

ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES

For several years a group of American Croatian university professors, attending the conventions of the AAASS, entertained the idea of founding an organization which would be affiliated with the AAASS and promote Croatian Studies.

The Croatian Academy of America (founded in 1953) - after long discussions about affiliation with the AAASS - did not show sufficient interest for this idea, and also did not qualify for acceptance by the AAASS because of a section of its By-Laws. Therefore several individuals decided to form a separate group, an association; this was definitely decided by about a dozen American Croatian participants at the AAASS Convention in Atlanta. Undoubtedly this decision was influenced - and inspired - by the example of the Society of Slovene Studies. In fact several Slovenian scholars encouraged us to form the new organization.

During the Ninth Annual Convention of the AAASS at Capital Hilton hotel in Washington, D. C. on October 15, 1977, a group of ten present Croatian participants finally agreed to establish a "Society for Croatian Studies." As President was elected Prof. Joseph T. Bombelles and as Secretary-Treasurer Prof. George J. Prpic. They were given the task to proceed with further steps one of which is to bring about the affiliation with the AAASS as soon as possible.

A few weeks later, during the Twelfth Annual Seminar of the American Croatian Academic Society at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio a meeting was held on November 27, 1977. It was decided that the name of the new organization should be "Association for Croatian Studies." Again urgency was stressed to obtain affiliation from the AAASS and to attract new members. It was decided that - if the ACS obtains affiliation from the AAASS - the ACS should try to organize at least one panel on Croatia and the Croatians at the forthcoming Convention of the AAASS in Columbus, Ohio in November of 1978.

The ACS is now in its very beginning and cannot boast of any substantial activities. It is in the process of organizing itself. Several of its members (Bombelles, Eterovic, Kadic, McAdams, Prpic) participated in the above mentioned Seminar with lectures on the general topic "The U.S., Croatia and the Croatians." Participants in this Seminar during November 26 and 27 were also: Mr. Darryl H. Johnson, Yugoslav Desk Officer, Department of State ("American Policy Toward Yugoslavia" lecture); and Mr. Laurence Silberman, former U.S. Ambassador in SFRY who spoke at the banquet on "Our Foreign Policy and the South Slavs."

The ACS will urge all its members - if they are not already - to join the AAASS.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES
Cleveland, Ohio

As we announced in our letter of September 27, we are having today, Thursday, October 12, 1978 at the National Convention of the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies at 3 o'clock in the afternoon **our session** under the title

"Croatia and the Croats in the 1970's"

For the location of **our panel** see the **Program** of the Convention.

The final preparations for this panel could not be made until this late hour (for the reasons that we will explain to our members).

Our (tentative) program for the session is as follows:

Dr. Joseph T. Bombelles, the president of ACS will chair the session.

Scheduled to appear are:

Dr. Ante Kadić, professor at Indiana University, who will talk on "Contemporary Croatian Humorists";

Prof. Mirko Vidović of Lyon, France will speak about "Yugoslav Gulag and the Human Rights". Vidović spent five years (1971-76) in Yugoslav prisons and is the author of a recent book Sakrivena strana mjeseca (The Hidden Side of the Moon.)

Professor Bogdan Raditsa (if he comes from Europe in time for the lecture) will talk on "Sixty Years of Yugoslavia: Assessment by an Eyewitness"; (he is prof. emeritus at Fairleigh Dickinson U.)

Dr. George J. Prpić (John Carroll University) will discuss "Some Anniversaries Observed in 1978" and in absence of other discussants (we are not sure about them) he will give a few comments on the lectures.

This is the FIRST public appearance, the first panel discussion organized by the ACS under the auspices of the AAASS.

For reasons beyond our control we are still not formally affiliated with the AAASS, but we hope that the affiliation (for which we applied in January of this year) will be granted on October 15.

Columbus, Ohio
The Neil House Hotel, October 12, 1978.

A. C. S.