

AN EDITORIAL WORD

At the meeting of the Scientific Council of the Historical Institute of Montenegro, held on 1st of December 2009, a new Editorial Board of ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI was elected. According to the practice adopted since June 19th 1998, along with the national scientists, representatives from abroad also form part of the Editorial board, giving it international character. In making that decision, the Scientific Council of the Historical Institute has, as early as in 1998, expressed its desire to expand the communication with scientific institutions not only in the region, but also with those in the European countries and in the United States. On the other hand, by choosing international editorial board, the Journal's referentiality should increase, making it more attractive for cooperation, especially to the scientists from the region, former members of the SFRY, but also to those from other countries.

The following members of the Editorial board were elected on December 12 this year, according to the previously adopted general principles: Prof. Dr. Karl Kaser (Centre for Southeast European History, University of Graz, Austria), Dr. Bernard Lori (Directeur-adjoint du Centre des études slaves de Paris, France), Prof. Dr. Massimo Bucarelli (Dipartimento di Studi Politici - „Sapienza” Università di Roma, Italy), Dr. Kosta Nikiforov (Russia), Prof. Dr. Gabriella Schubert (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Philosophische Fakultät Institut für Slawistik, Germany), Dr. Stjepan Matkovic (direktor Hrvatskog instituta za povijest, Zagreb, Croatia), Miroslav Perisic (direktor Arhiva Srbije, Belgrade, Serbia), Prof. Dr. Ljubinka Trgovčević (Serbia), Dr. Momcilo Pejovic, Dr. Dragana Kujović, Dr. Zvezdan Folic, Dr. Senka Raspopović, Dr. Vukajlo Glusevic and Dr. Radoslav Raspopović (editor). Ivan Laković was appointed secretary of the Editorial board.

Kindly accepting the membership in the Editorial Board, the famous scientists have expressed their respect for the high scientific reputation of ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI, which has held a prominent place among the scientific periodicals of Montenegro and the neighboring countries for more than

eight decades, especially among those from former Yugoslavia. Valuable results, achieved in the previous editions – from ZAPISI as the magazine for science and literature (1927-1933), ZAPISI as the publication of Historical Society of Cetinje (1935-1941) and ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI as an organ of the Historical Institute of Montenegro and the Society of Historians of Montenegro (1948 to present) – compel the newly formed editorial board not only to maintain the existing level of the scientific journal, but also to improve its reputation by publishing papers and selecting topics and associates.

The scientific referentiality which the new Editorial Board aspires to is for it to become a means of communication and knowledge exchange among a larger number of scientific subjects. Our interest is to transform the ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI into „a desirable scientific journal”, to which the historians from the neighboring countries and beyond would contribute. The basis for this outlook on the role of our Journal in the scientific life of Montenegro is also provided by the authority of the elected foreign members of the board, and their willingness to enrich it with the works of colleagues from the scientific environments they operate in, along with making their own contributions to the magazine.

Because of the need to make the magazine available to a larger number of foreign readers in this concept, papers of foreign authors will not be translated, but published in the original, i.e. in one of the world languages. The Editorial Board will seek to include the journal in some of the referent international databases. For now, the success has already been reached through joining the Central Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL).

Its access to wider scientific areas and the adoption of elements of modern scientific methodology, aspiration toward the syntheses and the insights into the historical past “in broad intervals”, which imply a significantly higher level of scientific elaboration than the study of the national history of Montenegro, does not suggest the latter will be neglected or become less important. On the contrary, ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI will continue to employ a strictly scientific approach to the problem research of the rich political, social, cultural and economic history of Montenegro. It is understood that the research, apart from being conducted within national borders, must be done in the context of the broader historical processes in other South Slavic countries in the period from 1918 – 2006 of the history of the Yugoslav state.

While maintaining such a scientific approach, ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI will be also open to topics from Slavic and South Slavic past, the history of the Balkans and the Mediterranean over a very broad period of time.

We believe that in such a way we can contribute to the desired exchange of knowledge and research results with other scientific institutions in the world, and contribute to an overall appreciation of the historical trends in

Montenegro and the region in the past and today.

In addition to publishing thematic issues devoted to important dates, processes, events and personalities from the national and European history, the Journal is going to be open to articles that do not primarily deal with historiography, but which belong to other disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, etc. This means that besides the regular features, such as scientific articles, discussions, research contributions and sources, history education, historiography, reviews, notes, chronicles etc, there would be columns on, for instance, archeology, numismatics, sphragistic, ethnology, etc, depending on the obtained papers. Special emphasis will be placed on the texts in the field of philosophy of history and its contemporary study methods, which would include questions on history education in schools and faculties, as well as the methods for their improvement.

However, only through the quality of articles that will appear in the Journal, i.e. by publishing new, original results the advancements in the development of historical science can be achieved, and a more significant place for ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI can be found among the contemporary periodicals.

Apart from engaging certified experts, good connoisseurs of certain epochs or scientific problems, the Editorial Board will strive to widen the circle of contributors to the young and talented researchers, seeking to contribute to their scientific development and also ensure the Journal freshness and a new research quality.

Guided by those principles, the Editorial Board prepared issues 1-2 for 2009 to be published. It decided to announce the basic postulates of its editorial policy in this way in order to inform the readers about the change in the Editorial Board, but also to invite all those professionally engaged in history, who get hold of this issue of the magazine, to cooperate and to provide new ideas and suggestions that would improve the quality of the ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI. All benevolent suggestions will be gladly accepted. We are obliged to do this by the decades of existence of ISTORIJSKI ZAPISI, which has become one of the most important monuments of the Montenegrin scientific and cultural life due to the results achieved by many generations of historians. We hope that you will accept our call and give your contribution to realization of such editorial concept of the Journal.