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## ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES

The ACS is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of scholarly studies related to Croatia and the Croats. The ACS was founded in 1977 and it is affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

**Officers:** Aida Vidan—President  
 Jasna Meyer—Vice-President  
 Gordan Matas—Vice-President  
 Ivan Runac—Secretary  
 Elinor Despalatovic—  
 Secretary/Treasurer  
 Bulletin Editor: Nancy Crenshaw

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SLAVIC STUDIES

The ASEES (AAASS) represents scholarship in the field of Russian, Central Eurasian, Central and East European studies. The association has twenty-eight affiliates that are concerned with particular topics, areas, or peoples within the field. The AAASS publishes the quarterly journal *Slavic Review*. <http://www.aaass.org>

Dear ACS Members,

It is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of guiding this Association, and I wish to thank you for your vote of confidence. But first and foremost, I would like to express gratitude to our exiting president of many years, **Dr. Ante Čuvalo**, who, over a long period of time, selflessly invested much energy and effort in steering the ACS in a good direction. Through organizing numerous panels, introducing new members to our organization, writing for our Bulletin, and maintaining active ties with the homeland, he has kept us abreast with the news relevant for our area of interest and significantly improved the presence of Croatian topics at AAASS conventions. We all appreciate his enthusiasm and hard work, and wish him a wonderful time in Herzegovina and Croatia.



*Dr. Ante Čuvalo*

In addition to our usual activities, such as organizing panels for AAASS and keeping the network of scholars working on Croatian topics informed about one another's activities and publications through the Bulletin, I would like to let you know about the initiative to reignite our principal scholarly publication, the *Journal for Croatian Studies*. Many valuable presentations in English on a diverse selection of topics pertaining to Croatia go unpublished every year, and many ACS members have agreed that we need to become more active in this area. If you have an article to submit, please consider this possibility. We are also hoping to develop our website over time in order to make our various activities more visible, as well as to inform potential new members and the broader scholarly community about our purpose.

I look forward to working with all of you and wish you a productive and pleasant spring semester.

Aida Vidan

## PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION

The 40<sup>th</sup> National Conventions of the ASEES (AAASS) took place at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Thursday, November 20, 2008 through Sunday, November 23, 2008. Please see **Panel Summaries** on page 2.

## ACS ANNUAL MEETING

The ACS annual meeting was held on Saturday, November 22, 2009, at the Philadelphia Marriott. Dr. Ante Čuvalo, President, welcomed all and opened the annual meeting at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made among the 26 people present.

Dr. Čuvalo spoke about the ACS history and its founding in 1977. President Čuvalo reviewed the purpose of the ACS: to organize and plan panels and perform scholarly work in cooperation with scholars throughout the world.

A treasury report was given by Dr. Aida Vidan. Elections followed. Dr. Aida Vidan was elected unanimously as President. Dr. Jasna M. Meyer and Gordan Matas were elected vice presidents. Dr. Elinor Murray Despalatovic was elected secretary/treasurer.

Nancy Crenshaw (not present) was elected editor of the ACS Bulletin.

Panels for the 2009 AAASS in Boston were discussed.

**PLEASE NOTE: The ACS website needs updating and we are seeking a technology/website person.** Please contact Aida Vidan at [avidan@fas.harvard.com](mailto:avidan@fas.harvard.com).



## CROATIAN DINNER

The traditional Croatian Dinner was held on Saturday, November 22, at the **BELLINI GRILL**. As you can see, a good time was had by all.



## NEXT CONVENTION

The 41<sup>st</sup> National Convention of the AAASS will be held at the **Marriott Boston Copley Place** in Boston, Massachusetts, from Thursday, November 12, through Sunday, November 15, 2009. The theme of the 2009 convention is "Reading and Writing Lives."

The AAASS special group rate for convention participants is \$165 per night, single or double. A very limited number of graduate student rooms are available at \$99 per night. Information about how to make hotel reservations and how to request a room at the graduate student rate will be posted to the AAASS website as soon as it becomes available. For more information about the hotel please visit the hotel's website at:

[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosco-boston-marriott-copley-place](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosco-boston-marriott-copley-place).

Wendy Walker is the Convention Coordinator and questions may be directed to her by phone: 617-495-0678; fax: 617-493-0690; or e-mail: [walker@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:walker@fas.harvard.edu).

## PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL SUMMARIES: PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION



### "Political and Linguistic Borders in Slavic"

Panel Summary: **Aida Vidan** (Harvard University) presented a paper entitled "Slavic Language (Dis)Continuum: A Historical-Political Perspective" on the panel "Political and Linguistic Borders in Slavic," along with **Mark Lauersdorf** (University of Kentucky), who spoke on "Czecho-Slovak Dialects and Borders: A Diachronic Perspective," and **Curt Woolhiser** (Harvard University), who read a paper entitled



“Investigating Border Effects in East Slavic: Issues and Approaches.” The panel was chaired by Joan Chevalier (US Naval Academy) and the discussant was Jan Ivar Bjornflaten (University of Oslo). The panel focused on the impact of political borders and historical circumstances on dialect-standard convergence and/or divergence, language planning and policy, language attitudes/ideologies and perceptual dialectology in all three Slavic language groups. It investigated diachronic shifts in neighboring languages/dialects and examined the problem of language status and language fragmentation from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Paper Summary: Vidan’s paper specifically addressed the status of Croatian in relation to Serbo-Croatian from both historical and sociolinguistic perspectives. It focused on two principal moments in the development of the language: the choice of script and the selection of the dialect that became the core of the contemporary standard. Both of these stages were relatively extended and were affected by a multiplicity of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. A combination of internal and external influences led to the Glagolitic, Cyrillic, and Latin scripts competing against one another, resulting ultimately in a move from a tripartite to a single graphic system. The paper examined how a complex dialectal mix (*čakavian*, *kajkavian* and *štokavian* combined with the Croatian rendering of “high register” Old Church Slavonic) was constantly reshuffled, owing to foreign invasions and unfavorable political circumstances, and how this situation shaped the emergence of the contemporary standard. Vidan argued that it is necessary to pay more attention to the developments of the pre-nineteenth century period, which put the decisions made by the members of the Illyrian movement in a broader historical-political and linguistic context. Such an approach points to the fact that the nineteenth-century move towards standardization was a logical conclusion of multiple

language-unification efforts set in motion by the literary and linguistic contributions of the earlier periods.

The author further argued that it is essential to view language as a process, and that the status of Croatian cannot be resolved if considered in the context solely of the last war, or even the last two hundred years. In the lively debate that ensued, Vidan pointed out that a comparative analysis of Croatian and Serbian based on an insufficient corpus of evidence and arbitrarily isolated points in the past does not provide reliable data owing to an insufficiently elaborated methodology. She called for examining broader corpora of materials in a diachronic fashion, which would reveal a scale of fluctuation in the degree of mutual overlapping in the South Slavic diasystem dependant partly on external non-linguistic factors. On a sociolinguistic plane, the “mutual intelligibility” of Croatian and Serbian should be excluded in determining the status of either language since comparable examples having the undisputed status of two distinct languages exist in other language continuums. Drawing on the example of Norwegian and Danish, Vidan emphasized the need for the inclusion of broader social, political, and cultural elements into the discussion.

### **“Information Technology and Political Processes in Southeastern Europe”**

Paper Summary: **Domagoj Bebić** from the University of Zagreb presented his paper entitled “Information Technology and Political Processes in Croatia.”

My panel discussion has two main objectives: first is to reflect on the state of research in terms of relationship of New Media (referring to Information Communication Technology as NM) and politics in Croatia; and second is to highlight key issues regarding the relationship of political parties and New Media (IT).

In that respect I will try to shed some light on the way political parties in Croatia use the Internet: a) to introduce themselves to the voters, b) to campaign, and c) to connect with

the citizens and get them involved.

In Croatia 45% of the population (above the age of 16) has access to high speed Internet, which is a relatively high number. And they mostly use the Internet for their daily information (50%) or mailing (over 70%). They mostly use Internet from their homes (65%). 46% of that public is coming to the Internet every day and 31% use it a few times per week. So people in Croatia use the Internet and are quite well connected. State of research, though, in the field of relationship of New Media (IT) and politics in Croatia is at a very low level. Recently the Institute for New Media and eDemocracy (INMED) was established with an aim to raise that level.

Concerning mentioned statistics, parties are organizing their political agenda online in order to get their candidates elected and to strengthen their political marketing potential by getting their message across to the citizens who are their supporters.

But they don’t support the discussions set by citizens on the



Internet in order to help them deliberate about those issues and hence make the result of that deliberation their political platform for their

decision-making.

Therefore my first point is that political parties and political institutions in Croatia don’t exploit the full potential of the Internet to communicate with the citizens. They simply don’t work on reengaging the public to stimulate more participation through their party structure, which could mean for them usage of interactive possibilities of technology to recruit more members and give more control to party members OR usage of new technologies to strengthen democratic ties between representatives and those represented.

For that and no other reason,

eEngagement in Croatia is underdeveloped. In the light of the discussion on the democratic potential of the Internet and given the low level of trust in political parties in Croatia, my point is that voters are not encouraged to become involved politically via Internet.

The low level of trust in political parties and political institutions is best demonstrated by the results of the Eurobarometer research which shows that both in 2007 and 2008 17% of Croatian citizens said they trusted their government compared to 30% of the European average; also, citizens' trust in political parties is as low as 7% compared to an also alarming 17% in Europe.

Yet, despite the parties' failure to offer online platforms to engage citizens, citizens themselves demonstrate a certain enthusiasm to use online technologies to engage themselves politically.

Main IT-oriented political activities initiated by the citizens are:

- Visiting party websites
- Subscribing to party newsletters
- Forwarding of funny election material to friends
- Posting and commenting on youtube movies
- Providing short commentaries on the news-portals run by the mainstream media
- Commenting and posting on collaborative blogs.

Non-partisan collaborative blogs and citizens' websites about politics are very popular in Croatia ([www.politika.com](http://www.politika.com) being the most popular among them), as is making youtube movies.

The youtube movie "Kiro prosviro" ("Kiro Went Nuts"), featuring out-of-context statements by the minister of internal affairs was seen by 2 million viewers, which is a great number in Croatia or by any standard. This movie solely led to deteriorating the minister's image and contributed to his removal from office. In that way New Media in Croatia imposed itself as a platform for discussion and interaction between

interest groups, ad hoc groups, pressure groups or cyber protesters.

There is a point I want to raise here: if parties themselves don't offer platforms for citizens to engage in, that is if parties don't make themselves a PART of the online deliberation, citizens' online activism may then turn into just another way of expressing political cynicism which then contributes to further disengagement rather than engagement. Decision makers in political parties and political institutions as well as politicians themselves must adopt New Media in a better way in order to build innovative approaches with their supporters—and build that trust.

Example of one MP: Mr. Lesar, connecting with his voters on an hourly basis on his blog, showed that he won the next mandate not on his media exposé but on direct contact with his voters.

With party identification in decline between those represented and the representatives and bad influence on citizen's participation, it is not necessary to aim online communication in the direction of pure marketing—since I personally, sincerely believe that only political involvement of well-informed citizens is a key factor in a functioning democracy. In the future some parties may introduce engaging their supporters as a part of their marketing or campaign plan. Nevertheless that would be a step into positive development when some action would take place after comments and deliberation on behalf of the citizens

Further challenges would be: a) developing methodology for operationalising and measuring the capacity of the Internet for citizen participation, and b) proposing guidelines for political parties and institutions for the most effective use of IT in the direction of eEngagement of citizens.

Important links:

[www.edemokracija.hr](http://www.edemokracija.hr)  
[www.politika.com](http://www.politika.com)  
[www.youtube.com/bijesprvi](http://www.youtube.com/bijesprvi)

## **“Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Crisis of 1908—Its Meanings and Parallels a Century Later”**

Paper Summary: **Ludwig Steindorff** presented a paper entitled “Three Communities—One Society? Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Beginning of the 20th Century” at the Philadelphia Convention. Following is a summary of the presentation.

The aim of the presentation was to verify: was the seclusion of the three religious communities weakened in the course of modernization under Austria-Hungary? Is it possible to speak about a really integrated society in Bosnia and Herzegovina before World War I? Which role was played by the *kuferasi*, the immigrants?

We had a look at different aspects of modernization, starting from urbanization. The percentage of urban population hardly changed during the period of Austro-Hungarian rule. The bigger and the more important a city was, the greater was the percentage of immigrants from outside, among them Protestants and Jews. The traces of urbanization at that time are also visible nowadays.

The superficiality of modernization is especially obvious if we look at the sector of education. At that time it was quite normal for primary education to rest in the hands

of the religious communities. People were aware that this caused the strengthening of the national movements, but it didn't support the



integration of the society.

The establishment of the Catholic Church province under Archbishop Stadler and the introduction of secular clergy working beside the Franciscans and in direct competition with them may be regarded as aspects of modernization and dissolution of traditional religious structures.

The agrarian modernization was consciously prevented by not touching

the land holdings of the *agas* and *begs*. The situation remained quite similar to the one in Russia before the Revolution. The agrarian colonization played a specific role from 1890 until 1907. Independent from the different evaluations, the industrialization and the changes in the process of production were obviously not strong enough to cause the opening of the traditional communities. The symbol of modernity—the railway—was present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but almost exclusively on the small scale of the narrow-gauge railway.

The postponement of political modernization is another factor, which confirms the thesis of a partial modernization with a conscious blockade of certain aspects. Besides the presented objective factors we also have to take into account the subjective factor: the view of the new authorities upon Bosnia and Herzegovina as something like an exotic colony.

The continuing seclusion of the communities resulted in the transformation of the community of the Orthodox into the national community of the Serbs while the Catholics declared themselves members of the Croatian nation. Among the Muslims the process took more time and was finished only in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the war of 1992-1995.

Despite the failure to create an integrated society, we should not underestimate the success of modernization under Austria-Hungary, noting especially the aspect of legal security.

Prof. Ludwig Steindorff  
University of Kiel, Germany

### **“Suffering, Hopes and Illusions: Croats and the First World War”**

Paper Summary: **Jure Krišto** presented the following paper, “The May Declaration: The Role of the Catholic Circles in the Creation of the First South-Slavic State.”

Before the beginning of WWI, Croats, Slovenes, and other Slav peoples of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were clearly dissatisfied with its dual organization, which privileged the Germans and

Hungarians. Croats were also frustrated because while Dalmatia and Istria were administered by the Austrian part of the Monarchy, Croatia-Slavonia was under the Hungarian part of the Monarchy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina were under the governance of the common Ministry of Finances. It is therefore not surprising that several proposals for the reformation of the Monarchy had been put forward by the South Slav politicians, nor that all of them called for the unification of the Croatian lands.

Three years into the war, the Yugoslav Club of the Emperor's Council issued on May 30, 1917, a declaration that requested the formation on the territories inhabited by the Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs of an independent state, but under the Hapsburg scepter. The request was made on the basis of the national principle and the Croat state right.

The May Declaration initiated controversies among Croatian politicians and political parties, but it also began a movement to accept the program of the Declaration. The most enthusiastic supporters were the leaders and the membership of the Catholic organizations.

The author highlights the political situation that led toward the issuing of the Declaration, the controversies that surrounded its promotion, and its political consequences. In the end, he draws two conclusions. First, Bosnia and



Herzegovina has always been the critical problem of Croatian politics and the key for resolving the Croatian puzzle. That was the case at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and that is the case today. However, no political problem has caused so much disagreement among Croatian politicians as the future of Bosnia and

Herzegovina. Parties that made up the Croat-Serb Coalition, the leadership of the Croatian Catholic movement, many Catholic bishops, and the Croatian intellectual elite had tended to relinquish the problem of the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina to others—the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Kingdom of Serbia, or some other international actor. The adherence, clerical and secular, to the ideology of the Party of (State) Right, especially its “radical” branch, the Pure Party of Right, had envisaged the unification of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the rest of Croatian lands not only as a solution to the question of the future status of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but to that of Croatia and to the question of the reorganization of the Monarchy as well.

Second, a constant thread has run through Croatian politics and ideological controversy for over a century—a complaint regarding the influence of clericalism. That usually meant either a disproportionately large presence of Catholic clergy was actively involved in Croatian culture and politics or there was a misuse of the (Catholic) faith for political purposes. However, the debate caused by the May Declaration and later by Stadler's Pronouncement demonstrates that the real problem was not whether one was a member of the clergy and, thus, prone to use religion for political gain, but rather whether one was an adherent of the ideology of Yugoslavism or against it.

The May Declaration is not the most decisive factor in the crumbling of a great Monarchy and the creation of a first South-Slavic state, but it is decidedly a major contributing factor.

Jure Krišto, Ph.D.  
Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb

### **“Urban and Rural Women in Croatia in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries”**

Panel Summary: The papers on this panel were given by **Elinor Murray Despalatovic** emeritus at Connecticut College (see full summary below) and **Suzana Leček** of the University of Zagreb, with



comments from discussant Sarah Kent of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

The theme fit neatly into the larger Gender and Women's Studies theme of the 2008 Congress. The panel had a large audience of some thirty or forty attendees who engaged in a lively discussion of the papers after they were read.

Dr. Despalatovic's paper, "Rural Women in Croatia-Slavonia in 1900," analyzed three ethnographic studies written by women, based in turn on data collected by Ante Radic's questionnaire distributed widely throughout the Triune Kingdom. The source material was surprisingly rich in detail and personal observation and spoke of the extreme poverty of some of the regions covered, giving a glimpse of life in the turn-of-the-century *zadruga*.

Dr. Leček's paper, "The Political Participation of Women in the Croatian Peasant's Party," spoke of a slightly later period, the 1920s, and the involvement of women in the Croatian Peasant's Party—both the prominent women who spoke at rallies and the presence of women at these rallies, despite the fact that they couldn't vote. To illustrate her point, Dr. Leček offered wonderful photographs of gatherings of women at Croatian Peasant Party meetings, and lamented the paucity of historical materials which have survived on the subject.

Ellen Elias Bursac

Paper Summary: "Rural Women in Late Nineteenth-Century Croatia-Slavonia."

In 1900, four out of five women in Croatia-Slavonia lived in the countryside, most on small or dwarf farms which they worked with their husbands and families. The farms were small because the extended family *zadrugas* had gone into rapid division with the abolition of serfdom in 1848 and the end of the Military

Frontier in 1881. Division was speeded up by the growing rural money economy and legal changes favoring private property.

What was the position of women in the extended family *zadruga*? What kind of work did they do and how was it organized? How was their life different on the smaller farm? The tasks required of women after *zadruga* division did not change, but instead of dividing and rotating work within a large group of women, the woman on the small farm had to do everything: work in the fields, take care of the house, cook, do the wash, care for the children, bring in water, light the fire, make clothing and linens, tend the garden, poultry and cows, make the cheese and other milk products, and take some of the food produced to market. What was marketed was not necessarily surplus, but a way of getting money to pay debts and taxes and purchase things the family could not produce themselves.

Peasant women still lived in traditional culture in 1900. Most women were illiterate, although four years of schooling had been compulsory for boys and girls since 1874. Fewer girls than boys attended school, and most who did dropped out after one or two years. A rich oral culture framed the lives of peasant women: stories, songs, proverbs, riddles, and epic poetry. Although they had little understanding of modern political and economic institutions or the discoveries of modern science, they were open to new things that made their lives easier such as matches, kerosene lanterns, store-bought clothing and textiles, and umbrellas.

Many children were born and many died. A large family was a threat to the small family farm, because there was no tradition of primogeniture, so the farm would be divided into smaller pieces with each generation. Children were more welcome in Croatia than Slavonia,

where abortion was frequently used.

Peasant women had little experience with the world outside of their village or region. While young men went away for several years of military service and traveled to nearby countries and even overseas to find work, women stayed home. They worked hard and aged quickly.

Elinor Murray Despalatovic  
Connecticut College

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## ACS MEMBERS & FRIENDS

The Croatian Academy of America, Inc. will hold its annual general assembly in May or June of 2009. The editorial board of the Academy has been expanded and is committed to continue publishing annually the Academy's *Journal of Croatian Studies*. It is in the process of updating its website. The purpose of the Academy is to educate the members and general public about the Croatian language, culture, and history.

Vedran Nazor  
[vnazor@yahoo.com](mailto:vnazor@yahoo.com)

New Member **Marko Zoretic** is an associate at Knobbe Martens, an intellectual property law firm based in Irvine, California. His practice focuses on patent litigation. He is a graduate of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Management, and a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

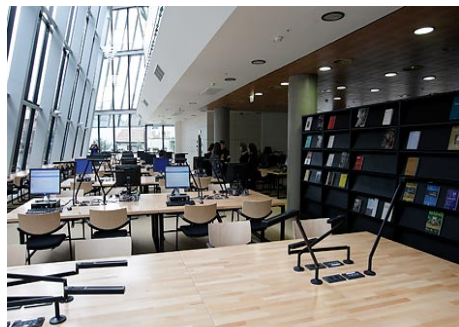
Marko is the president and founder of the Croatian American Bar Association, welcoming Croatian-American lawyers and Croatian lawyers from around the world. He is also the president and founder of the newly formed Canadian American Bar Association.

Marko has been instrumental in publishing his father's book, *Goli Otok: Hell in the Adriatic*, which is an account of Josip Zoretic's seven year ordeal as a political prisoner on Goli Otok ([www.GoliOtok.com](http://www.GoliOtok.com)). A documentary by Austrian

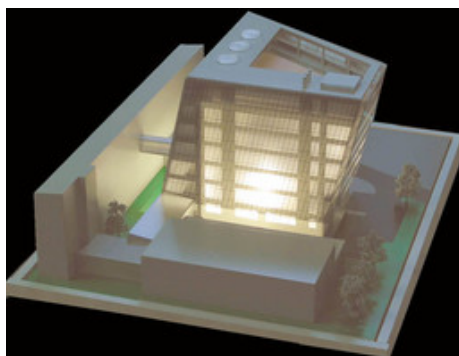
journalist, Reinhard Grabher, featuring an interview with Josip Zoretic, will be released this spring.

Marko enjoys playing soccer with the Orange County Croats and spending time with his wife and two young sons.

### New Library for the School of Humanities in Zagreb Opened March 11, 2009



The new library building, which holds over 600,000 titles and is situated on the southern side of the School of Humanities in Lučićeva ulica in Zagreb, was opened on March 11, three years and three months after construction began. This is the second largest library in Croatia, smaller only than the National University Library. It stretches over eight levels and 8500 square meters.



Approximately 750 users can work in it simultaneously and more than 200 work stations are equipped with computers and web access. It is expected that the primary users will be the students of the School for Humanities and other colleges in the Zagreb area, but is it also open for use

to the general public. This impressive-looking modern building was designed by a group of architects, Ante Vulina, Dina Vulin-Ileković, and Boris Ileković, who successfully overcame the limits of the relatively small site in a dense urban area. They also came up with sophisticated ideas for the interior design, which takes maximal advantage of natural light on the floors above ground. The two underground levels include book storage as well as reference collections, a periodicals room, and individual study rooms. The library has one large seminar hall and is connected with the building of the School of Humanities by the central corridor, as well as by a bridge on the second level.

Users will have open access to a large body of materials housed on five floors and divided into related groups. The first floor is reserved for social studies, the second holds history books, and the upper levels house Slavic and Croatian collections as well as linguistics, comparative literature, German and Romance philology, etc. The library has modern theft and fire protection systems, the first of their kind in Croatia. Most of the library's holdings, which comprise twenty-four smaller libraries scattered until now in various parts of the Humanities building, have been entered into an online catalogue by the opening date, and users will have access to services such as JSTOR and many other electronic resources. The library will normally be open until 10 p.m. and during the exam period it will remain open 24 hours.

In February 2007, **Ivan Runac**, ACS member and former secretary, was hired on as a Project Manager for Midwestern Contractors, a gas and oil pipeline construction company that has served the Chicago area and Northwest Indiana for over fifty years. Since 2000, whenever he was not pursuing his academic interests, Ivan

was working as a laborer and foreman for the same company. He currently manages the organization's multi-million dollar account with BP Pipelines of North America, the owner of the largest oil pipeline network in the Midwest.

**Elsie Ivancich Dunin**, Professor Emerita (Dance Ethnology), UCLA has the following announcements.

Publication: 2008 "*Moresca'spiel in Curcola*," a photograph in a Viennese museum collection, *Godisnjak Grada Korcule 13*. Korcula: Gradski Muzej Korcula. (Illustrations).

Presentations: May 2008—"Croatia's Korcula Sword Dances and Their Swords," as a living history (illustrated by PowerPoint and DVD).



Presented to  
5th  
International  
Sword  
Dance  
Spectacular,  
held in  
York,  
England;  
May 2008—"Forty-year  
Overview  
1967-2007

Romani Celebration in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia" (illustrated research paper), presented to the ICTM Study Group Music and Minorities, held in Prague, Czech Republic; August 2008—"Village 'folklor' as a Touristic Commodity in the Dubrovnik Area, A Thirty-year Overview" (illustrated research paper) presented to the ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; September 2008—"The 'Cloning' of *cocek* in Macedonia, Media Affecting Globalization As Well As Localization of Belly Dancing" (illustrated research paper), presented to the ICTM Study Group on Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe, held in Struga, Republic of



Macedonia; October 2008—"Village 'folklor' [dance] Integrated as a Touristic Commodity in the Dubrovnik Area, An Overview 1948-1977-2008" (research paper illustrated with PowerPoint and film clips), presented to a conference celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, held in Zagreb, Croatia.

Invited Guest of Honor to First Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe in Struga, Republic of Macedonia (2008).

#### **Dennis J. Kucinich Receives Croatian American Bar Association's First Annual 2008 Vinodol Code Award**



The Croatian American Bar Association (CABA) is pleased to announce that **Dennis J. Kucinich** is the recipient of this year's CABA Vinodol Code Award for his outstanding contribution to the law as a tireless advocate for workers' rights, civil rights and human rights.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 8, 1946, Kucinich is the eldest of the seven children of Frank and Virginia Kucinich.

Kucinich first came to national prominence in 1977 when he was elected mayor of Cleveland at age 31—the youngest person ever elected to lead a major American city.

Fifteen years later, Kucinich was elected to the Ohio Senate. He was a presidential candidate in 2004 and 2008. Kucinich has been recognized by the Greater Cleveland AFL-CIO as a tireless advocate for the social and economic interests of his community. He is currently leading a civic crusade to save Cleveland's 90 year-old steel industry. Kucinich led a citizens' movement which reopened two Cleveland neighborhood hospitals. His promotion of rail safety improvements gained him the top award from the Ohio PTA in 2000.

His efforts on behalf of Cleveland's poor gained the recognition of the National Association of Social Workers. He has been recognized for his advocacy of human rights in Burma, Nigeria and East Timor and is the 2003 recipient of the Gandhi Peace Award. Kucinich is a member of the Congressional Croatian Caucus that works to continue the strong relationship between the United States and Croatia.

#### **The Railroad Belgrade—Bar in Yugoslav Print Medias: A Database**

The history of planning and construction of the Railroad Belgrade—Bar 1952-1976 is inseparably bound to the general history of socialist Yugoslavia. It reflects the changes within the political system, the development of the self administration socialism and the rivalries of the republics. Because of the financial questions and the supposed effects on the traffic streams and industrial capacities, politicians and economists from Croatia took part in the discourse about the new railroad.

The idea was based on the connection of different fields of interest: the role of the railroads in the process of modernization, strategies of social mobilization, and mechanisms of the Yugoslav socialist system.

Because of the almost complete lack of research literature, we started with the collection of information from relevant newspapers and composed a database which is now accessible online: <http://www.oeg.uni-kiel.de/belgrad-bar/webseite>.

The database contains abstracts from *Borba, Pobjeda, Politika* and *Vjesnik* (1966-1976), *Ekonomska politika*, and *Privredni vjesnik* (1954-1976). The database summarizes the contents of all articles which refer to the planning, financing, and constructing of the railroad. It is possible to search for contributions from a specific newspaper or/and from a certain date or period. The abstracts are in Serbian, the introductory explanations are in German and Serbian.

The viewing of the newspapers and the composition of the database

were realized by Danijel Kezic, M. A., from Kiel University and Arpad Pacsa, dipl. historian, from Novi Sad.

The project has been presented at Kiel, Novi Sad, Zagreb and Leipzig, to date.



*Photo by Denijel Kezic*

The database will serve for a future research project at Kiel, "The Railroad Belgrade—Bar. From a Yugoslav Project to a Matter of the Republics." The project is intended to be a contribution to the discussion about the process of decentralization and factual confederalization of Yugoslavia when the authority of the federation was replaced by the consensus of the republics.

We invite anyone who is interested in the history of socialist Yugoslavia to profit from the database and to use it for research.

Please feel free to contact us. [lsteindorff@oeg.uni-kiel.de](mailto:lsteindorff@oeg.uni-kiel.de). We would be glad to learn about projects which are close to our topic and to look for ways of exchange and cooperation.

Ludwig Steindorff  
Kiel University, Germany

**Dr. Jasna Meyer** has a new position as Associate Professor of Communication at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### **Significant Anniversaries and Research Outcomes**

In the last issue of the *Review of Croatian History (RCH)* we reminded you that the year 2008 marks several important anniversaries and invited you to use the occasion for writing an article in connection with one of those anniversaries, even though we did not contemplate devoting the next issue of RCH solely to one of those anniversaries.



We are happy that some of you have responded positively to our invitation. Ante Čuvalo wanted to mark the 160th anniversary of another pivotal event, the 1848 revolution in which Ban Josip Jelačić played a significant role. Čuvalo expresses his hope that younger generations of Croats around the world may have a better understanding of Jelačić, the times in which he lived, and Croatian history in general. Indeed, all of that is very important. Čuvalo reminds us that Jelačić has been attacked from many sides, as a Panslavist, as a pro Russian, as an Austrophile, and as a reactionary. Even after his death, he was a hero to some and a villain to others. To Croats, he became a symbol of the struggle against the Magyars, martyred by a devious Austrian regime. Consequently, they erected a monument in his honor in Zagreb's main square and they composed patriotic songs about him that carried his name to subsequent generations. But after World War II he was condemned once more—this time by the communists—as an antirevolutionary, reactionary figure. His monument was removed from public view and songs commemorating his service were banned. But his name could not be obliterated from the memory of the Croatian people. The collapse of the communist regime coincided with the return of Jelačić's monument to the main square in Zagreb, which now also bears his name.

Stjepan Matković focuses his discussion on one of the protagonists of the Council's, examining the role played by the politicians of the state rights tradition in Croatia, especially the followers of Josip Frank — the Frankists or "pure rightists"— in the debate about the future of Croatian lands. It is remarkable that Josip Frank and his followers, who were variously chastised and accused of treason by their contemporaries and in Yugoslav and Croatian historiography generally, represented an exception to the exuberant enthusiasm for South Slav unification. It is even more remarkable that historical developments have proved that they

were a minority who saw more clearly than their contemporaries the pitfalls of Yugoslavism and dangers of South Slav unification. Jure Krišto analyzes another crucial event, the May Declaration of May 30, 1917, which was issued by the Yugoslav Club in the Emperor's Council, and the political discussion that it elicited in Croatian lands. After an elaborate discussion of the Declaration in the context of other proposals for the reformation of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Krišto draws two important conclusions. First, Bosnia and Herzegovina have always been a critical problem of Croatian politics and represented the key for resolving the Croatian puzzle. It is probably due to their importance that no political problem caused so much disagreement and division among Croatian politicians as did the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parties that made up the Croat-Serb Coalition, the leadership of the Croatian Catholic movement, many Catholic bishops, and the Croatian intellectual elite had tended to relinquish the problem of the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina to others—the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Kingdom of Serbia, or some other international actor. However, the adherents, both clerical and secular, to the ideology of the Party of (State) Right, especially its "radical" branch, the Pure Party of Right, envisaged the unification of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the rest of Croatian lands not only as a solution to the question of the future status of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also to that of Croatia and the reorganization of the Monarchy. Second, the debate caused by the May Declaration and by Stadler's Pronouncement, which followed later, demonstrates that the real problem of Croatian politics before the communists abolished all parties but their own was not whether one was a member of the clergy and, thus, supposedly prone to use religion for political gain (clericalism), but rather whether one supported the ideology of Yugoslavism or opposed it. Using a metaphor proposed by Father Stipe Vučetić, Krišto concludes that Yugoslavism was an apple on the

Croatian tree that the serpent tempted Croatian politicians to taste.

Zlatko Matijević has done a marvelous job in piecing together the chronology of the activities of the National Council of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in 1918. He has written his article after undertaking protracted research in the Croatian State Archives and doing a review of former Yugoslav and Croatian historiography. In his piece, he challenges some of the basic conclusions of that historiography and invites us to dispel some of its assumptions, the most important of which is that the Council wanted and created the State of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs, before it consented to its incorporation in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Matijević points out that the Council was more than eager to create the first Yugoslav kingdom, with few members favoring the creation of a state independent of the Kingdom of Serbia. At most, the State of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs was a step in the revolutionary process of the creation of the Yugoslav state.

Nonetheless, the Council's decision took place in a particular historical context and it is worth remembering that a number of important events preceded the fateful decisions of the politicians in the National Council of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

In addition to these four essays, we bring you three research articles dealing with various periods of Croatian history that are not directly connected to any anniversary.

Stan Granic offers a discussion of the long and significant history that the marten (*kuna*) has had in Croatia as a medium of exchange. The marten pelt was originally used in trade before it was assigned a specific and constant monetary value, after which it served as a monetary medium during early medieval times. With the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Croatia incorporated the Slavonian coat of arms, which bore the marten, on its new flag and adopted the *kuna* currency. So while some uninformed journalists (and scholars) have accused Croatia of adopting Ustaša

symbolism by minting coins with the *kuna* on them, in reality these coins merely represent the continuation of a secular tradition of using the marten on Croatian money.

Hrvoje Petrić explores the theme of how great fires were instrumental in the creation of new urban developments in the early modern period. In Zagreb, for instance, very few buildings were made of fireproof materials. Most of the city's buildings were made of timber and rooftops with wooden frames covered with wooden planks, tiles, or straw. The greatest fires in Zagreb communities occurred in the years 1624, 1645, 1674, 1706, and 1731. It only took a light breeze to fan a fire once ignited, and even a spark could end in a major conflagration, setting entire town blocks of buildings alight. Threat of fire affected the spatial dispersion of the population and the construction of new streets with canals, which provided water for extinguishing fires. Due to a new building style which sought to use fireproof materials, cities established municipal brickyards. In order to have a fire alert system, cities also hired night watchmen, who appear in historical records as early as the seventeenth century. In addition, cities dug numerous wells to provide water to extinguish fires. From the second half of the nineteenth century, firefighting volunteer brigades were organized all over Croatia and Slavonia (with the first one established in Varaždin in 1864).

Finally, Edi Miloš presents a segment of his doctoral dissertation on Antun Radić "Les premiers pas d'Antun Radić dans l'arène politique croate (1883-1900)" (Antun Radić's First Steps in the Croatian Political Arena, 1883-1900). Miloš presents Radić as a young professor and enthusiast for Croatian ethnography, but by recounting his life story he also portrays the most important features of Croatian political and social life at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The elder brother of the more famous Stjepan Radić,

Antun was first attracted to the (state) rightist ideology of Ante Starčević and Eugen Kvaternik. He followed closely the tensions and final rupture of the rightist political body, which saddened him. Nor was he enthused by the emergence of the Progressive Youth on the political scene, with its denigration of everything in Croatia's past and, indeed, everything Croatian, to which his younger brother Stjepan adhered. Miloš then follows Antun Radić's political and literary activity until he and his brother Stjepan began publishing the paper *Dom*.

In addition to these articles, we also bring you reports about interesting events and draw your attention to some new books.

We are looking forward to seeing your contributions for the next issue of RCH.

RCH Editorial Board  
Jure Krišto, Editor-in-chief

### ***Croatian-American Investigations of a Roman Villa on the Dalmatian Island of Sv. Klement***

Sv. Klement (St. Clement), is a short boat ride from Hvar City after arriving by ferry from Split. The site of the Roman villa is known as "Soline," referring to the ancient and medieval salt manufacturing in the bay. A large cultivated field of grapevines and olive trees is adjacent to the site today, as it was in antiquity.

The project director is Branko Kirigin from the Archaeological Museum in Split, with the field co-directors Marinko Petric, of the Hvar Heritage Museum, and Ivancica Schrunck, University of St. Thomas, also heading the American team. Our collaborative investigations, sponsored by the Archaeo/Community Foundation, began in 2007 with a magnetometric survey of the area around the standing late Roman wall. A test trench confirmed architectural remains indicated by the magnetometry and there were findings of mosaic *tesserae* and of pottery shards ranging in date from the 3rd century BCE to the Renaissance period. The pre-Roman, Hellenistic pottery pushed back the date and

placed the site in relation to the Greek colonies on the neighboring islands of Hvar and Vis.

In the summer of 2008, with students and volunteers, we cleared a late Roman structure that had been obscured by dense brush and trees. Probes inside the building uncovered remains of a mosaic floor *in situ* in the corners of the main room. The period of the largest extent of the villa complex seems to be from the 4th to the 6th century. Aerial photography showed remains of salt works and dock facilities in the bay.

For more information on participation and support, check the website [www.stclementarchaeology.org](http://www.stclementarchaeology.org).

Ivancica Schrunck  
University of St. Thomas  
[idschrunck@stthomas.edu](mailto:idschrunck@stthomas.edu)

**Sabrina P. Ramet** has published the article "Umrli Kralji in Nacionalni Miti: Zakaj so pomembni miti o ustanoviteljstvu in mučeništvu," (Dead Kings and National Myths: Why Myths of Founding and Martyrdom are Important) in *Teorija in praksa*, Vol. XIV, No. 5 (September–October 2008): 575–599.

Brief summary of the article: The canonization of dead kings and accompanying myth-making have been put to many uses in the course of the centuries, including to legitimate a royal dynasty, to promote the



Christianization of the country, to gratify the inhabitants of a certain country or region by honoring one of their own, and to sacralize a cause allegedly championed by the king-saint, including where

mobilization for war is intended. This piece examines the myths surrounding the king-saints Stephen of Hungary

and Olav of Norway, the prince-saint Lazar of Serbia, and King Arthur of England who, although never canonized, would later be said to have gone on a quest for the Holy Grail.

**Nancy Crenshaw** is pleased to announce a book she recently edited has been published by Millennial Mind. *One Foot Planted in the Center the Other Dangling Off the Edge*, by Gordon R. Dragt, tells the story of how one man with a vision turned a New York city church with a history of failure into a Mecca of the arts, diversity, and celebration.

Please note that Nancy is happy to line edit (free-of-charge) for authors of papers and/or books dealing with Croatian topics, subject to availability. See contact information at back of bulletin.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Professor James R. Millar**, our dear colleague and a stalwart pillar of our organization, died of pancreatic cancer on Sunday, November 30th, 2008 at his home in Washington, D.C.

From 1989 to 2001, Jim directed the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University, where he was also Professor of Economics and International Affairs until he settled into a very active retirement in 2004.



In addition to his many achievements as a scholar, administrator, and editor of *The Slavic Review* and *Problems of Post-Communism*, Jim served the AAASS as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. He only stepped down from this last position in summer 2008 after his cancer diagnosis. Jim helped guide our organization through many rough passages over the years. For recognition of his extraordinary service to the field as a scholar, leader, teacher, and mentor, the AAASS bestowed on Jim Millar the Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies Award, our highest honor, in 2006.

A set of tributes to Jim on his scholarly work and his service to AAASS was published in the January issue of NewsNet. Condolences to Jim's family may be sent to his sister, Carolyn Henderson, at 1221 US Hwy 181 N., Floresville, TX 78114; his daughter, Mira Brownfield, at 168 16th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94118; and his wife, Gera Millar, at 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

### Joseph M. Condic (1924-2009)

Joseph M. Condic died on February 21, 2009, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was born on November 21, 1924, in Chicago to an immigrant Croatian family. His father, Marko Čondić, came from Svib, near Imotski, and his mother, Tona Utrobičić, from Slime, a village near the river Cetina. They were married in Chicago in 1921 and had eight children. The family was shaken by Marko's death in 1935, but Tona, regardless of her misfortunes and the Great Depression, raised their children in a way that any parent would be proud of.

Joseph, or as many of us called him—Jozo—pursued a higher education and earned a

Ph.D. which was followed by a career as professor at the Department of Humanities, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, for 34 years.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Dolores, of 53 years, seven children (Dorena, Marin David, Melanie, Maureen, Eric, Adam, and Samuel), eighteen grandchildren, five siblings (John, Mark, Peter, Simon, and Rosanda), and over seventy descendents of Marko and Tona Condic. Services were held at St. Augustine Cathedral and he was laid to rest at Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo.

Joseph Condic was a member of the Association for Croatian Studies (among other organizations) and served as its president in the late 1980s. It should also be mentioned that Jozo translated and prepared for publication a manuscript of his friend, the late Ivan Supek, entitled *Crown Witness against Hebrang*, Chicago, Markanton Press, 1983. The writings of this renowned Croatian physicist and humanist were banned by the



communist regime at the time.

Jozo was a faithful husband, an excellent father, a great teacher, and a truly humble man. For that reason, this *in memoriam* to such a wonderful person and a friend is also humble.

Ante Čuvalo



## BOOKS and FILM

**Ivo Škrabalo, *Hrvatska filmska povijest ukratko: 1896-2006*, Zagreb: V.B.Z., 2008 (304 pages)**



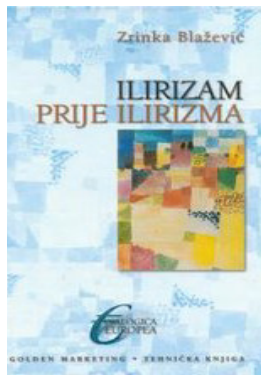
This is Ivo Škrabalo's third book on Croatian film, the first having come out in the eighties (*Između publike i države* 1985)—when Croatian film was a part of the broader Yugoslav spectrum, and the second in the nineties (*101 godina filma u Hrvatskoj* 1997)—when it was in a transitional stage and, despite its solid roots, still very much seeking a new identity. Škrabalo's latest volume appears at a time when Croatian film is beginning to be recognized on the world stage and regularly included in the programs of major international film festivals. This contribution, like Škrabalo's previous books, gives a systematic historical overview from the first practitioners of the seventh art in Croatia and includes the most recent period, which has introduced many promising names, new themes, and approaches to the Croatian screen.

**Marko Samardžija, *Hrvatski jezik, pravopis i jezična politika u Nezavisnoj Državi Hrvatskoj*, Zagreb: Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada, 2008 (580 pages)**

The book is divided into six chapters in which the author discusses Croatian language and orthography from the end of the nineteenth century to 1945, analyzes the language politics of the NDH, including the legal norms, directions and orders of the ministries and the government pertaining to language standards and orthography. Marko Samardžija is professor at the Croatian Department at the School of Humanities in Zagreb.

**Zrinka Blažević, *Ilirizam prije ilirizma*, Zagreb: Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2008 (399 pages)**

Zrinka Blažević is an assistant professor in the History Department of the School of Humanities in Zagreb. Her previous publications include a book entitled *Vitezovičeva Hrvatska između stvarnosti i utopije*. The present volume, *Ilirizam prije ilirizma*, consists of six chapters

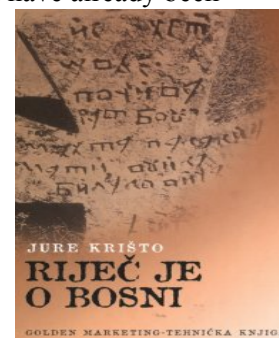


which treat the subject of Illyrism at the crossroads of history and theory, the early-medieval concept of Illyrism, as well as a genealogy of the Illyrian ideologeme through the seventeenth century. From humanist sources such as the works of Juraj Šižgorić and Vinko Pribojević to the protonational type of Illyrism of Pavao Ritter Vitezović and Đorđe Branković at the end of the seventeenth century, this work analyzes the processes of formation, transformation and correlation of the Illyrian ideologeme, as well as its meaning and function in the frameworks of various ideologies and political practices. In addition to showing a "pre-history" of Illyrism residing at the foundations of the South Slavic national identities, it is revealed that this is also a European cultural phenomenon which corresponds to numerous Western national identity models.

**Jure Krišto, *Riječ je o Bosni*, Zagreb: Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2008 (470 pages)**

Wanting to mark the 100th anniversary of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the editor of the series "Studia Croatica" at the Golden Marketing publishing house urged the author to collect his writing on various aspects of history of Bosnia

and Herzegovina. The book consists of articles that have already been published in various journals, conference proceedings or books, and a few that appear in this book for the first time. The author's



interests span from the second half of the nineteenth century to contemporary history, with a focus on the role of the Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He examines the role and significance of the first Archbishop of Sarajevo, Josip Stadler, as well as that of Ivan Šarić, who left the country at the end of World War II. He also takes a closer look at some other important people of Bosnian history, such as Ivo Pilar and Petar Rogulja, and at those who have paid considerable attention to that land, such as Josip Frank, Frano Supilo, Ivo Lendić, and others.

At the end of the book, the author presents several documents, mostly unknown, a selected bibliography, and an index of personal names.

**Ante Gulin, *Hrvatski srednjovjekovni kaptoli: loca credibilia Dalmacije, Hrvatskog primorja, Kvarnerskih otoka i Istre*, Zagreb: HAZU, 2008 (434 pages)**

**Petar Šimunović, *Hrvatska u prezimenima*, Zagreb: Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2008 (463 pages, illustrated, maps)**

**Franjo Maletić, *Hrvatski prezimenik: pučanstvo Republike Hrvatske na početku 21. Stoljeća*, Zagreb: Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2008 (3 volumes, illustrated, maps)**

**Petar Selem, *Dodir Taliže*, Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 2008 (587 pages)**

Petar Selem (Split, 1936), a university professor, art historian, theater director, writer and translator is one of the most productive and most appreciated Croatian intellectuals, and is equally successful both as scholar and artist. There is probably not a single aspect of contemporary Croatian theater which has not been investigated in Peter Selem's numerous contributions on the subject, which span more than five decades. His *Selected Works*, which have just been published by Matica hrvatska, include the following five volumes: "Lica bogova," "Putopisi putokazi," "Dodir Taliže," "Šum zastora" and "Razum i zanos."



**Mirko Tomasović, *Nove slike iz povijesti hrvatske književnosti*, Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 2008 (266 pages)**

**Ljiljana Šarić, Wiebke Wittschen, *Rječnik sinonima hrvatskog jezika*, Zagreb: Jesenski i Turk, 2008 (1006 pages)**

**Ivica Matičević, *Hrvatska književna avangarda: programski tekstovi*, Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 2008 (322 pages)**

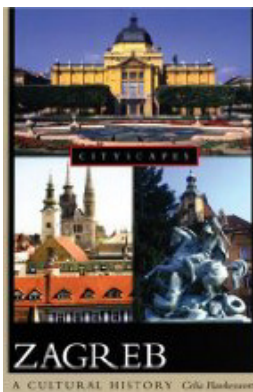
**Radoslav Katičić, *Božanski boj. Tragovima svetih pjesama naše pretkršćanske starine*, Zagreb, Mošćenička Draga: Ibis grafika, 2008 (378 pages)**



From the foreword: "I began working on the research projects covered in this volume in 1984. In fact, my first steps in this field date back to 1960

and I owe them to Paul Thieme, whose lectures on Vedic philology I attended in Tübingen as a recipient of a Humboldt grant. I was familiar also with the works of Ivanov and Toporov, the leading Russian Indo-Europeists. Starting in 1977, when I took a deeper interest in Slavic philology, I was curious to notice that these authors systematically worked on a reconstruction of proto-Slavic texts. However, Slavic scholarship, even of the highest quality, did not pay much attention to this fact. Still, I could not resist, and already in 1984, during my field work on Croatian archeological sites (I was preparing 'Litterarum studia'), I had with me their 'Issledovanija' (1974). After a careful reading, I immediately understood how far-reaching and important this work was. After all, I was a student of Thieme, and taught Vedic philology myself. It was harder for someone working on purely Slavic things to understand this just from looking at their writings without this broader perspective."

**Celia Hawkesworth, *Zagreb: A Cultural History*, Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2008 (236 pages, illustrated, map)**



**Bruno Šišić, *Dubrovnik Renaissance Gardens: Genesis and Design Characteristics*, Zagreb-Dubrovnik: HAZU, Zavod za povijesne znanosti u Dubrovniku: 2008, 248 pages, ISBN 978-953-154-760-4**

Excerpt: Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens and villas were, as a rule, designed and built by local craftsmen with the full participation of their

owners, so they reflect the potentials, wishes, philosophy and creative capabilities of local residents. Through comparison of Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens with the authentic models of their Italian counterparts, it can be concluded that Dubrovnik gardens are characterised by certain features related to the size, landscaping and articulation of their garden space. This results from natural and social differences and is consequently reflected in the quantity of particular natural and compositional elements, as well as differences in garden patterns. Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens were created in a dry, karst region, which results in the dominance of two compositional elements: stone and verdure. In Italian gardens, established on mild, fertile slopes on a hilly terrain, spring water has an equally significant role as stone and verdure. Both Italian and Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens are geometrically shaped, but there are differences in this respect too. The geometrical shaping in Italian gardens was carried out with consistent precision.

The difference in design of the systems of principal garden paths or walkways is great. While in Italian gardens the principal paths were most often bordered by hedges and clipped verdure, in Dubrovnik gardens they were bordered by low stone walls carrying stone columns which supported pergolas.

This is the reason why in Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens verdure did not need to be artificially trimmed. Nor was its tectonic (constructional) function in the creation and articulation of the garden area significant to the same extent and in the same manner.

In each Dubrovnik Renaissance garden the pergola is a delightfully significant element. It is supported by colonnades made of slender carved stone monolith columns. In gardens



characterised by a more complex landscaping design, pergolas comprise entire systems of green porches which articulate the garden spaces into open quadrangular shapes of garden verdure and intersecting walkways canopied by grapevines.

Generally speaking, Dubrovnik gardens were designed more modestly compared to Italian ones, which abounded in sculptures and sculpted water features. Dubrovnik gardens are littoral gardens, both with regard to their natural properties and the fact that, as a rule, they overlook the sea. Moreover, many of them were in immediate contact with it. This contact resulted in specific landscaping solutions, which resulted in the appearance of garden terraces, belvederes or organs (boathouses) attached to the house, garden and sea.

All of the previously stated had an impact on the distinctive and distinguished iconographic expression of Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens.

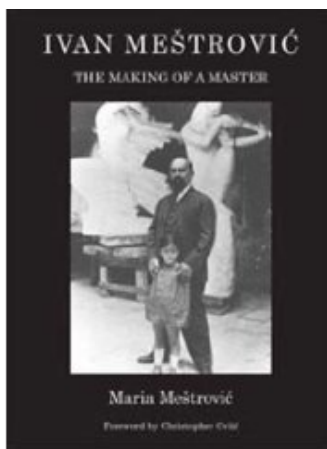
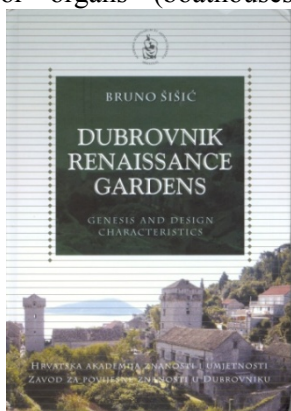
An investigation into the formal properties of Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens and the study of the factors which brought about their historical genesis leads us to the realisation that developments in agriculture, planning, utilitarian gardens and, in particular, gardens of leisure, considerably contributed to their distinctiveness. All of this took place before Renaissance times in Dubrovnik and paved the way towards the authentic expression of Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens.

It can be inferred from everything stated above that Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens are characterised by numerous common

features regarding their design and function. At the same time, these make them quite special and recognisably distinctive, both in comparison to the original model of the Renaissance garden—the Italian garden—and when viewing them within the framework of overall achievements in Renaissance garden art.

Dubrovnik gardens possess a number of common features with the distinctive mark of the region that categorises them as a separate group with a typological uniqueness within the framework of Renaissance garden art, which can be named with the common term *Dubrovnik Renaissance gardens*.

**Marija Marica Meštrović, Marcus Tanner, Ivan Meštrović: *The Making of a Master*, London: Stacey International 2008 (317 pages, 12 plates, illustrated)**



**Ivo Supićić and Eduard Hercigonja, eds., *Croatia in the Late Middle Ages and the Renaissance: A Cultural Survey*, London: Philip Wilson; Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 2008 (863 pages, color illustrations, maps, music)**

This huge, multidisciplinary work explores the history of Croatia from the 13th through 16th century. It looks at the political and social history of the country in terms of its achievements in art and science, and its importance as a bridge between Eastern and Western Europe. Sections

(full of lovely color illustrations) feature illuminated manuscripts, architectural treasures, frescos, sculpture and paintings as a testament to the richness and originality of medieval Croatian culture.

**Anita Peti Stantić *Jezik naš i/ili njihov: vježbe iz poredbene povijesti južnoslavenskih standardizacijskih procesa*, Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2008 (495 pages)**

In this excellent study Anita Peti Stantić, a professor at the Dept. for South Slavic Languages and Literatures of Zagreb's School for Humanities, focuses on the South



Slavic languages from historical and sociolinguistic aspects and tackles the question of understanding the standardization processes these languages have undergone in the course of history. This is one of the first contributions in the area of comparative historical standardology, and it is rooted in the assumption that the processive nature of standardization and the ideas connected to its realization are precisely the mechanisms which brought about the final manifestations of the standard languages in the nineteenth century.

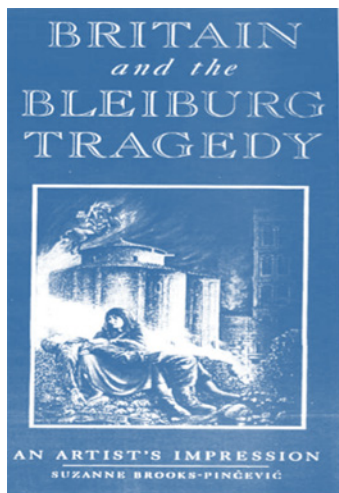
**Suzanne Brooks-Pincevic, *Britain and the Bleiburg Tragedy*, New Zealand: Devon Print Limited, (76 pages, color plates)**

“A remarkable and unique book containing reproductions of the author's original paintings. These, along with poems, prose (historical accounts) and eyewitness statements, present a dramatic document dealing with one of the most important and



tragic events in modern Croatian history...it is a well-deserved tribute to all those hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers who lost their lives for Croatia's independence during the past 60 years."

Dr. George J. Prpic  
Professor emeritus of History  
John Carroll University



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**Searching For a Storm, Filmmaker:  
Jack Baric.**



*Filmmaker Jack Baric*

This new documentary is the story of former Croatian Army Lieutenant General Ante Gotovina and his case before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. His role in leading a military action

called "Operation Storm" in August 1995 that liberated Croatian territory occupied by Serb rebels since 1991 evokes intense emotion from both those who point the finger of guilt at the ex-soldier and other who espouse the man's innocence. One issue on which the film attempts to shed light is whether the ICTY is attempting to create a narrative justifying the UN wartime position that the conflict in the Balkans during the 1990s was a civil war and not a war of aggression by then Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Another is whether the UN is manipulating its international war crimes court to downplay and paint over UN failures during the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

One of the interview subjects in the film is Anton Nikiforov, spokesman for the ICTY prosecutor's office. A total of about two dozen subjects appear in *Searching For a Storm*, representing Croats, Serbs, Bozniaaks, plus UN and other international officials.

The film makes its debut at the LA Harbor International Film Festival, April 23-26 ([www.laharborfilmfest.com](http://www.laharborfilmfest.com)).

For a schedule of North American release dates and information on how to order a DVD of the film, visit the website [www.searchingforastorm.com](http://www.searchingforastorm.com).

Frank Vinko Mustac  
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**Freedom from Despair, Brenda Brkusic's** award-winning PBS TV documentary is now available for purchase on VHS and DVD.

The film follows the journey of Kruno Brkusic, a Croatian Catholic who was repeatedly jailed by communists and managed to escape the country on foot at age seventeen. As Kruno's homeland becomes scarred by war during the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991, he becomes a voice in the American media, trying to correct untrue propaganda and challenging the journalistic community to take a stand on human rights. This film reveals the atrocities committed and hidden by the communist government of Yugoslavia and its



*Brenda Brkusic at the IDA Awards*

includes ten minutes of bonus material not seen in the PBS television broadcast.

The film includes interviews with authors Michael McAdams and Jerry Blaskovich as well as U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich. The film is narrated by the well-known actors Michael York and John Savage, and the music is composed by Nenad Bach.

To purchase copies to be shipped in the USA only, call PBS TV 888-246-4585 or 888-246-4583.

To purchase copies that can be shipped anywhere in the world, go to [www.freedomfromdespair.com](http://www.freedomfromdespair.com) or [www.croatiagifts.com](http://www.croatiagifts.com) or call 877-906-8314.

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