoly of power in Croatia, 1945-1952.
6. "The Croatian Question" in Yugoslav foreign policy, 1943-1948.
7. Wallachians - the mystery people of the Balkans.
8. Croats in the German Wehrmacht 1941-1945, and the mutiny of Croatian troops in France in 1943.

The Institute is also sponsoring two large research projects:

1. Croatian political thought and party activity until 1918.
2. The Ustasha movement and the Independent State of Croatia (NDH).

Today the Institute has 34 members: 11 of them are holders of PhDs, and 15 are MAs. About ten external collaborators are also engaged in research of above mentioned topics, several of whom contribute from abroad.

The Institute has a tradition on collaboration with historians abroad, especially in the USA. Our new membership in the ACS is an acknowledgement of this relationship. Until now, cooperation has been the matter of individual arrangements. We hope that we may now begin institutional cooperation.

ZAGREB ARCHIVES

W.B. Tomljanovich

When I returned from Zagreb one month ago, many of my American colleagues who have no direct contact with Croatia were surprised to hear that I had been able to conduct archival research there last year. Despite all difficulties the archives were not only open, but functioning quite well.

The few problems encountered were refreshingly routine, mundane, and not unusual for archives anywhere.

As I had a full academic year with which to work, I had the luxury of not only searching for documents in those collections where I expected to find material, but I was also able to go through other funds. So I became familiar with the systems under which the various archives in Zagreb operate. As the topic of my research was Bishop Strossmayer, I worked primarily in the archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. I also used the collections of the Archives of Croatia, the Archives of the University and National Library as well as the other holdings of the latter. Unlike elsewhere in Europe, all of the main wings of the library are open well past the traditional early afternoon closing times of archives, and long work days are possible for anyone conducting historical research.

For my purposes the collections at the Croatian Academy were the most extensive and easiest to use. The thousands of pages of correspondence to and from Strossmayer are all contained in one large bookshelf, and organized quite simply: first by author or addressee, and then chronologically. Other important nineteenth- and twentieth-century funds are organized similarly, and the names of all authors in all such collections are listed in a card catalogue. The system is not particularly sophisticated, and this is precisely why documents are so easy to find. The Academy is also fortunate in having a staff who know collections well and are exceptionally willing to go out of their way to help search for documents.

Another advantage of working at the Academy's archives is that one is usually reading alone. Archival holdings, especially those of Cyrillic and Glagolitic manuscripts are extensive but very few people actually use them. Given the size of the already busy staff and the four-seat reading room, it is probably a good thing. Another surprise, given the value of the collections, is how appallingly poorly

protected the documents are. Older collections warrant placement in small and antiquated vaults, while others, including Strossmayer's letters, are simply stored in bookshelves protected only by lock and skeleton key. This in itself might not be a problem were the archive itself more securely situated. It is, however, located on the the first floor of a somewhat decaying building, across the street from the Academy itself and next door to police headquarters, on a block where unexpected damage to buildings is not unheard of, and attempts at inflicting such damage continued last year. The archive could well use more solid vaults and better security. While correcting these problems may very well be prohibitively expensive, purchasing a functioning photocopy machine is probably still well within the means of the Academy.

The Archive of the University and National Library is organized with an old cataloguing system which is only slightly more complicated than that of the Academy. The collection of manuscripts is extensive, interesting and well-frequented. In fact there are too many readers for its limited space. The rather short hours of business probably contribute to overcrowding, but on days in which well-known senior scholars decide to work late, the archive operates well past one in the afternoon.

The Archive of Croatia is in most respects comparable to any other archive of its size. In general things function smoothly, and many of the catalogues of individual collections are a great deal more helpful than I ever expected. However, because of the magnitude of its holdings, catalogues are frequently missing, and extensive searches for documents often come up empty. A problem specific to anyone researching the Croatian nineteenth century is that many governmental records were rather quickly divided between Vienna and Zagreb, so that one is never sure what exists in which archives. It would be quite helpful if the "diaspora"

of documents which followed the dissolution of the empire were catalogued with clarity and precision.

I was also pleasantly surprised with the library itself. Only rarely were items missing or miscatalogued. Having been fortunate enough to use the professor's reading room, I never had to wait to use the library, but the students who read in the large reading room would often wait for hours in order to find a seat. Although the sight of students in line to use a library was inspiring, the long-awaited completion of the new library will be a welcome change.

The placement of periodical in the old army barracks near the western depot is actually a welcome inconvenience as the facilities are the most comfortable of all the archives and libraries of Zagreb. They provide a peaceful environment, and the staff is accountable and knowledgeable of the holdings. As a rule, smaller archives and libraries tend to be more manageable and therefore function more smoothly, and Zagreb's research facilities are no exception. Unfortunately, in Croatia, as elsewhere, smaller institutions have great trouble raising the funds necessary to acquire the proper material in order to do their jobs most efficiently.

Looking back on a year of work, I am struck by the efficiency of all the archives in Zagreb. Most impressive was the seriousness with which most Zagreb archivists take their work, even under less than ideal working conditions and for dwindling wages.

ACS Meeting in Phoenix

The Association for Croatian Studies was well represented at the 24th National Convention of the Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Phoenix, Arizona, from November 19th to the 22nd, 1992. Our two ACS-sponsored panels, "Jews in Croatia" and "Current Problems of Croatian Society" attracted large audiences, and ACS members participated in seven other panels dealing with Croatian

and/or Yugoslav topics. At the ACS panel "Jews in Croatia" Slavko Goldstein of "Novi Liber" publishing house in Zagreb discussed the history of Jews in Croatia and Jewish experiences in wartime Croatia, and Andrea Feldman of Yale University presented a paper on "Jewish Intellectual Life in Interwar Croatia." A lively and candid discussion followed. The second panel, "Current Problems of Croatian Society," featured Tomislav Ladan of the Leksikografski zavod, Dušan Bilandžić of the University of Zagreb, and our own Ivo Banac and Joseph Bombelles.

Our regular business meeting was held on Thursday, November 20th, and our traditional Croatian dinner took place at the Arizona Club the next evening.

We want to thank the Croatian Academy of America, and most particularly, Mrs. Maria Tuškan, President of the Academy, for their generous contribution to the travel expenses of our three guests from Zagreb.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES AT THE FORTHCOMING AAASS
NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HONOLULU, HAWAII**

The Twenty-Fifth National Convention of the American Association for Slavic Studies will meet in Honolulu, Hawaii, from 19 to 22 November 1993. The Association for Croatian Studies will sponsor three events during the convention. We hope that all those attending will come to the meeting of the ACS that will take place on Saturday, 20 November at 10:15 a.m. The site for this and the other functions will be available in the final convention program.

The official ACS panels are:

Saturday, 20 November, 8:00 a.m.:

Session 4, panel 5: TOPICS IN CROATIAN LINGUISTICS

Chair: Henning Andersen, U. of California, Los Angeles

Panelists: J. Keith Langston, Yale University

"The Neocircumflex in Čakavian Dialects."

Ljerka Debush, Harvard University

"Patterns of Adverb Formation in Croatian Dialects"

Grace E. Fielder, U. of Arizona, Tucson

"The Opposition 'Indefinite/Definite' in Croatian"

Discussant: Mirjana Dedačić, Voice of America

Saturday, 20 November, 3:30 p.m.:

Session 7, panel 7: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IDENTITY AMONG THE CROATS

Chair: Peter F. Sugar, University of Washington, Seattle

Panelists: Sarah A. Kent, U. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
"National and Regional Identity: School-teachers Look at Croatia in the 1880s and 1890s."

Marko Prelec, Yale University
"Competing Loyalties in Twentieth-Century Dalmatia"

Dorothea Hanson, Yale University
"Croats in Bosnia-Hercegovina, 1878-1993."

Discussants: Henrik M. Birnbaum, U. of California, Los Angeles

Marianna Birnbaum, U. of California, Los Angeles

Please note that our association meeting of 20 November is also an electoral meeting where we shall choose new officers for the forthcoming two years. According to the new rules, adopted at the Miami meeting in November 1991, **no ACS member present at the electoral meeting may represent more than four absent members.** All must be in good standing. The proxy ballot is provided below.

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PROXY FOR VOTING

I empower _____ to represent me and vote in my behalf at the Honolulu meeting of the Association for Croatian Studies.

Date _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Since it is not clear how many ACS member will be at Honolulu, and since it has proven rather difficult to find favorable deals with the Honolulu restaurateurs, we shall leave the question of our traditional Croatian dinner open until our meeting. It is very likely, however, that we shall chose to dine on the evening of Saturday, 20 November.

There will be another panel at the AAASS Convention that is being organized by our members or is of interest to them:

Sunday, 21 November, 7 p.m.:
Session 11, panel 16: **WHAT IS CROATIAN IN CROATIAN MUSIC:
THE DIALOGUE OF DIFFERENCES**

(Participants: Aleksandra Wagner, Eva Sedak, Ennio Stipčević, Zdravko Blažeković, Bojan Bujić, and Miloš Velimirović).

If you plan to attend the conference and have not yet made your travel arrangements, we suggest that you do so through United Airlines, which guarantees convention goers a 5 percent discount on any United or United Express published fare in effect when the ticket is purchased, OR a 10 percent discount off special unrestricted fares.

To make reservations, call this toll-free number:

UNITED AIRLINES: 1-800-521-4041
Give the AAASS group number: 535DA

To make hotel reservations, call the convention hotel and ask for AAASS convention rates:

HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667)
(\$115 plus tax a night single or double; additional
occupants will be charged \$25 each.)

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Honolulu!

CALL FOR CONVENTION PROPOSALS

The Twenty-Sixth Convention of the AAASS will be held on 17-20 November 1994, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The ACS must agree on two panels for the Philadelphia convention before the end of this year. Please send your proposals for individual papers or whole panels to Professor Despalatović **by 15 December 1993.**

HELP LIBRARIES IN CROATIA

During the war of aggression in Croatia a number of libraries were selected as targets of opportunity by the Serb gunners. Damage is heavy, and the National and University Library of Zagreb are now conducting a detailed survey,

library by library, to establish what the damaged libraries need most urgently by way of books and periodicals. Reference books and scientific journal are needed badly, that is already clear. As soon as the staff of the library compile a list of books needed, we will send it on to you. The National and University Library will also arrange for the transport of books by a Croatian line ship.

In the meantime, please look through your personal library for duplicates of books and journals which might be of use. For further information contact Elinor or Marijan Despalatović, or write directly to one of the libraries on the appended list.

HRVATSKO BIBLIOTEKARSKO
DRUŠTVO
CROATIAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
Marulićev trg 21
41000 Zagreb, Croatia
Fax: 041/426-676, tel. 041/446-322

NACIONALNA I SVEUČILIŠNA
BIBLIOTEKA
NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
Marulićev trg 21
41000 Zagreb, Croatia
Fax: 041/426-676, tel. 041/445-440

Regionalna bibliotekarska društva u postradalim područjima / regional library associations in the war-torn areas:

DRUŠTVO BIBLIOTEKARA
DUBROVNIK
Nora Gamulin
Narodna knjižnica "GRAD"
P. Miličevića 2
50000 Dubrovnik

DRUŠTVO BIBLIOTEKARA
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Mihanovićeve 35
55000 Slavonski Brod

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Gradska knjižnica i čitaonica
Ante Starčevića 29
48000 Gospić

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership dues for 1993: regular membership \$30.00
retired and student \$15.00

We will send the updated membership list with the next Bulletin.
Please send this in with your dues.

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Please send dues and membership information to:

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