

THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTE IN BELGRADE

The Historical Institute was established in August 1947 as one of the Institutes of the Serbian Academy of Sciences in Belgrade and meant to be the central institute for studies of history of the Serbian people. The historical Institute was organized as a scientific-research institution with the task to study the economical, social, political and cultural history of the Serbian people and its relations with the Yugoslav, Balkan, and European peoples.

In the course of its sixteen-year work, from 1948 to 1964, the Historical Institute passed through several stages in its development. It started its activity in 1948 as an institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences. It was reorganized in 1957 according to the regulations of the new Law on the organization of scientific work and the principle of collective management and it was directed by a Council, as an organ of that management. In 1961 this reorganization was accomplished; the Institute was separated from the Serbian Academy of Sciences and it became an independent unit, with its own budget and administration. The work of the Institute is financed by the Council for Scientific work of Serbia. Today, the Institute is directed by the Council, whose members are: two representatives from the Government of Serbia, two from the Serbian Academy of Sciences, two representatives from the University of Belgrade, one from the State Archives in Belgrade, the director of the Institute and three members elected from among the scientific collective. The Council of the Institute is competent to issue regulations, plans and the work-program of the Institute, to hold elections of new collaborators and to give approval for publishing scientific work. The director of the Institute manages directly the work of the Institute. The duty of the director of the Institute was performed by academician V. Novak (until 1954), corresponding member of the Academy I. Sisdik (to 1957), academician M. Kostić (till 1961) and academician J. Tadić, who directs the work of the Institute today. The scholarly staff comprises the members of the Institute. The personal policy of the Institute has as its goal to create a younger generation of scholars and to transmit the main part of the work to permanent collaborators. Gradually the number of the permanent collaborators of the Institute increased. Today, the Historical Institute has 20 permanent collaborators (scientific advisers, senior advisers, collaborators and assistants)

and 22 outside collaborators among the professors of the Universities in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Novi Sad, as well as archivists and librarians. Until 1964, 16 young collaborators of the Institute defended their doctor theses, which dealt with a number of problems from medieval and modern history.¹ Four young assistants are going to complete their theses in the course of this year. Besides its own assistants, the Institute also trains a number of young people for University-teaching. In the course of these years five collaborators of the Institute became assistants and professors at the Universities in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Skoplje.

The Scientific-research activity of the Historical Institute includes the history of the Serbian people from Middle Ages till 1918. The collaborators-specialists for the medieval period, collect and publish the basic sources for the medieval history of the Serbian people and study in separate monographs the problems concerning its development in that period, especially the social and economical structure of feudalism, agricultural relations, citizenship and the development of cities, trade and mining, military organization, juridical sources, political and cultural history. Apart from the work already published concerning that period, a number of other publications is being prepared: "The History of Belgrade in the Middle Ages" (the manuscript is ready for printing), a monograph about "The Hercegovinian Family Hercegović," "The History of Private Law in Dubrovnik until the end of the XIVth

1. The titles of doctor theses published in the series of the Institute, Academy of Sciences or other publishing houses are: *The Medieval Costume of Balkan Slavs* (Srednjekovna nošnja balkanskih Slovena); *Weapons in Medieval Serbia and Bosnia* (Oružje u srednjekovnoj Srbiji i Bosni); *Herceg Stjepan Vukčić-Kosača and His Times* (Herceg Stjepan Vukčić-Kosača i njegovo vreme); *Equipment of Books Printed in XV-XVII century* (Grafička oprema knjiga štampanih u XV-XVII veku); *Montenegro in the Time of Bishop Danilo* (Crna Gora u doba vladike Danila); *The Formation of the Montenegrin State* (Stvaranje crnogorske države); *Dubrovnik and Turkey in the First Half of XVII Century* (Dubrovnik i Turska u prvoj polovini XVII veka); *Prince Miloš and Eastern Serbia 1833-1838* (Knez Miloš-istončna Srbija 1833-1938); *The Development of the Trading Capital in Serbia in the First Half of XIX Century* (Razvoj trgovačkog kapitala u Srbiji u prvoj polovini XIX veka); *The Development of Administrative Rule in Serbia in the Period of Prince Miloš 1815-1835* (not published yet) (Razvoj upravne vlasti u Srbiji za vreme kneza Miloša); *The policy of France towards Serbia during the Second Reign of Prince Miloš and Mihaile 1858-1868* (Stav Frančuske prema Srbiji za vreme druge vlade kneza Miloša i Mihaila 1858-1868); *The Position and Struggle of Peasants in Srem from the End of XIXth Century to 1914* (Položaj i borba seljaštva u Sremu od kraja XIX veka do 1914); *The Customs War between Austria-Hungary and Serbia 1906-1911* (Carinski rat Austro-Ugarske i Srbije 1906-1911); *Foreign Capital in the Economy of Former Yugoslavia* (Strani kapital u privredi bivše Jugoslavije); *The National-Liberation Struggle in Boka Kotorska* (in print) (Narodno oslobodilačka borba u Boki Kotorskoj).

Century” and “The contacts between Dubrovnik and Medieval Serbia and Bosnia.” Special attention was paid to the collecting of sources and to the publishing of the two legal sources of Dubrovnik (*Liber viridis* and *Liber Croceus*), a voluminous work about Serbian money in the Middle Ages (*Corpus nummorum Serbiae*) and a critical edition on the “*Krmcija*” of Saint Sava. The members of the Institute are due to accomplish two more tasks. These are to publish: 1) The Serbian “diplomatar,” a critical collection of Cyrillic documents in Middle Ages. 2. An Atlas of medieval Serbia and Bosnia and a historico-geographical dictionary. A large number of outside collaborators contribute to the realization of these tasks, especially in the work on the historical Atlas, which should include the political, economical and cultural maps of medieval Serbia. This goal is only a part of efforts made by the three Yugoslav academies — in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana — to produce an Atlas of all the Yugoslav countries in the Middle Ages. The first map (the section of Peć) was finished two years ago but the whole should be ready by the end of 1965.

The study of the history from the XVIth till the end of the XVIIIth century consists in the publishing of sources and monographical works about questions pertaining to the period. Concerning sources, plans are made to publish Turkish documents and also to issue European bibliography for the countries in the South-Eastern part of Europe from the XVI to the XVIII century. The monographs comprise the study of specific problems of Turkish feudal life, agricultural relations, trade, the contacts of the Serbians with the other Yugoslav and Balkan peoples, as well as studies of the uprisings in the Balkans. In addition to the works already published the following manuscripts are completed: “The History of Money in our Countries from the XVIth till the XVIIIth century” and “The Economical Relations between Dubrovnik and Turkey in the XVIth century.” Themes about the participation of the Yugoslav peoples in the wars of the European countries against Turkey from the end of the XVth till the end of XVIIIth century and about Balkan trade in the XVIIIth century are also being studied. The Institute started gathering, micro-filming and translating Turkish “*defteri*” into Serbo-Croatian. The question of migration of the Serbian people under the Turkish government makes a voluminous subject, but so far because of lack of collaborators only the Serbian migration to Vojvodina, Slavonia and Srem at the end of the XVIIIth century has been studied.

However the main emphasis of the Historical Institute is on the study of the national history from the XIXth to the XXth century (till 1918). The greatest number of collaborators are engaged in studying the formation of the Serbian state in the XIXth century, its development, political parties, re-

lations with Yugoslav, Balkan and European peoples, economical and social problems etc. The sources concerning the First Serbian Insurrection (Russian, Turkish, Serbian), the Revolution of 1848/9 and the period of the Foreign policy of Serbia from 1903-1914 are being collected and prepared for publication. A collection of international treaties of Serbia from 1804 to 1918 is planned. From the study of Serbian history of the XIXth century studies are being prepared: monographical works about the First Serbian Insurrection, relations between Austria and Serbia in the first half of the XIXth century, the Youth Movement in the Yugoslav lands 1840-1878, Yugoslav-Polish collaboration in XIXth century and the relations between the Turkish empire and Yugoslav countries from the peace of Adrianople in 1829 to the congress of Paris in 1856. The greatest attention is being given to the study of the period at the beginning of XXth century, because this period has not been studied enough. The program of the Institute in which all its permanent and outside collaborators are engaged, foresees the preparation of series of monographs in economical, political-diplomatic and cultural history. In economic history, work is being done to prepare monographs about the financial capital in Serbia till the First World War, the situation of the peasants from the end of XIXth century till 1914, foreign capital in the mining industry of Serbia, and Balkan trade till 1918. Concerning political and diplomatic history, some studies have been made on the political parties in Serbia 1903-1914, the history of socialism and the workers' movement in Serbia, the relations between Serbia and the great Entente powers 1903-1914, the relations between Serbia and the neighbouring Balkan countries, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania and Turkey 1903-1918 (all in separate studies), and about the Russian role in the Annexation-crisis of 1908/9. The relations of the Yugoslav peoples are included in the theme about the Yugoslav national-revolutionary movement of the Youth (1903-1914). The history of the University of Belgrade and the development of archival work in Serbia are themes within the frame of the cultural history of Serbia. The studies of the collaborators of the Institute are published in the *Historical Review* (*Istorijski časopis*) which is issued once a year (so far 13 issues have been printed),² 11 volumes of *Sources* and 14 special editions of published books. In 1962 the Institute started two special series: *The Yugoslav countries in XIXth century* (two books published in 1962-3) and *The Yugoslav countries in XXth century* (two books published in the course of 1962-3).

The permanent and outside collaborators of the Institute work indivi-

2. For the list of subjects presented as lectures in the Institute, see the *Historical Review*, IX-X, 1959 p. 8-16.

dually and collectively. The monographical treatment of a theme is the individual task of each collaborator. The individual method in research is combined with the collective by common discussions in the course of the work and after the manuscript has been completed. In addition, lectures are organized in the Institute in which the collaborators and guests present the results of their research work. Thus, for instance, in the period 1948-1958, 289 public lectures with discussions were held in the Institute.³

The research work of the collaborators of the Institute is performed in archives and libraries in the country and abroad. Considering that a big part of archival documentation for the medieval, as well as for the modern history is not in Belgrade, the Institute provides all of its permanent and some of its outside collaborators for one month's research work in the course of a year, beyond Belgrade, and, if needed, it makes possible micro-filming of historical material. Beside the work in domestic archives and libraries, the collaborators of the Institute remain and work in foreign archives and libraries such as in Vienna, Budapest, Moscow, Constantinople, London, Paris, Prague, Warsaw, Venice, Thessaloniki and other scientific centers in Europe.

The Historical Institute keeps professional and friendly contacts with other scientific and cultural institutions in the country and abroad. In particular, the collaboration with the Serbian Academy of Sciences and the University of Belgrade is very close (where certain collaborators give lectures and teach students preparing for the M.A. degree) and with other similar institutions and historical centers in the country. The collaborators of the Institute take an active part in the work of all congresses of historians in Yugoslavia (1954, 1958, 1962) and in the work of professional societies (The Federation of Historical Societies, The Society of Historians of Serbia, The Association of University Professors and so forth). With their articles and treatises, they collaborate in almost all historical publications in the country, such as: *The Historical Review of Yugoslavia* (*Jugoslovenski istorijski časopis*); *The Historical Herald* (*Istorijski glasnik*); *The Historical Survey* (*Istorijski pregled*); *The Collection of Works of the Institute for Social Sciences* (*Zbornik radova Instituta društvenih nauka*); *Historical Inscriptions* (*Istorijski zapisi*); *The Collection of Matiča Srpska* (*Zbornik Matice Srpske*); *Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia* (*Enciklopedija Jugoslavije*) and so on.

The Historical Institute maintains and enlarges its contacts with the representatives of foreign historical studies. The contact is kept by participating in congresses, meetings, personal relations and by inter-institutional

3. The bibliography of 107 treatises, 27 supplements and about 300 reports published in the *Historical Review* I-X is presented in number IX-X, 1959 p. 549-574.

collaboration. The collaborators of the Historical Institute participated in the work of international congresses of historians in Rome and Stockholm, congresses in which certain professional themes were discussed in Italy and France, as well as discussions held with Russian, Polish, Hungarian and Italian historians. According to the cultural convention signed between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, the Historical Institute was designated as the Yugoslav representative in the joint study of some historical themes to be undertaken collectively with the Historical Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The Institute has also established friendly and cordial relations with Greek historical centers, especially with the Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki which was manifested by the exchange of lectures and visits. A great number of foreign scientists, who stay in Belgrade, pay visits to the Institute every year. Contact with the foreign scholarship is maintained by exchanging publications of the institutions in the country and abroad. In 1962, the mutual exchange of publications was established with 32 scientific institutions in the country and abroad. This year (1964), the library of the Institute has been receiving 47 foreign and domestic professional periodicals.

The Historical Institute possesses a historical archive and working library. The archive was founded in 1950 and contains today about 70.000 documents. Its most important collection is the archive of the former regent and Prime Minister of Serbia in XIXth century Jovan Ristić. The archive is constantly being enlarged by procuring new documents as well as by gifts. In 1962, the Institute was donated 25.000 documents, microfilmed by the Belgian Foreign Office, which comprise the complete Belgian material referring to the history of Serbia 1880-1914. The library contains about 30.000 books and 20.000 volumes of periodicals.

Studying the history of the Serbian people and its relations with the Yugoslav and Balkan peoples, the collaborators of the Institute are aware of the extent of their task, the difficulties and the efforts which are before them. They hope to realise their goals as much with their own efforts as with collaboration with other historians in the country and abroad, especially with their Balkan neighbours. It is understood that historical science more and more extends beyond the national limits in its noble effort.

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