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Information bulletin of Slovak Matica for the Slavic world and Slovaks abroad

THE YEAR OF THE LEGACY OF THE ŠTÚR´S GENERATION IN SLOVAK MATICA

PADINA, VILLAGE OF DEEP WELLS AND GROUND WATER

175 YEARS OF THE SERBIAN MATICA´S GALLERY

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF LUSATIAN-SERBIAN MATICA

CROATIAN MATICA ORGANIZED A GENERAL MEETING

WE REMEMBER TEACHER JÁN MICHALKO

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Pavol Parenička, researcher at Slovak Matica, member of the editorial board of Slavic Horizon, Slovakia

THE CONTINUITY OF SLOVAK AND NATIVE HISTORY AND ITS GENIUS LOCI

Slovak Matica declared the year ending 2022 as the Year of the Legacy of the Štúr´s generation family and the upcoming year, 2023, as the Year of Slovak Matica. In the first case, Slovak Matica did so in connection with the 200th anniversary of the birth of several leading representatives of the younger Štúr´s generation generation, such as romantic giants, visionaries and revolutionaries; poet Janko Kráľ, politician Ján Vratislav Francisci, novelist Ján Blahoslav Kalinčiak or lawyer Štefan Marko Daxner. These natives had the year 1822 written on their birth certificates. It is interesting that all these important personalities from Štúr´s generation are buried at the National Cemetery in Martin, despite their different birthplaces. In the second case next year, it concerns the fact that the oldest cultural institution in Slovakia will commemorate the 160th anniversary of its establishment and the memory of the founder or establisher, or of the first general assembly of Slovak Matica, which took place in August 1863 in Turčiansky St. Martin as part of the millennium celebrations of the arrival of the Cyril-Method mission among our ancestors. It should be noted that in the 1840s members of the younger Štúr´s generation generation, romantic rioters and rebels led by Janko Kráľ, Ján Vratislav Francisci, Ján Blahoslav Kalinčiak and Štefan Marko Daxner became the most loyal, closest and enthusiastic collaborators of the leadership triumvirate consisting of Ľudovít Velislav Štúr, Jozef Miloslav Hurban and Michal Miloslav Hodža in the peak period of the Slovak national revival. Alongside them, they participated in integration and emancipation efforts, the codification of the new written Slovak language and the Slovak Uprising in 1848 and 1849. In particular, this revolutionary historical event, as a specific form of national revolution in Slovakia, shaped the modern, or the modern-day Slovak nation and completed its cultural and political efforts, in which the Demands of the Slovak Nation, considered a basic state-legal document of national history with an autonomist program, were adopted, and the Slovak National Council was established as the supreme revolutionary military-political body. In this hectic period of European, Slavic and Slovak revolutionary movements and waves against feudal orders for national freedom, civil rights and social reforSlovak Matica, during the second or winter expedition of Slovak volunteers to Slovakia for the purpose of liberating it from Hungarian domination and manor from December 1848 to April 1849 Turčiansky St. Martin, the seat of the town of Turiec County, became the center of the Slovak Uprising, where Ľudovít Velislav Štúr and Jozef Miloslav Hurban worked, because from the very beginning of the uprising, they counted on this location in their strategic plan as the center of Slovak political and military efforts in the ongoing revolution... In on January 1856, in the middle of the decade of the regressive era known as Bach's absolutism in the Habsburg monarchy, when all national liberation and democratic efforts were violently suppressed, including the activities of representatives of the Slovak national movement from the Štúr´s generation camp, he died prematurely and tragically in the full bloom of his creative powers. thirty-year-old Ľudovít Velislav Štúr. It was a huge loss for Slovakia and the Slavs, but Jozef Miloslav Hurban continued his leadership work, because shortly before in 1848 and 1849 during the Slovak Uprising, the Štúr´s generations changed into the Hurbanovs in the revolutionary battles. Their leaders, headed by Ján Vratislav Francisci and Štefan Marko Daxner, came under the official control and police supervision of Vienna after 1849, and all their efforts to activate national life were blocked by the royal court and the Reich government, therefore the Štúr and Hurban visions were waiting for better times . And they soon came as a result of fundamental changes resulting from international events. After the externally determined constitutional changes in the Austrian Empire within it at the beginning of the 1860s, the personalities of Štúr´s generation and Hurbanov once again did not miss the historical opportunity and revitalized the Slovak national movement, while even as men of a mature age they followed up on their own revolutionary program from the eighth year. It was developed according to the memorandum concept of Štefan Mark Daxner at the Slovak National Assembly on June 6 and 7, 1861, under the chairmanship of Ján Vratislav Francisci and the presence of his Štúr´s generation comrades - Jozef Miloslav Hurban, Sam Chalupka, Andrej Krasislav Sládkovič, Janko Kráľ, Samuel Dobroslav Štefanovič, Viliam Pauliny -Tóth and others - in the form of a Memorandum of the Slovak Nation with a proposal for the establishment of an autonomous Slovak Okolia. The gathering or congress took place in Turčianske Sv. Martin. From the cultural and political memorandum program of the Štúr´s generation and Hurbanovs, in August 1863, Slovak Matica was born in the context of the cultural phenomenon of Slavic matrices, which also established Turčiansky Svätý Martin as its headquarters, where it operates to this day in the spirit of the Štúr´s generation legacy.

And that is how the Štúra tradition was actually created, existed and is remembered as a national historical and maternal continuity and its genius loci in Martin. That is why the small town of Turčiansky St. Martin or modern Martin occupies a place of honor not only in Slovak national history but also in wider Slavic and European cultural history. Mainly for these reasons, Slovak Matica declared the year ending in 2022 as the Year of the Legacy of the Štúr´s generation family, and the continuously upcoming year, 2023, as the Year of Slovak Matica.

THE YEAR OF THE LEGACY OF THE ŠTÚR´S GENERATION IN SLOVAK MATICA

Lukáš Perný, culturologist and philosopher, Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Slovak Matica members in historical Štúr´s generation uniforms, Slovak Matica at the National Cemetery in Martin, the resting place of representatives of the Štúr´s generation generation. Photo: Tatiana Tomková

The All-Slavic generation – Pavol Jozef Šafárik, Ján Kollár, František Palacký and Karol Kuzmány – once dreamed of a great Slavia, a great vision of all-Slavic cooperation. These ideas also inspired the generation that made a significant mark in Slovak state-building history, the generation of the Štúr´s generation, whose anniversaries are being commemorated by Slovak Matica in 2022 by declaring the YEAR OF THE LEGACY OF THE ŠTÚR´S GENERATION. Why am I starting my post dedicated to the activities for the YEAR OF LEGACY OF THE STÚR´S with All-Slav? The magazine in which we publish this text is intended for the Slavic world and is also translated into other Slavic languages, which are often miraculously similar. The very similarity of the most basic means of communication of the Slavs predisposes to cooperation. Unfortunately, Šafárik already knew that the Slavs were very quarrelsome and that it would definitely not be easy to build such cooperation. In any case, the dream of the All-Slavic generation was at least the cultural cooperation of the Slavs, and this magazine is, in a way, a partial realization of this dream. The Štúr family perceived the All-Slavia generation in different ways at different stages of development. They stood at the All-Slavic Congress, through which we, albeit for a tiny moment (in the words of Vladimír Mináč), entered the soil of international history. Štúr communicated with Šafárik, and Šafárik, in turn, strove for rapprochement and suppression of ideological disputes. Although there were later radical disputes between Štúr and Kollár, the dream of pan-Slavic cooperation was also translated into Štúr's last work *Slavonicity and the World of the Future*, which must be understood in the historical context as a utopia, a vision, a dream of a higher stage of Slavic and Slovak history, since Štúr influenced by Hegel's idea that the state is the basic prerequisite for the existence of a nation, he strove for the unification of the Slavic world. We can evaluate, criticize, draw conclusions from the idea of the unification of the Slavs, but it cannot be denied the strong idealism and sincere desire that, in a humanistic and fraternal spirit, presupposed Herder's vision of peaceful cooperation between the Slavs. Although the hectic present shows that this idea is very far away and there are many grievances between the Slavic tribes, cooperation, compromises and dialogue have always been and will be a more reasonable solution than war and conflicts. So much for a short ideological introduction to my first contribution, which I am addressing to the Slavic world within this periodical.

On the occasion of the bicentenary, Slovak Matica commemorates important personalities of national history with a whole range of events ranging from educational, scientific, theatrical, publishing articles, studies, brochures, calendars, books, performing volunteer theater to creating short historical documents. Reports from events, as well as biographical medallions about Štúr´s generationec, are regularly published on the pages of the main Slovak National Newspaper, contributions are also published on the website www.matica.sk. The president of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper attends Štúr events all over Slovakia, and the Matica scientific staff also organized a number of successful events. The events are not only regional, but also nationwide. The scientific conference *The year of the legacy of the Štúr´s generation*, which was organized by the

From the National Ascent to Kriváň, top photo of the registrars. Photo: Slovak Matica

An exhibition dedicated to the legacy of the Štúr´s generation in the headquarters building of Slovak Matica in Martin. Photo: Pavol Madura

scientific secretary of the Slovak Matica Pavol Madura in Martin on September 8-9, and which was attended by linguists, literary scholars, historians, but also philosophers and culturologists, clearly belongs to the all-Slovak ones. The studies will be published in a separate peer-reviewed collection. Pavol Madura, in cooperation with the literary historic Slovak Matica Pavol Parenička, also prepared a special exhibition The year of the legacy of the Štúr´s generation, which was published in the form of a brochure and presented for the first time at the event *Štúr´s generation in the coordinates of national history*. The traveling exhibition is also presented in Slovak cities. The event included an Open door day in Slovak Matica, a ceremonial unveiling of the bust of Štefan Marko Daxner, an allegorical procession to the National Cemetery and the laying of wreaths on the graves of the Štúr´s generation on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of their birth. At the event, Slovak Matica also remembered other bicentenaries, often forgotten personalities of the Štúr´s generation movement, such as Samuel Galanda or the fighter and journalist Samuel Štefanovič. „The legacy of the famous Štúr´s generation generation is still *alive in the Slovak nation, because we still use the fruits of their work and lifelong efforts today. Whether we are talking about literary Slovak, national identity and state sovereignty, or even about military historical traditions. In the 19th century, the Štúr´s generation family represented the Slovaks at a time of national oppression and severe persecution, when many of our personalities ended up in prison for their words about improving the national, social and educational level. By dedicating the current year 2022 to the legacy of the people of Štúr´s generation, we also show our gratitude for the fact that, as a modern and emancipated nation of Europe, we have achieved life in the free, independent and democratic Slovak Republic*," said Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper.

In the surroundings of Kopanice villages, members of Slovak Matica together with activists of the civic association Johanka Hrebendová-Bóriková remembered the personalities of the revolutionary fighter Daniel Jaroslav Bóriková, the first female military doctor Johanka Hrebendová-Bóriková and the founder of cooperatives and theater popularizer Samuel Jurkovič. An event dedicated to the Šuleks brothers is also being prepared with the civic association.

As already mentioned, the spectacular events included the unveiling of the bust of the initiator of the Demands of the Slovak Nation and the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation, Štefan Mark Daxner, with the participation of the Speaker of the Parliament. Slovak Matica commemorated Daxner's right-hand man, the captain of the Slovak volunteers, but also the collector of fairy tales and national revivalist Ján Francisci-Rimavský with an event in Hnúšťa. She also commemorated him with a special document created

The audience of the scientific conference Matica slovenská Legacy of the Štúr´s generation. Photo: Marián Gešper

Shortly after the unveiling of the bust of Štefan Marek Daxner in the avenue of national figures in the courtyard of the headquarters building of Slovak Matica. From left: head of the department of culture and sports of the city of Tisovec Michal Stejskal, chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Boris Kollár and chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper. Photo: Ján Seman

by Ján Seman in collaboration with P. Parenička, but also with smaller events such as in Jura nad Hronom.

Matica did not forget the bicentenary of the revolutionary poet Janko Kráľ, included in the UNESCO calendar of significant anniversaries. Slovak Matica prepared a separate film and a special event in Liptovský Mikuláš. The *Janko Kráľ conference in Novohrad and Hont* in Lučenec was also dedicated to the Štúr´s generation, at which Slovak Matica scientists spoke. Janko Kráľ was also heard in Zlaté Moravce and also in Spišská Nová Ves. The Janko Kráľ Museum is organizing a separate conference dedicated to this personality.

In the village of Rykynčice, Slovak Matica commemorated the bicentenary of Ján Rotarides, another Štúr´s generation. The event also included a performance of volunteer theater. Members of Slovak Matica did not forget the almost forgotten personality, poet and theater actor Jakub Grajchman in the village of Hybe. In Martin, volunteer theater actors and members of Slovak Matica, docents Lomenčík and Parenička, presented the work and life of Ján Kalinčiak.

The most recent events include the commemoration of Bohuš Nosák-Nezabudov in Sabinov, combined with a theatrical skit. Martina Matečková (House of Slovak Matica in Košice) also initiated the event for the bicentenary of the forgotten Štúr´s generation singer Janko Kučera, and P. Parenička gave a scientific contribution about Kučera in cooperation with Viliam Komora at the 10th annual *Song Message to Slovakia and the World in Sklabina*, Kučera's birthplace. A commemoration of the visionary of Slavic unity, Adolf Ivanovich Dobriansky, was also organized in Michalovce. The Štúr´s generation was also presented at a special event in Prešov, where the matric historian Zdeno Tkáč and the new external collaborator of the Slovak Matica, two-time doctor honoris causa professor Rudolf Dupkala, spoke. The activities should also include regular lectures at schools and cultural institutions, which are attended by Slovak Matica scholars as well as the chairman of Slovak Matica. As part of the Year of the Štúr´s generation legacy, a commemoration was also organized at the graves of the Štúr´s generation in Trenčín (Jan Polák), a commemorative plaque to Štúr´s generation volunteers was unveiled in the village of Soľ, and an event for the student secret society Mor ho! in Banská Bystrica. In Košice, the author of the article discussed with the chairman of Slovak Matica as part of the event of Slovak Matica and the Institute of Social Rights.

Members of Slovak Matica did not forget about sports and tourism events with a Štúr´s generation theme: e.g. the ascent to the Oblík mountain, where Adam Hlovík searched for the Old Slavonic altars mentioned in Kollár´s *Slávy dcéra*, and the National ascent to Kriváň, which was dedicated to the Year of the Legacy of the Štúr´s generation. The legacy of the Štúr´s generation is also remembered by Young Matica, who significantly participated in the ascent of the youth to Devín Castle and the subsequent lecture at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Bratislava.

I firmly believe that the events and activities will also inspire foreign Maticas and foreign organizers of the culture of the Slavic world and, like the Slovaks, they will remember the national figures of their history.

From a theatrical skit from the life of Janko Kalinčiak at the Slovak Chamber Theater in Martin. Matičná volunteer theater scene has been operating since 2009 and its performances have been watched by the general public in various places of our homeland. Photo: Ján Seman

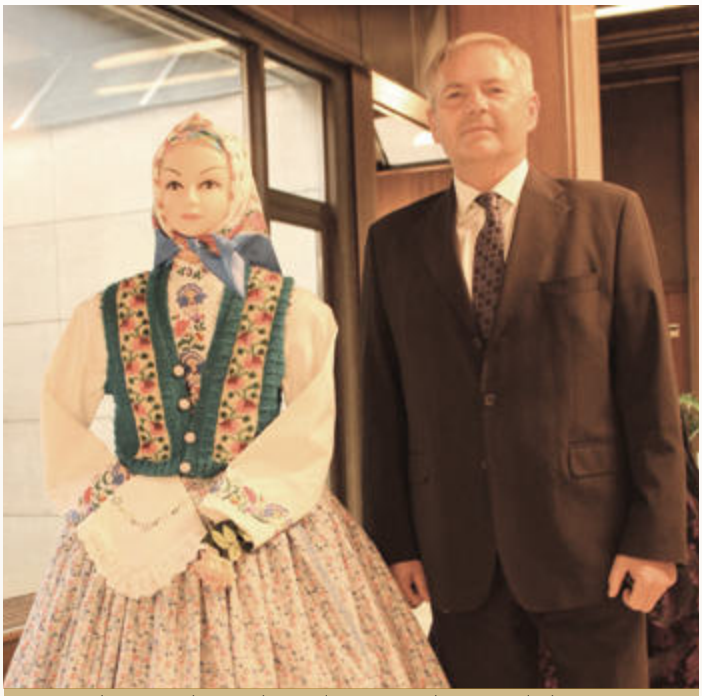
PADINA GECEĽA

Daniela Ďurašová, Association for Education and Regional Development, Serbia

In the premises of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Serbia, located in Belgrade, on the occasion of a ceremonial reception for the national holiday of the Constitution Day of the Slovak Republic, the invited diplomatic society from all over the world could admire the Pada costumes from the collector Zuzka Kotvášová.

At the exhibition, invited guests admired ten costumes worn by women for various occasions. Among them were everyday, holiday, wedding, girl's, mourning costumes, as well as those worn by women. This promotion will last until further notice. The costumes are made mostly of cotton fabric, but also of lace, ripstop, atlas and brocade. The fabrics for the costumes came mainly from Slovakia. Girls from wealthier families wore satin and brocade costumes. To sew a complete garment cost as much as „a reaper of the earth", which is the size of one morning according to today's calculations. Padina costumes are characterized by their simplicity, they only have embroidered details, and the predominant color is blue. Granddaughter Natali Kotvášová posed for her old woman in a poster, dressed in one of the traditional costumes of Pada, which has been preserved for the seventh generation of the family.

Further step towards informing about the intangible cultural heritage of Slovaks living in Serbia , not only for the diplomatic community.



H. E. Fedor Rosocha, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic in the Republic of Serbia, author of the idea of the costume exhibition in the embassy premises. Source: Archives of the Slovak Embassy

22 DAYS OF SLOVAK CULTURE – RIJEKA 2022

Miloslav Strehársky, Slovak Matica in Rijeka, Croatia

Karolína Rijecká Pier - participants in the ceremonial act of lowering the wreath into the sea. Photo: Antonio Gržinić

Slovak Matica (hereinafter Slovak Matica) in Rijeka on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Union of Slovaks in Croatia and in cooperation with the representative of the Slovak National Minority (hereinafter SNM) in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (hereinafter PGŽ) organized this year from June 23 to 26 already the *22nd day of Slovak culture – Rijeka 2022* with international participation. During these days, Slovaks present their culture and heritage to the inhabitants of the city and its visitors. The event was held with the support of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia, the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, the City Council of Rijeka, the Union of Slovaks in Croatia and Miroslava Gržinić, representative of the SNM in PGŽ. The program was supported by Radio Rijeka, Novi List, Kanal R, Croatian Radio and Television and Radio OK.

Venues of the event: Headquarters of Slovak Matica in Rijeka Slovenský dom – Hosti 80B, Karolína Rijeka Pier, Square of the 111th Brigade of the Croatian Army, Volosko and the ship Vir.

Participants: Slovak Matica in Rijeka – folklore and singing group Slovenka, folklore group Podžiaran from Papradno (Slovakia), association Matkino srdce from Lalić (Serbia), KUD Zametski koren from Rijeka and dance group Riječke Palade.

The first day began in the premises of Matica at 5 p.m. in the presence of the Consul of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in the Republic of Croatia Zdenko Galbavý, the deputy for the Czech and Slovak national minorities in the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Bilek, guests from Slovakia, Serbia and Croatia, representatives of national minorities in Rijeka, as well as our close neighbors. Rijeka Mayor Marko Filipović sent a congratulatory message. After the singing of the Croatian and Slovak national anthem, Slovak Matica performed by the Slovenka MS from Rijeka singing group on behalf of the host Slovak Matica in Rijeka, the chairman of Matica and the representative of the SNM in PGŽ Miroslava Gržinićová greeted those present and continued with the words: *„It is the first time that we have such a big event lasting four days. This year, we gathered around a hundred participants from Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia in our new Slovak house. We are especially glad that Mr. Bilek visited us despite his many obligations."* Then she invited those present to a tour of the exhibition of paintings by our registrars, members of the art section, Marija Bičanićová and Danijel Turčan, as well as to an exhibition of Slovak folklore accessories from the Žilina Region presented by Anna Kulíchová from Považská Bystrica (Slovakia).

The second day for some registrars started early in the morning by loading things and food into the car at the Slovak House and transporting them to the city, preparing the stand on the Square of the 111th Brigade of the Croatian Army and preparing food for those interested. The other participants were also preparing their tables – the Podžiaran group from Papradno (Slovakia), the Matkino srdce association from Lalić (Serbia) and Anna and Juraj Kulíchovci from Považská Bystrica (Slovakia). Members of Slovak Matica in Rijeka traditionally offered potato pancakes, bryndza gnocchi and steamed buns with jam and poppy seeds, while other stalls offered various sweet and salty specialties of the region they came from. The stand of the Slovak Matica in Rijeka and other stands were widely visited by local residents and tourists. The stand of the Kulích family was richly decorated with Slovak folklore products from the Žilina region in Slovakia.

After the arrival of all the performing groups, a costumed parade went through the city along the Korza. The cultural program continued at 10 o'clock on the Square of

In front of the memorial plaque of Svetozar Hurban-Vajanský. Photo: Antonio Gržinić

the 111th Brigade of the Croatian Army, where all groups took turns. With demonstrations of folk songs and dances, they entertained a large local audience from Rijeka, but also many tourists who enjoyed the colorful culture and enjoyed various gastronomic specialties.

The folkloric group Slovenka, led by Margita Rekićová-Grolmusová and Laura Mandekićová, performed a humorous dance of *Šima-Šima,* and the singing group Slovenka, led by Melita Bahníková, sang two Slovak songs: *Po nábreží konik beží* and *Slovensko moje, otčina moja*. After the end of the program at 3 p.m., the participants moved to Karolína Rijecká Pier, where, after an occasional speech by chairperson Gržinić, they sang together songs about emigration and dropped a wreath into the sea as a memory of evicted Slovaks who sailed out into the world from the port of Rijeka. On the morning of the third day, guests from Slovakia and Serbia, as well as some registrars led by the chairwoman Mrs. Gržinić, met at the port of the Hotel Admiral in Opatija to take part in a one-day boat trip along the Kvarner Gulf. The cruise started at half past eight in beautiful sunny and warm weather and lasted until late afternoon. First, the ship sailed along the coast with a beautiful view of Rijeka and the port of Rijeka, and then turned towards the island of Krk and anchored in the harbor of the town of Malinska. The cruise then continued towards the island of Cres and anchored in the port of Beli settlement. Tourists there had the opportunity to observe the flight of vultures. A colony of these birds lives in the rocks above the sea. A cultural program was also held during the cruise. The end of the cruise was where it began - in Opatija. This trip was an unforgettable experience for all participants and especially for the guests from Slovakia and Serbia.

After getting off the ship, all participants moved to the town of Volosko near Opatija in front of the building on which there is a memorial plaque to Svetozár Hurban-Vajanský. A memorial plaque to the Slovak writer, columnist, literary critic, journalist and politician Svetozár Hurban Vajanský, who participated in the congress of Slavic journalists in Volosko in 1905, was unveiled here in 2006 in cooperation with Slovak Matica and on the initiative of Stanislav Bajaník, a worker in the field of museology, protection of cultural heritage, informatics and media.

Members of Matica in Rijeka commemorate this event every year during the Days of Slovak Culture. After a short speech by President Gržinić, a wreath was laid and then everyone sang together the song „*Slovakia naše*".

On the fourth, last day of the event, we gathered again at the Slovak House, where a short cultural program took place in the yard in front of the house. At the end, the president Gržinićová, on behalf of the Slovak Matica Rijeka, handed over letters of thanks to all the performing groups for their participation in this event. After refreshments, we said a warm goodbye to all participants, thanked them for their participation and wished them a happy journey and return home.

In conclusion, we can conclude that the *Days of Slovak Culture – Rijeka 2022* fulfilled its purpose – the presentation of Slovakia, its culture and gastronomy. On this occasion, members of Slovak Matica from Rijeka would like to thank the sponsors, all the participants of the program, their members for their help and efforts, and the distinguished guests who honored them with their presence, as well as those who sent greeting letters.

Stand of Anna Kulíchová from the Slovak Republic. Photo: Antonio Gržinić

SLOVAK NATIONAL CELEBRATION IN THE DRESS OF TWO RARE JUBILEES

Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the Regional Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Ceremonial opening program of the Slovak National Festival. Photo: Zuzana Pavelcová

This year's Slovak National Celebrations in Báčsky Petrovec returned to the model of celebrations before the pandemic and welcomed delegations from near home and from the more distant Slovak world. Symbolically, this happened in the year of the 90th anniversary of the founding of Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia (today in Serbia) and in the 30th year of the restoration of the largest compatriot celebrations in Serbia - the Slovak National Festival. Slovak Matica was represented at the celebrations by Marek Hanuska, first vice-president of Slovak Matica, and Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the National Museum of Slovak Matica.

After the pre-celebration weekend (August 6-7), during which several exhibitions were opened, the central program of the festivities started with the round table discussion of Slovak Matica in Serbia with the main topic – Slovak Matica: mission, vision and future. In almost a dozen reports, several serious questions were raised, for which it will be necessary to find solutions and to prepare a series of operational tasks. Marek Hanuska made it clear that Slovak Matica, which generated its plan, vision and strategy, dealt with the same questions. Zuzana Pavelcová added that the program and mission of the Matica is still relevant, but it is necessary to work with other types of methods and for Slovak Matica of work to fulfill them, she gave examples of good practice from the activities of the Slovak Matica and the possibility of cooperation between the two Maticas. The conclusions from the round table were summarized by the chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, Branislav Kulík: *„In order to search for the future field of activity, it is necessary to identify what is the most pressing, where a specific response must be made. The young generation was mentioned the most, how to nationally awaken and activate it, and it is necessary to start from kindergartens. We need to coordinate work with Slovak Matica, with Slovaks in neighboring countries and with the National Council of the Slovak National Minority. The mission of Matica is good, the form of how this mission is delivered needs to be changed. At the end, the specific solutions that were presented here will go. There is no one solution to all problems. We need to name each problem and solve it separately."*

In the afternoon, the delegations met in the newly renovated building of the Hlas ľudu newspaper and publishing company. Its director, Milina Arňašová-Radićová, with the participation of representatives of the Slovak embassy in Belgrade and high-ranking guests from Serbia, opened the exhibition *Slovak National Celebrations through the past – through the eyes of the Voice of the People (Hlas ľudu)*. The end of the evening belonged to the student youth in Báčská Palanka. The joint meeting resulted in an invitation to the National Meeting of Young Matica, where the cooperation of young expatriate and domestic registrars will be connected.

Program of the Slovak National Celebrations – Sparks of hope woven into jubilees guided the guests through the fates of rare compatriots who celebrated jubilees this year. The inspirational lives and works of the people of the nation, processed into a dramatic performance, dignified the jubilee festive atmosphere. Marek Hanuska, the first vice-chairman of Slovak Matica, spoke to the audience: *„Our dear sister, Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia, in Serbia, I celebrate you like this on purpose, on the occasion of your beautiful jubilee. We, Slovak Matica, your elder sister, already in the 160th year of our life, are really a little ashamed today that we let you suffer like this... And really, even our daughter, the Slovak Republic, has nothing to be proud of. This is how I send it to the government and the prime minister. If we let you perish during our lives, we would have to be ashamed until death,"* he added and wished Matica good luck and blessings.

The Saturday morning was enriched by a documentary film mapping the history of Slovak national celebrations from the workshop of former Slovak Matica in Serbia chairman Katarína Melegová-Melichová entitled - Kto za pravdu hoří... The Slovak Matica in Serbia ceremonial assembly presented many awards to successful compatriots in the field of culture and sports. The first chairman of the renewed Slovak Matica in Serbia, Michal Spevák Sr., received a letter of thanks from the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. In the afternoon marathon of events, the parent delegation visited the Ján Kollár Gymnasium, where they presented a book donation to the school library. She did not miss the Zuzka Medveďová Gallery, the oldest house in Báčsky Petrovec, and a meeting of Slovak Lowland teachers.

Saturday's gala concert – *Matica, a rare source of Slovakianness*, gave local artists an excellent opportunity to present their creative folklore activities. The Sunday program opened by divine services continued with performances by children's artistic groups.

After a two-year depression, Báčsky Petrovec came to life again, as was the custom for many decades. However, there are many question marks hanging over the many activities of Matica and other expatriate associations: how much better and how much more successful... The Slovak minority in Serbia is decreasing and the forms of help are somehow still poorly targeted, late and indirect. Despite this, Slovak Matica in Serbia is gradually reaching its centenary and paving its way with its timeless mission. From the headquarters of Slovak Matica, we express our sincere support to her and wish her a successful journey.

Accompanying exhibition of the Slovak National Celebrations - First Vice-Chairman of Slovak Matica Marek Hanuska and director of the National Museum of Slovak Matica Zuzana Pavelcová. Photo: Pavel Surový

SLOVAK MATICA IN SERBIA – MISSION, VISION, FUTURE

Katarína Pucovská, responsible editor of the information portal kulpin.net, Serbia

On Thursday, August 11, 2022, a round table was held in the large hall of the Municipality of Báčsky Petrovec under the title *Slovak Matica in Serbia – mission, vision, future*. It was organized by Slovak Matica in Serbia on the occasion of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the foundation of Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia and the 30th anniversary of the restoration of the Slovak national festivities.

At the beginning, the chairman of Slovak Matica v Serbian PhDr. Mgr. Branislav Kulík, then the speeches of the guests followed. Boris Konček, the third secretary, spoke on behalf of the ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Serbia, on behalf of the village of Báčsky Petrovec, the chairwoman Jasna Šprochová, and the former chairman of the SLOVAK MATICAS, Juraj Šefčík, also spoke to those present. In the working part, their papers were presented by: doc. PhDr. Michal Babiak, CSc., Mgr. Marek Hanuska, Katarína Melegová-Melichová, Mgr. Pavel Hlásznik, dipl. right Zlatko Šimák, Janko Havran, PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová and PhDr. Mgr. Branislav Kulik. The round table was moderated by Vladimíra Dorčová-Valtnerová, and the working presidency consisted of Michal Spevák, the first chairman of the renewed Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia, and Juraj Červenák.

In the reports, there were stimulating proposals, but also critical comments. Matica should keep up with the times, but not deviate from the basic path laid out by its founders. Currently, it should focus more on the social sphere. Young people must be attracted to Matica and its work coordinated with the National Council of the Slovak National Minority. The opening of a consular department of the Slovak Republic in Báčsky Petrovec would be beneficial for Slovaks in Serbia ... These are just some of the suggestions made at today's round table, with which Slovak Matica in Serbia mapped the current situation and determined the directions of further action. The experience of Slovak Matica in Slovakia, but also the observations of experts working outside of Serbia, who spoke at the event with their own visions, should be given a helping hand in this direction.

At the end, the participants of the round table accepted the final instructions, which will be published together with the papers in the proceedings.

Branislav Kulík, chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, in his opening speech. Photo: Katarína Pucovská

DAY OF SLOVAKS ABROAD

Lukáš Perný, culturologist and philosopher, Slovak Matica, Slovakia

In addition to celebrating the feast days of Cyril and Methodius, the anniversary of the death of Štefan Moyses (the first president of Slovak Matica), the fifth of July is also the *Memorial Day of Slovaks Abroad*, which was commemorated in Bratislava with a cultural event by the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad (OSLA) with the Bratislava Cultural and information center; foreign Slovak Maticas and Slovak artists working abroad.

From the performance of folklore ensembles. Photo: Lukáš Perný

Half a million young Slovaks are abroad

In the center of the Janka Kráľ Park stands a stone from the Tardoš quarry, which was placed here in 2000 as a symbol of the annual gathering of compatriots on the occasion of the commemoration of the Day of Slovaks Living Abroad. As stated in the *State Policy Concept of the Slovak Republic in relation to Slovaks living abroad for the period 2022-2026,* the largest number of Slovaks are in the United States of America (750 thousand), the Czech Republic (350 thousand), Canada (150 thousand), the United Kingdom (110 thousand) and also in Hungary (100 thousand). Slovaks also live in Germany, Serbia, Austria, but also in Switzerland, Romania and other countries, mainly professionals, students, commuters and seasonal workers.

Emigration is a part of Slovak history and its frequent causes were social, but also political or religious. The alarming numbers prove that it is not just a problem of the past. However, the role of the nationally oriented intelligentsia should also be to develop good relations with compatriots and support national culture beyond Slovakia's borders.

The program of the event for the Day of Slovaks living abroad started with the song *Slovensko moje, otčina moja...* (sung by the Slovenka singing group, Slovak Matica in Rijeka, Croatia). The event was moderated by Mgr. art. Milina Sklabinski, PhD. (department of loss and politics, OSPO). The event was attended by Denisa Koterec Frelichová, director general of the section of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad (Viera Tapalágová, Pavel Hlásznik and Svetlana Zolňanová); Office for Slovaks living abroad (Milan Ján Pilip and Ida Deskászová); the national Slovak National Self-Government from Hungary (Vice President of the CSS Endre Horváth and Head of the CSS Cabinet Orsoja Szabová); Milan Vetrák, member of the Slovak national Council and chairman of the Constitutional Law Committee; Iveta Galbavá, adviser to the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for expatriate issues; representatives of Slovak municipalities abroad, the National Memorial of Slovak Emigration Foundation; The Slovak National Self-Government in Budapest, the Mlynky Cultural Association, the Association of Pilíš Slovaks (Marta Demjénová, Róza Glücková), the Slovak National Self-Government of the City of Rétság, the Slovak Folklore Society of Lipa, the Slovak National Self-Government of Senondrej (Gábor Vanyák and Alžbeta Vanyáková), the Folklore Society of Furmička (Aniko Horváth and Bence Pittner), Association of Slovaks in Bulgaria (president of the association Katarína Koňariková), journalist, publicist and former president of Slovak Matica in Serbia Katarína Melegová-Melichová and many others.

After the song, the chairman of OSLA Milan Ján Pilip took the floor. The singing group from Rijeka sang again, followed by speeches from compatriots: Miroslava Gržinićová, president of the Slovak Matica Rijeka, Croatia; Martin Juraj Oscitý, academic painter and graphic artist, Germany; Reverend Dr. Dušan Tóth, former general secretary of the World Congress of Slovaks, Toronto, Canada. Subsequently, an emigrant song from the Galgy basin was performed by the Csibaj band from Hungary, and flowers were placed at the memorial stone.

The event also included the launch of the book *Kronika Slovákov*, prepared by the Association of Independent Experts on History and Life of Slovaks Abroad. The book was introduced by the writer Dušan Mikolaj, a member of the Board of Directors of the Slovak Emigration Memorial Foundation, a member of the Association of Slovak Writers and at the same time a reviewer of the mentioned publication. The book was available for free at the event.

Slovaks from Slavic and non-Slavic countries performed

At the evening event, the folklore ensemble Furmička from Čemer, Hungary, the Croatian-Slovak singing and dancing group Slovenka from Slovak Matica in Rijeka, the folklore ensemble Vinica from Austria performed; folklore ensemble Sálašan from Romania (Nadlak), children's folklore ensemble Sovička working in Great Britain. Performers of folk songs: Anna Zorňanová-Kulíková from Serbia, Viktória Godó from Hungary, Teodora Hírešová from Romania and performers of popular genres: Samuel Kováč and Iveta Kováčová, Una Amidžićová, Sabina Trbarová and Zlatko Klinovský from Serbia, Csibaj banda orchestra from Hungary, Festival orchestra from Nadlak in Romania, opera singer Katarína Kalmárová from Serbia.

Natália Milanová, Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, also took part in the event. We can only believe that this event (in which the foreign Slovak Matica also cooperated significantly) will inspire the minister to evaluate the attitudes towards Slovak Matica. Slovak Matica does not forget about expatriate issues either.

Finally, it is also part of the matric history. It participates in events, co-organizes them, and also publishes two magazines with expatriate themes – the scientific magazine *Slovaks in the Abroad* and the new-popularization magazine *Slavic Horizion*. Zuzana Pavelcová from Regional Museum of Slovak Matica is actively devoted to the issue.

CONCERT OF ANIKA ÁCHIMO KOVACSOVA IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CENSUS OF THE PEOPLE

Michal Hrivnák, chairman of XII. district of the Slovak National Self-Government, Hungary

Slovaks XII. district in Budapest will get closer to the meaning of the current census in Hungary held in October – November of this year from the national aspect in its own way - with the concert of Anika Áchimová Kovácsová situated in historical context.

Performance by A. Áchimová Kovácsová and Tamás Szemadám.
Photo: Ľubomíra Fallerová

Chairman of the Slovak National Self-Government in Hungary, Michal Hrivnák, recalled that the classical music concert performed by A. Áchimová Kovácsová and her friends was not arranged by chance, their contacts with the violinist and her family have their own history, and that is why this concert is particularly relevant. The speaker started from the end of the story, going back to the day of the meeting. That is, during the preparation of the concert, many people ask if there is a connection between the name of Anika Áchimová Kovácsová and the name of Ondrej Áchim Liker, one of the most famous figures in the history of Hungary at the beginning of the 20th century. Are they just namesakes or does the occurrence of the surname Áchim in both cases point to the blood ties of its bearers? Anika Kovácsová's family, on the maternal side of Judita Áchimová, is a descendant of Áchim. The descendants of O. Áchim Liker are proud of their roots. Proof of this is also the fact that the violinist Anika Kovácsová adopted the last name of her famous ancestor as a stage name. However, the question may be, what does the Slovak national self-government of the 12th district have to do with it, what right do they have to talk about it and promote this fact publicly? The answer to the question concerns the history of the self-government's contacts with Áchimovci. The beginnings date back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Around 2001, the Slovaks of Čabian decided to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the death and the 140th anniversary of the birth of the famous native with dignity. The initiative was joined by Čabian natives living in Budapest together with Slovaks from the 12th district. They were joined by several well-known Hungarian historians and historians of Slovak origin. In addition to the commemorative ceremonies, conferences were held, several books were published, popular-scientific lectures on the topic of Áchim and the like were organized. From a one-time initiative, a more than 20-year program on the life and activities of O. Áchim L. has developed. However, the most attractive and, from a political point of view, I guess the most important success of their work lies in the fact that they managed to build a bust of the peasant king András Áchim L. – Ondrej Áchima L. on one of the squares most visited by tourists in Budapest, Vajdahunyad Castle. And thanks to their activities, this historical topic related to Áchim became part of public life, at least for Slovaks from the Low Countries. The memory of Áchim, a taboo at the time – formulated a bit exaggeratedly – today spreads among them like a living legend. The persistent work of the Slovaks of the 12th district has a big part to play in this. They consider it their role in the future to uncover and preserve for future generations all connections and events related to the character of Áchim. Well, thanks to these activities of theirs, the contacts of the municipality expanded, the descendants of O. Áchim, among them the family of Anika Kovácsová, showed interest in them. Today's concert, which we can also consider as a continuation of the twenty-year program, diversifies the activities of the municipality and, although indirectly, in this way, the municipality keeps the memory of Ondrej Áchim Liker alive. However, what justifies commemorating the memory of Áchim right now, why is it relevant? As already mentioned, it was the current census, including nationalities, which takes place every ten years. Despite all the positive trends in the development of the social life of Slovaks in Hungary, we are currently observing a dramatic decrease in their number. It also has subjective reasons, we ourselves often hesitate whether to confess our nationality. Well, in these contexts, we remember the memory of Áchim and his legacy. When he was elected for the first time as a member of the Hungarian Parliament, in his first, maiden (szűzbeszéd) speech in 1905, at a time of heightened nationalism, in front of the public of the entire country, he confidently threw in the face of his opponents: *„I do not deny* (...)*, I am a peasant from Dolna of the land, the owner of Tóth.*" Although today in our homeland no one needs to worry that they may face any kind of repression because of their nationality, nevertheless O. Áchim L. with his attitude, especially with his bold and proud confession of his Slovak nationality, can be currently our role model. We should be even more aware of this in the census. The level of state support, the future of national self-governments and civil organizations, the conditions of their activities, the cultivation of a language and a peculiar culture depend on the number of applicants – concluded the speech of the head of the self-government. The actors of the musical band – A. Áchimová Kovácsová and Tamás Szemadám – and their rich artistic activity were presented by local conductor Enikő Tajti. Their program, the interpretation of the works of Niccolò Paganini and Francisco Tárrega at a high artistic level, spread a festive atmosphere, dignity and piety.

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES LIVING IN ZAGREB

Alena Baliová, vice president of Slovak Matica in Zagreb, Croatia

The Slovak stand in Zrinjevac Park was prepared by, from left: Alena Baliová, Indira Popová-Potkonjaková, Đurđica Sušová, Ana Jeváková, Zlatko Jevák, chairman Zoran and Mária Jevákovci with children and Vladimír Bali. Photo: Vladimir Bali

Members of national minorities living in the capital of the Republic of Croatia celebrate their day of national minorities every year. There are twenty-two national minorities in Zagreb: Albanians, Austrians, Bosnians, Bulgarians, Montenegrins, Czechs, Hungarians, Macedonians, Germans, Poles, Roma, Romanians, Russians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, Slovenes, Serbs, Italians, Turks, Ukrainians, Vlachs and Jews. Their rights are guaranteed by the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities in Croatia adopted in 2002.

On Sunday, September 18, 2022, Zrinjevac Park in the center of Zagreb was covered in a beautiful palette of colors of the national costumes of members of national minorities who work in Zagreb. The people passing by were curious, so they slowly started to gather and ask what was actually going on here. After two pandemic years, the Coordination of Councils and Representatives of National Minorities of the City of Zagreb, with the support of the Mayor of Zagreb, organized the eleventh traditional manifestation of members of the national minorities of the city of Zagreb, who celebrate their Day of National Minorities every year.

This time, the Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Montenegrin, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Roma, Slovenian, Serbian, Ruthenian, Italian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Jewish and, of course, the Slovak minority took part in the manifestation. Each of the minorities presented a traditional national costume, some of them their folklore and musical creativity, publishing activities in the form of publications and magazines, and prepared autochthonous dishes for the visitors.

The cultural program was opened by the Zagreb Electric Tram Company Wind Orchestra, followed by welcoming speeches. Juraj Bahnik, chairman of the Coordination of Councils and Representatives of National Minorities of the City of Zagreb, was the first to address the audience, who emphasized in his speech that *„National minorities contribute to the common life of the city of Zagreb and with their cultural and educational activities create the cultural heritage of this city and make it more diverse and richer. Today , visitors can experience one part of this diversity of cultural heritage of national minorities and taste their traditional dishes. The beauty and uniqueness of such events is that you can see live and get to know each minority, its language, culture and the activities it organizes."*

Tibor Varga, the representative of Alexander Tolnauer, the chairman of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia, noted in his speech that the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its adoption in 2022. He also stated that the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia, as an umbrella body for all national minorities, participates with the help of the Government of the Republic of Croatia in realizing the cultural autonomy of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia by financing programs, publishing activities, cultural amateurism for more than a thousand projects at the level of the entire country. This year HRK 50,204,000 was allocated for this. At the end, Tibor Varga recommended to those present a book entitled *Footprints of National Minorities in Zagreb* (in Croatian *Tragovima nacio- nalnih manjna po Zagrebu*), which deals with the influence of members of national minorities on the development of the city of Zagreb. The book also provides

a brief overview of the most important places, institutions, personalities, streets and buildings that, as part of the heritage of Croatian and national minorities, have marked Zagreb as a multi-ethnic city. The presentation of the book took place on September 17, 2022 in the Czech National House in Zagreb. In this book, meritorious Slovaks Juraj Hulik, Štefan Moyses, Bohuslav Šulek and others are especially visible.

The atmosphere in Zrinjevac Park. Photo: Vladimir Bali

The Mayor of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, also addressed those present, saying: *„I am very glad to be here with you today, because the Day of National Minorities is celebrated after two years of the epidemic and, of course, other worries that affected us. It's really nice to see so many national costumes in one place, and today we have a lot of cultural activities, musical performances, but I'm especially looking forward to the autochthonous dishes of each of the minorities. However, what makes me very happy is that the city of Zagreb continues the good practice of cooperation with national minorities, which began many years ago. As part of best practices, we will continue to do so and improve cooperation to the best of our ability. I would highlight the Ukrainian national minority, which has multiplied in Zagreb due to unfortunate circuSlovak Maticatances and aggression against Ukraine. I am sorry for the circuSlovak Maticatances you found yourself in, but I am glad that the people of Zagreb warmly welcomed you. Not only this example, but also others show that the policy of the city government is to make all national minorities feel at home in Zagreb. I am grateful to all the citizens of Zagreb for accepting all members of national minorities with open hearts and arSlovak Matica, because members of various national minorities also participated in the development of this city. When we read the history of our city, when we look at the names of streets and squares, we can see on them the names of musicians, politicians and even astronauts who were members of other nations and lived in this city. Zagreb is open to everyone, and on this occasion I want to congratulate you once again on the Day of National Minorities.*" The speeches were followed by a parade of costumes of national minorities and a cultural program.

Minority, which operates in Zagreb through Slovak Matica in Zagreb , also had its place at the manifestation . The representatives of Matica prepared a rich palette of Slovak delicacies and dishes for the visitors, there was also a Slovak pine tree, which was also tasted by the mayor of the city of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, who stopped at every stand of the national minority and tasted traditional food. Matica members prepared Bratislava rolls, generous cake, cinnamon rolls and poppy seeds, walnut rolls and rolls, poppy seed cake, sandwiches with Niva cheese spreads, celery and cottage cheese with garlic. The stall of the Slovak minority also exhibited publications published by Slovak Matica in Zagreb, handmade works of Matica members, such as an embroidered canvas bag with the name Slovakia and a Čičmian pattern, which Matica presented to the mayor of the capital Zagreb. The male membership of Matica offered visitors a Slovak pine tree. Many Slovaks stopped by the stand, including their families, who were actually on vacation in Zagreb and were interested in how and in which areas of Croatia Slovaks live, but they couldn't leave without a glass of pine. The Slovak minority presented traditional women's costumes from Detva.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the Republic of Croatia adopted the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities in 2002, and this year it will be twenty years since its implementation. Members of national minorities have relatively broad rights in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, for example, when interested in employment in the state and public service, members of national minorities have the possibility of being invited on the basis of the right of priority under the same conditions compared to other candidates when submitting an application to the selection procedure. Members of national minorities are guaranteed the right to elect members of councils and representatives of national minorities to local and territorial self-governing units, thus enabling national minorities to participate in public life and in the management of local affairs. Based on the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, members of national minorities who make up more than 1.5% of the total population of the Republic of Croatia are guaranteed at least one and a maximum of three seats for members of this national minority in accordance with the Electoral Act for Representatives to the Croatian Parliament.

Since 2006, the Slovak minority has had its representative in the capital, and in the last elections, which took place on May 5, 2019, Zlatko Jevák Jr., who has been leading Slovak Matica in Zagreb since 2017, was elected as the representative of the Slovak national minority in the city of Zagreb. According to the last census in 2021, 217 members of the Slovak national minority living in the city of Zagreb declared thems.

The atmosphere in the Zrinjevac park was indeed cheerful and full of smiles, as after a two-year break this manifestation could finally take place and is one of many where all national minorities operating in the capital of the Republic of Croatia will meet and become visible in one place.

It is necessary to mention that such a manifestation, which took place in Zagreb, is not the only one in Croatia. In the village of Lipovľany, which is located about one hundred km from the capital, there are several national minorities, among them the Slovak one, and therefore for several years the municipality of Lipovľany has been preparing a manifestation called the *Lipovlian meetings*, which is the largest and most important manifestation of national minorities in Croatia. This year's manifestation took place from August 26 to 28, and the invitation to it was also accepted by Slovak Matica in Zagreb, where its representatives represented the Slovak minority. A representative of the Slovak Embassy in Zagreb also took part in the demonstration.

TERRA MADRE GASTRONOMY FESTIVAL IN TURIN

Adriana Harandzová, Association of Friends of Slovakia MY@VY, Italy

Sommelier, cheese and wine taster Adriana Harandzová with Slow Food Tatra founder Ladislav Raček. Photo: Adriana Harandzová

From September 22 to 26, 2022, the global market TERRA MADRE 2022 Salone del Gusto (Mother Earth – Salon of Taste) took place in Turin (Italy). The organizer of the exhibition is the international Slow Food movement based in Bra, Piedmont region, Italy. It is a prestigious international market and exhibition of artisanal and authentic food, which, among other things, has hosted several conferences and other activities highlighting the current RegenerAction challenge. The aim of the movement is to propose a different future for food, shaped by the daily decisions of individuals, the joint efforts of communities and the policies of public and private institutions.

The Slovak Republic also participated in this prestigious event. Convivium Slow Food TATRY (hereinafter SFT) in cooperation with the Association of Friends of Slovakia MY@VY based in Turin. They presented the following crafts:

- Bryndza 1787 – authentic, genuine Slovak bryndza (PGI), protected geographical indication, BIO and RAW product entered in the list of Slow Food Presidium products,
- Dried deer and bull sausage - a product listed in the Ark of Tastes list,
- Parenica cheese – a product listed in the Ark of Tastes list,
- Zázrivský korbáčik – a product listed in the Ark of Tastes list,
- Artisan pine – a product listed in the Ark of Tastes list,
- unpasteurized craft beer.

The listed exceptional traditional Slovak food products were presented in the form of tastings. During the five exhibition days, visitors to the TERRA MADRE 2022 salon had the opportunity to taste traditional foods processed and served in a modern style. In addition, they could get detailed information about the given products directly from the experts present:

- Ladislav Raček – founder and leader of the Slow Food Tatra Convivium,
- Adriana Harandzová – sommelier, cheese and wine taster – Slovak living in Turin, Italy and member of the MY@VY Association. For several years, he has been helping to develop awareness of Slovak products in Italy,
- members of the Association of Friends of Slovakia My@VY – Maja Straková and Barbora Patková Masi – assisted in the representative stand.

We are convinced of the quality of the Slovak products presented, as evidenced by their inclusion in the Slow Food Presidium or Archa chutí list. We are glad that the participation in the mentioned festival of flavors achieved its goal: it contributed to the overall visibility of Slovakia in such a gastronomic „powerhouse" as Italy.

This is also evidenced by the visit of one of Italy's cheese legends Beppe Caldera - Maestro Assaggiatore (Master taster), author of two books on Italian cheeses. This cheese expert traveled all over Italy, personally visiting hundreds of Alpine shacks, which he then listed in his guidebook. He could make any cheese from any Italian region. He said about Slovak bryndza: *„You won't find such cheese in Italy!"*

This international event also attracted our Slovak and Czech compatriots living in the Piedmont region. Everyone patriotically stopped at the Slovakian stand, enjoyed our local specialties, exchanged words, and our association grew by several more young members.

THE ADVISORY BODY OF SLOVAK MATICA FOR REGIONAL ISSUES MEETED

Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the National Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

After an almost two-year break, Slovak Matica convened a meeting of its own advisory body for expatriate issues – the Council for Slovaks living abroad at Slovak Matica (SLA). On the eve of the Permanent Conference of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, twelve expatriate delegates from seven countries of the world met together with the chairman of the World Association for Slovaks Living Abroad Vladimír Skalský, the representative of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad Ida Deszkasová and the management Slovak Matica.

Participants of the meeting of the Council for Slovaks living abroad at Slovak Maticaska, which took place on October 27, 2022 in Martin. Photo: Ján Seman

The common goal of the assembly was to evaluate the fulfillment of other conclusions, the adoption of new resolutions and the election of the leadership and members of this body. The chairman of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper addressed the assembly: *„The important advisory body of Slovak Matica – the Council of Slovaks living abroad – is meeting after a long hiatus, which, unfortunately, was caused by the pandemic measures of the last two years. It should be emphasized that the council is an authentic parent and compatriot body. It was not created artificially, on the contrary, it has its natural basis based on the mother's historical heritage and, above all, permanent work with compatriots, which has been carried out in our institution for over a century. The Council is created from representatives of parent and other ancient expatriate organizations that have something to say to Slovakia and the Slovak world in expatriate issues even in this decade. Slovak Matica, as in the past, will support your pro-national work and activity within its reach and border possibilities. The management of our institution will do everything to influence state representatives in increasing aid for compatriots from the Slovak Republic, which, from our point of view, still has possibilities and reserves for its fulfillment."*

Since the last meeting, Slovak Matica has supported the creation of the Center for Slovak Foreign Affairs, initiated and carried out the study How Slovaks in Montenegro, Serbia, Poland and Croatia are doing, which was compiled and published by Slovak Matica, awarded Slovak youth with book prizes, and provided young compatriots with recordings of Slovak folk songs and fairy tales and prepared an offer letter and an itinerary for a sightseeing tour for compatriot youth in the patriotic footsteps of the city of Martin.

In the following period, the Slovak Matica advisory body will be led by Michal Spevák Jr. – Chairman of the Association of Montenegrin-Slovak Friendship. He will be assisted by Ľudomír Molitoris, general secretary of the Association of Slovaks in Poland, and Vladimír Skalský, chairman of the World Association for Slovaks Living Abroad, from the vice-presidential seats. Members of the SLA in the next period will be: Anton Bahyn – member of the committee of the cultural and educational organization Slovak Matica in Ukraine, Dušan Daučík – honorary chairman of the Swedish-Slovak Association in Sweden, Andrej Dan Bárdoš – chairman of the Slovak Community in the Czech Republic, Miroslava Gržinić – chairman of the Local Branch of Slovak Matica in Rijeka from Croatia, Edita Manáková – president of the Franco-Slovak Friendship Association, Branislav Kulík – president of Slovak Matica in Serbia, Mirko Vavra – president of the Union of Slovaks in Croatia, Adrian Miroslav Merka – president of the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania, and Alžbeta Hollerová-Račková – chairwoman of the Slovak National Self-Government in Hungary.

The management of Slovak Matica said goodbye to the previous chairperson of SLA – Katarína Melegová-Melichová, chairperson of the Slovak Matica Local Branch in Báčsky Petrovec, and awarded her the title of honorary chairperson of SLA for her excellent cooperation with Slovak Matica and active participation in its advisory body for the benefit of the Slovak diaspora abroad.

The council adopted the following conclusions for the next period. SLA at Slovak Matica proposes:

1. that the Slovak Matica supports the efforts of compatriots, that the laws of minority rights are strictly observed in that country and that it supports the application of bilateral treaties;
2. that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the opening of a consulate general in Báčské Petrovec for the mediation of economic activity;
3. that the Slovak Matica supports expatriate events through the personal participation of registry officials at events of Slovaks living abroad;
4. that the Slovak Matica supports the publishing activity of compatriots with the professional services of its publishing house and the printing of books by Slovaks abroad;
5. that the Slovak Matica continue to provide contributions to expatriate periodicals and continue efforts to publish the publication As further Slovaks;
6. that the Slovak Matica continues to support and promote the activities of compatriots through the main media channels, the press and social networks;
7. that the Slovak Matica ensures the participation of Slovak ensembles in cultural events, festivals and sports competitions of Slovaks abroad;
8. that Slovak Matica continues to provide prizes for pupil and student competitions of various types (books, DVDs, CDs...).

CROATIAN MATICA ORGANIZED A GENERAL MEETING

Jelena Gazivoda, Croatian Matica, Croatia
Translated from the Croatian language by Dr. sc. Sandra Kralj Vukšić, PhD.

From the general meeting of Croatian Matica.
Photo: Mirko Cvjetko

On October 22, 2022, the general meeting of Croatian Matica was held in the small hall of Vatroslav Lisinská. In addition to 127 representatives with the right to vote from all local branches of the Croatian Matica, the gathering was attended by guests – Dubravka Đurić Nemec, Deputy Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia Nina Obuljen Koržinek, also Maja Petrić, Deputy Mayor of Zagreb Tomislav Tomašević, Chairman of the Association of Croatian Writers Zlatko Krilić and others.

In his speech, the chairman of Croatian Matica Miro Gavran expressed his satisfaction and thanks to all those who contributed to the affirmation of Croatian Matica in their communities. He stated that he was particularly pleased with the significant progress and new projects, such as the First Book Festival in Croatian Matica, the Sučeljavanja panel, the establishment of the Board of the Croatian Matica, the symposium on branch branding held in Ozlja, as well as the growing number of newly admitted members, which compared to last year increased by three hundred percent, and the establishment of new branches in Hrvatska Kostajnica, Vitez, Kupres, Slavonski Kobaš.

A working group of linguists prepared a draft law on the Croatian language, to which Miro Gavran again emphasized that it is modern and usable without restrictions. All three dialects will be protected and only the public use of our mother tongue will be regulated. The proposal is being refined and is expected to be adopted by the Croatian parliament. The chairman of Croatian Matica informed the gathering that in September the draft law was unanimously supported by the Presidency of Croatian Matica and subsequently by the main committee.

The participants of the meeting also touched on the issue of the birthplace of Anton Gustáv Matoš, which Croatian Matica disputes with the Association of Anton Gustáv Matoš from Tovarnik. In recent months, considerable efforts have been made to resolve this issue. The General Assembly of the Croatian Matica confirmed the unanimous decision of the presidency with 94.5% of the votes that the dispute over Matoš's memorial house should finally end after 18 years. The debt of 200,000 HRK, which Croatian Matica claimed and, on the basis of a court decision, claimed from Spolk AG Matoš, will also hand over the interest and reimbursed court costs to the municipality of Tovarnik, but on the condition that the municipality of Tovarnik can use the money exclusively for the construction of Matoš's memorial house, to for which a contract with the municipality will be signed in November. In addition, Chairman Gavran called on the AG Matoš Association to hand over the house to the Tovarnik municipality, and also called on the Vukovar-Srijem County, the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia to help the municipality build and make available the Matoš Memorial House by the end of the next festive year, i.e. that we all celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the writer Antun Gustáv Matoš together in Croatia.

In addition to the regular reports of the General Secretary on the work of Croatian Matica for 2021 and the work plan of Croatian Matica for 2023, the reports of the Supervisory Board of Croatian Matica for 2021, the Court of Honor of Croatian Matica, the Financial Administration of Croatian Matica for 2021, as well as the Rebalance of Matica's financial plan were received of Croatia for the year 2022 and the proposal of the Financial Plan of the Croatian Matica for the year 2023.

General Secretary Marijo Dominiković, after presenting the financial report, thanked the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Zagreb and all sponsors and donors and called for even greater order, discipline and transparency of operations, not only in the headquarters, but also in branches. Economic Secretary Ivica Nuić recalled the collection of donations and said that donors follow Croatian Matica because they recognize the effort and quality of the program, but also value harmony and transparency.

In the artistic part of the program, this year's winners of

the Klapa festival in Omiš, Klapa Stina, and drama artist and also the president of the Court of Honor of Croatian Matica Anja Šovagović Despot, who recited Vesna Parun's verses, performed.

At the general assembly, prizes were awarded to branches for their publications. The Ivan Kukuljević Sakcinski award for the best work published in the branches was won by the Dubrovnik branch of the Croatian Matica for *Mary Marić's book The island where lemons bloom. Gardens of Archduke Maximilian Habsburg on the island of Lokrum*. The Golden Letters were awarded to: the branch of Croatian Matica in Bizovac for the book *Pictures that tell. Muljanski Kantual* (a branch of the Croatian Matica in Boka Kotorska), *Čitanka Čabarského kraj* (a branch of the Croatian Matica in Čabra), *Three friends from Nové Zrin. A novel from the era of the Croatian ban Nicholas VII. of Zrinského* (Croatian Mother's branch in Čakovec), *Svätojanské mušky* (Croatian Mother's branch in Čitluk), *Lický regiment in history* (Croatian Mother's branch in Gospić), *Military force of the rebel Serbs in Banovina 1992 – 1995* (Croatian Matica local branch in Petrinja), *Hunger and poverty in the years 1813 to 1825 in Rovinj* (Rovinj branch of the Croatian Mother), *Parnassia Militia* (Strasbourg, 1622, Croatian Matica local branch in Sveta Nedelja), *Enlightenment, a yearbook for the promotion of the cultural and natural heritage of the Šibenik region* (Croatian Matica local branch in Šibenik), *Vitko, magazine of the branch of Croatian Matica in Široki Brijeg* (Croatian Matica local branch in Široki Brijeg), *Bibinje* (Croatian Matica local branch in Zadar).

The following publications received silver certificates for their publications: *Bürkový kompas* (Croatian Matica local branch in Boka Kotorská), *It happened once in Daruvar* (Croatian Matica local branch in Daruvar), *Lyrical referendum – „Even verses breathe". The most popular poems by Croatian poets as chosen by readers for the 180th anniversary of Croatian Maticaj* (Croatian Matica local branch in Križevci), *Pramiera láski* (Croatian Matica branch in Pazin), *Gróf Janković* (Croatian Matica local branch in Požega), *Companions and passers-by. Travels and meetings with Croatian writers for children and adults* (Croatian Matica local branch in Skradin), *Why St. Vavrinec is crying – a novel for children and young people* (Croatian Matica local branch in Virovitici), *Yearbook for culture, art and social issues of the branch of Croatian Maticaj in Vinkovci for the year 2021* (Croatian Matica local branch in Vinkovci), *Matica's code in the plays of Lady Kaštelanová, Ivan Vidić and Mata Matišića* (Croatian Matica local branch in Vukovar), *Prayer Book of Croatian Poets* (Florilegij) (Croatian Matica local branch in Zaprešić).

TITLES OF CROATIAN MATICA AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOOK FAIR IN FRANKFURT

Croatian Matica, Croatia

Translated from the Croatian language by Dr. sc. Sandra Kralj Vukšić, PhD.

Vorld's largest book and publishing fair took place in Frankfurt. At the joint national stand of the Republic of Croatia, ten titles and magazines published by Croatian Matica were exhibited at the International Book Fair.

With the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and Media and the organization of the Association of Publishers and Bookstores at the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Croatia presented itself throughout the duration of the fair. In cooperation with the most important commercial actors of the domestic literary scene – professional authors' associations, publishing houses and the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, ten high-quality and award-winning literary works and four valuable journalistic works were selected, which were specially presented at the Croatian stand.

Croatian Matica book titles at the book fair in Frankfurt.
Source: Croatian Matica

Participants of the first book festival Croatian Matica. Source: Croatian Matica

THE FIRST BOOK FESTIVAL WAS CEREMONY OPENED IN CROATIAN MATICA

Croatian Matica, Croatia

Translated from the Croatian language by Dr. sc. Sandra Kralj Vukšić, PhD.

The First Book Festival took place in Croatian Matica from September 15 to 18, 2022 under the motto *Matica of good books*. The opening was attended by Miro Gavran, the chairman of the Croatian Matica, the literary secretary of the Croatian Matica and at the same time the artistic director of the festival Božidar Petrač, while the state secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia Ivica Poljičak officially opened the festival. At the opening, the publication *Selected works* by Ivo Brešan from the publishing house Croatian Matica was presented, followed by a musical part and a performance by the young violinist Noami Konforte.

In addition to Matica and its branches, the festival was attended by guests – publishing houses: Alfa, Association of Croatian Writers, Croatian University Press, Verbum, Croatian Historical Institute and the Faculty of Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb. In addition to 39 promotions during the four festival days, there was also an exhibition and four concerts. The occasional program also commemorated 180 years since the first edition of the magazine *Kolo* (1842 – 2022), the longest published Croatian magazine for literature, art and culture.

10TH YEAR OF SILESIAN MATICA, BRANCH ASSOCIATION IN BYSTRICA NAD OLŠÍ

Petr Majer, member of Silesian Matica, branch association in Bystřice nad Olší, Czech Republic

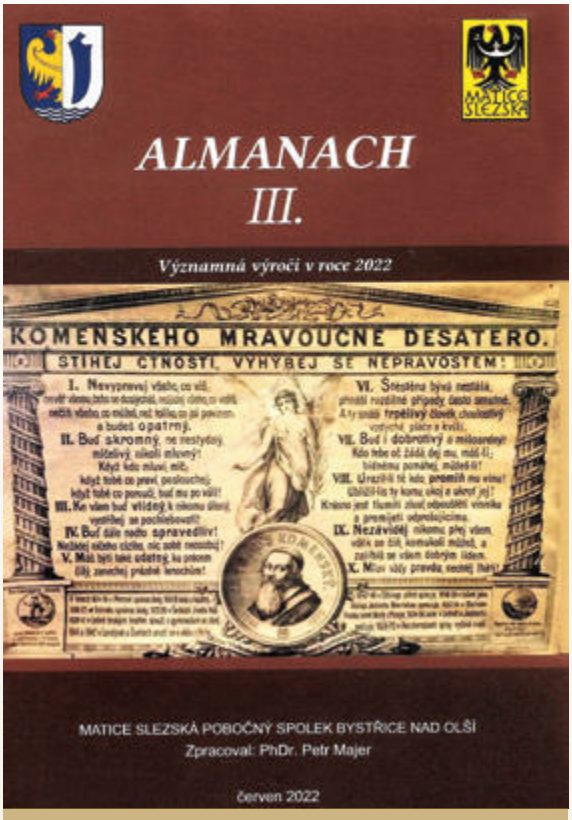
Members of Silesian Matica in Bystřice nad Olší. Photo: Martin Benek

Lecture on Almanac III. and members of the new Silesian Matica, a branch association in Bystřice nad Olší, commemorated ten years of existence on Tuesday, November 16, 2022, with a membership meeting. In December 2012, its activity in the village was renewed at the founding meeting, and it started its work in January 2013. Its chairman, Mrs. Anna Konderlová, stated at the time that *„We renewed the organization at the instigation of some local people, who asked me if it would not be good to revive the activities of Silesian Matica, which strives to preserve national and folk traditions, but also to bring people together in Silesia regardless of nationality"*.

In the past ten years, Silesian Matica in the village has written herself not only into the awareness of ¬the people of Bystřeč, but has become the bearer of Czech statehood. This is evidenced by dozens and dozens of events. Emphasis was placed on commemorating important milestones in the history of our country, from its inception to the present.

Since 2013, Silesian Matica in the village has been participating in the organization of the legionary march together with the Czechoslovak legionary community on Polední Hill, etc. The lecture activity has an irreplaceable place, a lecture for Czech and Polish schools and the public can be given in 2019 in the cinema hall on the 80th anniversary of the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 and the start of World War II. The lecture on ensuring safety in cooperation with the police of the Czech Republic, etc. was received with interest. In the publishing activity, it was mainly the publication of the publication *History and the present of Silesian Matica in Bystřice,* the publication of almanacs with the support of the municipality of Bystřice for important anniversaries, etc. We cannot forget the preparation of refreshments for events, but also the fried eggs last year. Silesian Matica participates in social life in the village, e.g. Day of Bystrica.

The membership meeting elected a new management. An important task for the next period remains the expansion of the membership base and cooperation with schools.



The cover of the new Almanac III. from 2022. Source: Silesian Matica

Numerous guests took part in the ceremonial session. Source: Serbian Matica Gallery

175 YEARS OF THE SERBIAN MATICA GALLERY

Jasmina Pániková, editor of the periodical Voice of the People (*Hlas ľudu*), Serbia

The ceremonial meeting on the occasion of the Day of the Serbian Mother Gallery and commemoration of 175 years since its foundation was held on October 14, 2022.

Those present were addressed by Tijana Palkovljevićová-Bugarská, gallery manager, Dragan Stanić, chairman of Serbian Matica, as well as Maja Gojković, deputy prime minister of Serbia and minister of culture and information.

According to the administrator of Serbian Matica Gallery, in the jubilee year, they prepared a program that is *„a combination of tradition and innovation, pointing out the brightest points of the work so far and illustrating the motto that they have been following for the past years – respecting tradition, we create tradition"*.

As she further stated, over the past 25 years they managed to modernize the building and thus improve the conditions for storing and displaying works of art, enriched the art fund with 3,330 important works of Serbian art, held 306 exhibitions and published 224 publications. *„Today, we are an institution that, thanks to the dedicated work of generations of experts, our nation is proud of,"* concluded Palkovljevićová-Bugarská.

The president of Serbian Matica Dragan Stanić recalled the history of this first educational and scientific institution of the Serbs. *„Today, this institution is not only a leader in Serbian museum and gallery activity, but has also become very respectable on the international level,"* he emphasized.

Minister Maja Gojković honored the ceremony with her presence. „This is a museum that carefully guards the precious cultural heritage and strives to pass it on to current and future generations. More than a dynamic museum life, it creates the impression that works of art live their new life here, bringing the respectable past closer to the present and creating conditions for a better tomorrow," said Minister Gojković.

Tijana Palkovljevićová-Bugarská, manager of the Serbian Matica Gallery. Source: Serbian Matca Gallery

2023 – THE YEAR OF SLOVAK MATICA

In 2023, we will commemorate 160 years of Slovak Matica

Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Logo of the Year of Slovak Matica. Source: Slovak Matica

Slovak Matica, as the historically first nationwide cultural institution of the Slovaks, was founded on August 4, 1863 in Turčiansky St. Martin, where our cultural, political, religious and artistic representation gathered for this noble purpose. Three decisive factors determined the establishment of Slovak Matica. The first national defense factor consisted in the contemporary emergence of matrices in the processes of national revivals in the 19th century in the cultural environment of the enslaved Slavic peoples in the Habsburg monarchy. The second emancipatory dimension, together with the phenomenon of Slavic matrices, was closely related to the Cyril-Method tradition, the cult of education and writing, which was also reflected in Slovak cultural and church history, when the year 1863 marked the millennium celebrations of the arrival of the Thessaloniki brothers St. Cyril and St. Method, the apostles of Slavs, to our territory. The third internally synthesizing factor was the Slovak unification movement of the evangelical Štúr´s generation camp and the Catholic part of the nationally conscious intelligentsia, which began to work together in the cultural, political, language and popular education areas, while the basic integration elements included the adoption of written Slovak on the Štúr´s generation basis, the founding of the supraconfessional association Tatrín in 1844, but above all, the cultural and political program of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation of 1861 with the requirement of the creation of cultural and educational institutions of a national character. These three factors were positively fulfilled and completed in August 1863 with the establishment of the Slovak Matica with its headquarters in Turčiansky St. Martin. Slovak Matica thus became the oldest and immediately and for a long time the most important and well-known national-cultural enterprise of the Slovak nation. Since its founding, it has often focused on literary, scientific, publishing, museum, library-archival, educational and artistic activities at home in Slovakia and later among its compatriots in the world. During the long one hundred and sixty-year journey in these areas, it significantly participated in the formation of the Slovaks as an independent nation and the development of their unique national culture in the Hungarian and Czecho-Slovak periods of Slovak history until the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic on January 1, 1993, when August 4 officially became the state level on the Memorial Day of Slovak Matica.

Slovak Matica declares the year 2023 as the Year of Slovak Matica on the occasion of the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of its foundation. In this context, next year's program will also focus all activities on promoting and updating the Matica's past and present, but also on getting to know and remembering the numerous personalities connected with the cultural mission and history of the Slovak Matica. The one hundred and sixty-year-old parent mission and the given historical role rigorously determine that it fulfills its historical mission in spreading Slovak awareness, patriotism, culture and education even in the current hectic era.

SLOVAK MATICA IN RIJEKA

Miloslav Strehársky, Slovak Matica in Rijeka, Croatia

Logo of Slovak Matica in Rijeka

Slovak Matica in Rijeka was founded on December 3, 1994 as a voluntary association of citizens of Slovak nationality who had Croatian citizenship and loved Slovaks and Slovakia. The initiative to establish the association of Slovaks was given by a native of eastern Slovakia, Eva Dobrotová, who united the Slovaks living in Rijeka, which was supported by her husband Mile. It was the 8th Slovak Matica in Croatia. Now there are already fifteen of them in Croatia and they are united in the Union of Slovaks with headquarters in Našice. Due to the number of members, the Slovak Matica in Rijeka is one of the smallest and farthest from Našice, but it is also the only Matica by the seaside.

The institutions of the city of Rijeka, the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, the port of Rijeka, the Rade Končar company, who also helped us financially, along with the branches of Slovak Maticaska from Slavonia, also supported us.

Since its establishment, Slovak Matica in Rijeka has changed its headquarters several times. Today's seat is located in the Slovak House, a new building of Slovak Matica in Rijeka, bought from the funds of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, which was ceremonially handed over to it on July 27, 2021.

The first president of the WC until 1999 was Marta Uremovićová, a native of Pezinok. After her, this duty was fulfilled by Miroslava Gržinićová, born in Považská Bystrica, Slavko Pavlović from Rijeka, Margita Rekićová-Grolmusová, born in Prievidza. The current chairperson is Miroslava Gržinićová and the vice-chairperson is Margita Rekićová-Grolmusová.

The goal of Slovak Matica in Rijeka is to preserve the Slovak identity, language, cultural wealth, customs, develop cooperation with Slovakia, organize various performances, celebrations, as well as professional lectures. Folkloric, singing, children's, literary, musical, artistic, ceramic, theatrical, traditional gastro and photo-video groups operate within Matica. Slovak Matica in Rijeka organizes exhibitions, video projections about the beauty of Slovakia, book launches, commemorates national holidays and anniversaries of Slovak greats. Traditionally, since 2000, it has been organizing Days of Slovak Culture, at which it presents Slovakia through Slovak artists and craftsmen, as well as the gastronomic offer of Slovak dishes and products. The WC in Rijeka was also the organizer of important union parades.

The folkloric and singing group Slovenka presents Slovak Matica from Rijeka at parades of the Union of Slovaks, as well as at city and regional parades. They presented their program at several festivals in Slovakia, but also in Italy, France, Hungary, Serbia, the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

The Slovenka ensemble has the longest cooperation with the Bystričan folklore ensemble, but also with other associations in Slovakia, such as Košovan and Oravan. In 2014, Slovak Matica from Rijeka took part in the National Court in Detva.

Slovak Matica in Rijeka organizes and participates in chess tournaments, seminars and various thematic conferences. Its members commemorate the evicted Slovaks by placing a wreath on the surface of the sea, they unveiled a memorial plaque to Svetozar Hurban-Vajanský in Volosk. Matica also published several poems, a collection of Babka's recipes and helped publish the book Drotárova cesta. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the WC in Rijeka, she published the monograph Slovaks in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The gastronomic section is particularly active during the events of the Days of Slovak Culture, the Porto Ethno Festival and at the Krajanský dvor in Detva. In December 2019, a ceremonial academy was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the WC in Rijeka. She has already participated in the Dedovizeň festival in Slovenské Nové Mesto twice (2010 and 2019). This year, for the first time, she participated in the Day of Slovaks Abroad with the singing and folklore group Slovenka, and for the fourth time at the Compatriot courtyard in Detva with a gastronomic and folklore group. Since 2016, every year in October, it organizes the Day of respect for older members 65+. In December 2021, the ceremonial opening of the renovated premises of the new headquarters of the Slovak Matica in Rijeka – the Slovak House, purchased from the funds of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad of the Slovak Republic took place.

Members of Slovak Matica at the Academy ceremony in 2019. Photo: Miloslav Strehársky

Folklore group Slovenka Slovak Matica in Rijeka, 2018. Photo: Miloslav Strehársky

PADINA, VILLAGE OF DEEP WELLS AND GROUND WATER

Daniela Ďurašová, Association for Education and Regional Development, Serbia

An important historical monument Šajbenova studňa, which is located in the center of the village. Photo: Martin Markuš

A village without history is like a tree without roots, our village is very bushy, intertwined with the roots of families all over the world. The strongest part of the root goes all the way to Zvolenská region, from where 216 years ago around eighty families came to settle Padina. Slovaks came to Padina in two waves. The first wave was in 1806 when it was founded and the second in 1808. Eighty families came in each group. They were families from Novohradská, Peštianská and Gemerská region. A smaller number of families came only from Liptovská and Nitra region. The life of the first Slovak families was not easy. Slovak families had to fight with the lack of water and sand winds, which are frequent here, because the Deliblat sand dunes are located here. One well was not even enough for drinking water, and therefore people went to Kovačica on horses with a wagon carrying a large barrel to get water. The people of Padin valued water and knew how to conserve it. When new wells were still not built in 1814, the Padinians decided to leave. But the headquarters of the Military Border did not allow them. Thanks to the request of parish priest Ján Stehla, Padina received up to five wells in 1817.

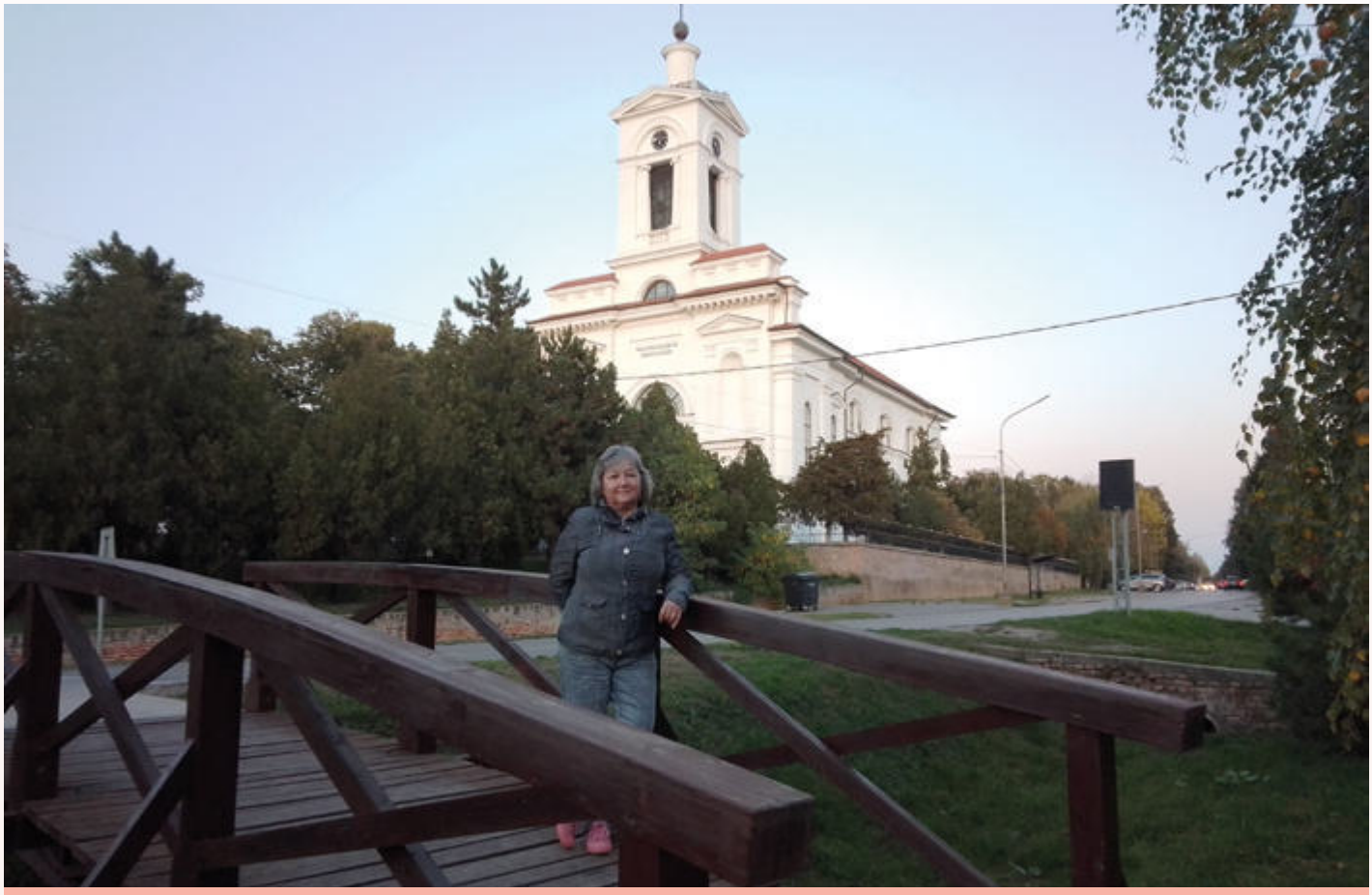
The first Slovaks set off in search of a better life into the unknown on foot, on wagons, with modest possessions. Their journey lasted several months. They brought with them the Bible, faith, Tranoscius, love for the Slovak word both written and oral. After the arrival, the church and the Slovak school were the first to be built. The children immediately started learning in the Slovak language. The influence of the church on the development of spiritual heritage is incalculable and continues even today. Padina has a rich history, which we will recall in other articles. Today we want to introduce her to the current life of Slovaks. The village was given the title of the largest Slovak village in the world outside of Slovakia. It has 5,600 inhabitants, of which 98% are Slovaks. When you visit the village, you feel that you are in Slovakia. Everywhere you hear sweet-sounding Slovak. But where in Slovakia do you hear words like lála, fiha? The preservation of archaic Slovak from the time of the Štúr´s generations can be felt at every step. During the visit of a delegation from the Slovak village of Hlboké (where the Slovak language was codified in 1843), mayor Miloš Čobrda was very surprised at how the Slovak language has been preserved among Slovaks to this day and supported our efforts to preserve it. Beautiful, sonorous, soft-spoken native speech. As part of the Ľudovít Štúr Summer School project, our children visited Hlboké and learned about the history of the Štúra people through informal education. They also saw the rectory where the language was codified. We also participated in the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ľudovít Štúr. We have enriched the program with Pada costumes, program and insightful artists. With each project, we try to get closer to our homeland in word and spirit. Padina has many organizations that contribute to its development with their activities. We have the largest evangelical church in the village, but also other Christian communities. We help each other.

Today, we have 400 pupils at the M. Tito Primary School in Padina, who study in Slovak in 2 shifts. Principal Mária Galasová and her team of students and teachers achieve great results in leisure activities as well. The Slovak cultural and artistic association Slnečnica (hereinafter referred to as Slnečnica), which was founded by our organization Association for Education and Regional Development, and financially supported by the National Council of the Slovak

National Minority, is active at the school. The leader of the association is teacher Anka Halajová. This year, at the Tancuj, tancuj festival in Hložany, he received a special prize for artistic performance, and their reward will be a performance at the Folklore Festival in Detva. The association has 120 members, they care for children from the age of seven, older children, youth and parents of children are also members.

Children from 7 to 10 years old received the 2nd prize of the expert jury at the Golden gate (Zlatá brána) children's folklore festival in Kysáč. The children's orchestra is led by Vladimír Halaj, children also perform at various events in the surrounding villages. They also played with the group Kandračovci, which visited Padina in May. We also have the Slovak cultural and artistic association Hlas nadeje, which was founded by young students with the aim of preserving traditions. In the village we have the Ethno House, which belongs to the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Padina, and the Slovak Ethno Museum – Petráš. Zuzana Kotvášová is dedicated to the preservation of costumes, of which she has more than a hundred in her collection. Many creative people live in Padina. Evka Mikulášová makes dolls from shells, and her skills are passed down in the family from generation to generation. The young generation protects its history as a symbol of gratitude and respect for its ancestors. On festive occasions, such as weddings, christenings or other festive occasions, the whole family dresses up in costume. Padina is also known for its keen painters and athletes. We receive funds mainly from the Office for Slovaks living abroad and cooperate with the V4 countries. To present the village with all that we have, we invite you to visit, we will be happy to welcome you, show you and explain what the village of deep wells and milled water means.

Meg family – Božka, Mihael, Natali and Melani.
Source: archive of Meg family



The Padinians built an Evangelical church, which they consecrated in 1841. In that period, they also built a new parsonage (1844 – 1845) and a new storey school building (1846). In the foreground is the author of the post. Photo: Martin Markuš

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF MATICA LUZICKOSRBSKÁ ANJA POHONČOVA

The speaker was Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the National Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

„We do the main work in our spare time."

„I grew up in Wětošow (Lower Lusatia). I learned Lower Lusatian-Serbian at school, first in my hometown, later at the Lusatian-Serbian Higher School Marjana Domaškojc in Chotěbuza. After studying Sorabistics and Rusistics at the University of Leipzig, I became a doctoral student at the Lusatian-Serbian Institute; I defended my doctoral thesis on the topic of the influence of the Upper Sorbian lexicon on the Lower Sorbian written language at the Technical University in Dresden (the monograph was published in German in 2002). Since 1999, I have been working as a scientific workforce in the language research department of the Lusatian-Serbian Institute in Budyšín. I joined Lusatian-Serbian Matica after completing my studies in 1994; from 1998 to 2001 I headed the Lusatian-Serbian language section, since 2008 I have been a member of the board of Matica. In the fall of 2020, the main assembly of Lusatian-Serbian Matica elected me as its chairperson," – Anja Pohončowa, chairwoman of Lusatian-Serbian Matica, writes about herself.

Anja Pohončowa. Source: Lusatian-Serbian Matica

Last year, you became the first chairwoman to hold the position of president in the history of the 175-year-old Lusatian-Serbian Matica, for which we sincerely congratulate you and wish you much success and strength in your work. With what plans for the development of Lusatian-Serbian Matica did you apply for this position? What do you plan to maintain, develop and what are your new visions?

It is important to me that we continue the current activity in front of the sessions and strengthen it even more. However, I took over the position of chairwoman during the corona, which also meant observing the prescribed restrictions. Now we hope that the work of the sections and the association will return to normal. At the moment, we feel that the interest in voluntary work has generally subsided. Therefore, we must focus on new forms of our activity in the future.

Readers of Slavic Horizon will gradually learn how they are constituted and how they function. In the beginning, it would be necessary to explain what are the historical relations between Matica Upper Sorbian and Lower Sorbian. Do they work together or do they each fulfill their own agenda? What is Lusatian-Serbian Matica struggling with today and, on the contrary, what is it successful in?

Lusatian-Serbian Matica was founded in 1847, in the following years various departments began to function: 1853 Department of Linguistics (then the most important), r. 1857 naturalist and 1858 fiction. The Lower Lusatian-Serbian department itself was created only in 1880. The Maśica Serbska department of Lower Lusatian-Serbia operates in Lower Lusatia, has its own presidency and its own main assembly. The chairman of the Lower Lusatian-Serbian Matica is also a member of the board of the Lower Lusatian-Serbian Matica, so personal contact is possible at any time.

Last fall, as Lusatian-Serbian Matica, we took over responsibility for the Lusatian Serbian media package project for municipal and district libraries in the Lusatian-Serbian settlement area in Brandenburg, which applied only to Lower Lusatia. The project was financed by the Ministry of Education in Brandenburg. The handing over of the media package was attended by me as the chairperson of the entire Lusatian-Serbian Matica, as well as the chairperson of the Lower Lusatian-Serbian Matica department Dr. Pětš Šurman.

You are chairing Lusatian-Serbian Matica. How does this Matica work today? How is it legislated, how is it financed and how many employees does it have?

Our association has the legal form of a registered association and works only on a voluntary basis. As a member association of Domowiny, we will receive some administrative help from the Domowiny office. But we do our main work in our spare time. We finance ourselves from member contributions; for exceptional events, we can request financial support from the Foundation for Lusatian Serbian People. We currently have 106 members, among them are 15 foreign members (from Poland, the Czech Republic, Finland, Italy and Japan).

How do its individual departments work? Does Matica have its own membership and publishing house?

After 1991, the activity of Lusatian-Serbian Matica takes place mainly in the sections and also in the department of Lower Lusatia. The Lusatian-Serbian Matica forms the roof for sections (literature and art, science of folk culture and museology, music) and the Lower Lusatian-Serbian department. The Lusatian-Serbian Matica also includes the monument commission, the Lower Lusatian-Serbian and the

The community library in Kolkwitz (Gołkojce in Serbian) was also grateful for a package of Lusatian-Serbian media. Source: Lusatian-Serbian Matica

Upper Lusatian-Serbian language commission. The Presidency will appoint responsible persons to these committees experts. Sections, departments, commissions and the Lower Lusatian Matica work independently and inform about the results at the main assembly.

What do you currently have in Lusatian-Serbian Matica?

At the beginning of the year, the board of Lusatian-Serbian Matica organized a public discussion about the Lusatian-Serbian anthem. Specifically, it is a question of whether the text of the second stanza should be changed a little so that it is not only about „men". At the present time, we sing „Oh, that from your/ lap may come men,/ who deserve eternal memory". The Presidency presented a possible variant and suggests whether it would be possible to sing the current and new versions in parallel – this is practiced to a certain extent when the Lusatian Serbs from Upper and Lower Lusatia sing the anthem together.

In Lower Lusatia Serbian, some already sing „people" instead of „men" („Oh, gab muže/luźe stanuli,/ za sový narod źěłali,/góndne nimjer wobspomnjeśa."). All information and documentation for this discussion can be found on our website https://www.domowina.de/hsb/clonstwo/sobustawske-zupy-a-towarstwa/macica-serbska-zt/translate-to-hsb-sorbische-hymne .

This year is the jubilee year of Handrije Zejler and Korla August Kocor in Lusatia. Matica is preparing a symposium for this occasion in the fall.

The biggest project, however, will be the conference on November 25-26 in Budyšín on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Lusatian-Serbian Academy, which we are preparing together with the Lusatian-Serbian Institute. 17 clerks signed up with 16 contributions. The topic of the conference is the operation of Matica after 1991.

Slovak Matica launched an information newsletter for Slavic maticas – Slavic Horizon – last year. Its fourth issue is currently being published, in which you gave us an interview. We also provided information about Lusatian-Serbian Matica in its pilot year. How do you evaluate this initiative of Slovak Matica? Is such a periodical necessary?

I very much welcome such an initiative. Mutual communication about the action, structure and activity of various Slavic matrices is very important. Everywhere we are experiencing a change of generations, that is why new contacts should be established and existing ones should be strengthened.

Festive event of the 175th anniversary of the founding of Lusatian-Serbian Matica. Former and current presidents gave short speeches at the ceremony; from left: Ján Malink (chairman 2008-2016), Dr. Anja Pohončowa (president from 2020), Jurij Łušćanski (president 2016-2020) and Dr. Pětš Šurman (since 2006 chairman of the Lower Lusatia department of Maśica Serbska). Source: Lusatian-Serbian Matica

WE REMEMBER TEACHER JÁN MICHALKO (12. 9. 1907 – 20. 2. 1982)

On the 115th anniversary of his birth and the 40th anniversary of his death

Katarína Koňariková, Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria

Ján Michalko with his wife and children. Source: private chronicle of Ján Michalko

About Slovaks in Bulgaria

Slovaks from Bulgaria – Gornej Mitropolije, Mrtvice (not Podem), Brašljanice and Vojvodova - are an inseparable part of Slovaks from Lower Earth. They built a cultural and social life, which was mainly based on the evangelical church with the arrival of the first parish priest Adam Vereš in 1906, and on education – the arrival of the first teacher Mária Matějovská in 1923. Until then, this role was performed by folk preachers from among compatriots. In our article, we will focus on the teacher Ján Michalek, who worked in Gorna Mitropolija from 1930 to 1932 and Brašljanica from 1932 to 1940. The life and works of the teacher Ján Michalek were discussed on the occasion of the publication of his collection of songs *Ej, Bugári, Bugári* (Sofia, 2008) wrote two comprehensive and evaluative biographical portraits of Katarína Sedláková and Ján Botík, from which we also drew when writing these lines. Thanks to the understanding of the children of the teacher Ján Michalek, daughter Darina and son Ľudovít, we have the opportunity to get acquainted with the autobiographical testimony of the teacher Michalek and thanks to the friendliness of his grandson Ing. Ivan Švehla and his personal life.

Personality of Ján Michalko

„History teaches us to live, we learn from history." Ján Michalko, a teacher working among our compatriots in Bulgaria, begins writing his family chronicle with this motto. As professor Ján Botík writes in the 1992 Yearbook of the Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria – a young, enthusiastic and, as it turned out later, talented and unusually hardworking man came to our countrymen. He was not only a responsible and popular teacher among the students, but also a good educational worker. In addition to his productive teaching, cultural-educational and physical education work, he did something extra for the Slovaks in Bulgaria – he became their historian. He wrote a book about them, which is one of the most successful monographs about Slovak emigrants. Over the course of less than five years, he collected a wide range of demographic-statistical, historical, ethnographic, folkloristic and dialectological information about Bulgarian Slovaks, on the basis of which he managed to create a faithful picture of the most diverse aspects of emigrants' destinies, as well as economic, social, cultural and spiritual life Slovaks in Bulgaria. In the following lines, we will bring you closer to the life of Ján Michalko through his own words, which he left in his memories.

From the family chronicle

Ján Michalko pochádzal z chudobnej rodiny. Otec Ondrej MJán Michalko came from a poor family. Father Ondrej Michalko was born on September 7, 1872 in Mengusovce, and at the age of 24 he married Anna Rattajová, born on February 21, 1876 in Mengusovce. Both were evangelical, but in 1914, mother Anna became a Baptist, and a year later, father Ondrej. Together they had eight children, but the last eight were stillborn. Ján Michalko was the fifth child. He was born on September 12, 1907 in Mengusovci. He had four sisters – Mária (August 14, 1898), Zuzana (July 22, 1900), Anna (February 6, 1904), Helena (February 1, 1910) and two brothers, Ondrej (May 3, 1902) and Pavel (19 April 1915).

At the age of six, he started going to school in Mengusovce with teacher Štefan Bialek. Ján studied well, but, as he says according to his own memory, he was a first-class galgan. At the age of about 6-7, he fell ill with typhus, and immediately after that freckles appeared on his face, which were faithful to him for the rest of his life. When the father took ox herding as his job in 1914, little Ján also walked with him in the mountains with the cattle, often during school as well. Zuzka's sister's husband Ján Gallo Pafkov insisted that Ján go to study at the gymnasium in Liptovský St. Mikuláš, where he traveled with his mother Anna on September 1, 1918. As the Czechoslovak Republic was soon established, he had already finished his first grade as a Slovak, not a Hungarian.

Four classes of the gymnasium started in Liptovský Sv. Mikuláš, from which in 1922/1923 he transferred to the *Evangelical Teacher's Institute* in Prešov, although he aspired to become a doctor. After its merger with the *State Girls' Teacher's Institute,* he transferred to the *Masaryk I. Czechoslovak Teacher's Institute* in Modra , where he mas-

tered the teaching profession more than in Prešov. He owes this mainly to the director of the institute, Ferdinand Písecký and Antonín Zeman. Antonín Zeman was also willing to help him with his studies at the university and wrote to him in a letter that he would also support him financially. However, Ján Michalko did not accept the financial gift.

Committee of the branch of the Czechoslovak National House in Brašljanice, 1935. Source: private chronicle of Ján Michalko

Beginnings of teaching

He got his first teaching position in 1926 in Čopa, later in Tura Lúka, Myjava district. He worked in the state folk school there only from April 1, 1929 to October 31, 1929, and at his own request he went to Rožňava. There he taught in the state folk school from November 1, 1929 to September 8, 1930, and then applied to go abroad to teach at minority schools. Based on this request, he moved to Gorna Mitropolija in Bulgaria, where he worked at a Slovak folk school from 1930 to 1940. In Gorna Mitropolija, he met the Bulgarian language teacher Teodora Canková, with whom he fell in love in the first year and on May 9 In 1931, he asked his parents to marry her. On June 28, 1931, they celebrated their wedding in the Evangelical-Methodist church in Plevna. Together they had two children – son Ľudovít, born on August 23, 1932, and daughter Darinka, born on August 14, 1936.

As he writes in his memoirs, the beginnings of teaching in the Upper Metropolis were not easy because of the poor conditions for teaching. Since the Slovaks from Bulgaria belong to the southernmost branch of the Lowland Slovaks, and therefore also the youngest, the teachers who came among the compatriots had to build not only school buildings, but also create conditions for teaching, procure the necessary teaching material and school supplies. Ján Michalko encountered hostility from some Slovaks – the administrator of the Slovak school Alois Naňák and the parish priest Ján Galát. For these reasons, in the 1931/32 school year, he was transferred from Gorná Mitropolije to Brašljanice, where he moved on September 15. Thus separated from his wife and son, he lived with the Petráks for several years, until in 1937 a Slovak school with a teacher's apartment opened in Brašljanica, where he and his family could move.

Among our countrymen

In addition to his productive work as a teacher, Ján Michalko also held the position of a folk preacher. He had a good command of playing the organ and the violin. He had his first preaching experience at Christmas in 1932, which he celebrated with his wife Teodora in Bulgaria. In that year, on December 19, Juraj Kováč tragically died in the sugar factory, who was performing divine services as a folk preacher in the Slovak church in Gorná Mitropolija, when the priest left for branches in Mrtvica and Brašljanica. Pastor Ján Galát therefore asked Michalek to stand in for him on the Second Christmas Day. With his sincere sermon, he won over the Slovaks, who liked the way he performed the services of God, and thus he swayed them to his side. He was able to inspire the young and the old, thanks to which he organized volunteer theater performances, singing groups and performances, reading groups, falconry exercises, school and association committees. During his time in Bulgaria, he worked on an extensive publication called *Our People in Bulgaria*, in which he described in detail fifty years of life, work, songs and customs of the Slovaks in three villages – Gorna Mitropolija, Podeme and Brašljanica, and marginally also in Vojvodov, where mainly Czechs lived. He did not forget the Slovaks who went to other cities in Bulgaria and visited them himself. So, for example, on May 1, he got among the Slovaks in Pišurka in Lomsk. He completed the book *Naši v Bulgaria* in July 1936 as his first own book. Between 1932 and 1936, Ján Michalko collected Slovak folk songs among his compatriots, which he called *Slovenské nvoty*. However, they remained forgotten until the period when they were published in a collection under the name *Ej, Bugári, Bugári* in 2008. The authors of the collection are Katarína Sedláková and Vladimír Penčev. Ján Michalek's latest book is a 504-page historical chronicle *Mengusovce*, published by the village of Mengusovce with the contribution of brothers Ján and Jaroslav „Karol" Šoltís.

After returning to Slovakia, Ján Michalko spent many years studying and collecting historical sources from the earliest times to the end of the 19th century. However, due to a serious illness, he was unable to finish the book and print it. The book was not published until 2022 and is dedicated to Dr. Antonín Zeman, former professor of Ján Michalek. The manuscript was preserved and provided for publication by the author's children MUDr. Darina Michalková-Švehlová and Ing. Ľudovít Michalko.

Return to Slovakia

On August 27, 1940, Ján Michalko received a decree in which the Roma were transferred from Bulgaria, and on September 1, he became a burgher in Spišské Vlachy (1940 – 1945). From there he went to the municipal school in Košice (1945 – 1959). In 1959, he moved from Košice to his birthplace. He taught at the secondary school in Svit until 1967, after which he retired. After returning to Slovakia, he devoted hiSlovak Maticaelf mainly to translation work. He translated several short stories, novels and plays from Bulgarian: *Dawn in the Balkans* (Stojanova), *Tale of the Mountain* (E. Staneva), *Katka* (A. Segrenský), *At the Foot of Vitoš* (P. Javorova), *Grape Cider* (D. Sprostranova), *Nights in the Park* (A. Girginova), *Road* (Daskal), *In honor of the displays* (K. Židarov). For the translation of *Službohonc* (I. Vazov) he won the second prize in the Slovak Radio competition in 1942. The work was played in theaters in Prešov, Košice and Michalovce until 1945. The comedy *New port* was performed from the manuscript in the theaters in Prešov and Košice until 1947, and the comedy *Velikáš* in the theater in Košice.

The creative, creative, precise and tenacious work of Ján Michalka left a mark in the lives of his compatriots. Had it not been for his determination to map the life of Slovaks in Bulgaria historically, many important facts would have remained unknown. Even though the memorials are no longer alive, the memory of our master teacher – as people used to call him, we preserve and value the work he did for us.

ĐURA DANIČIĆ AND THE SLOVAKS

Nebojša Kuzmanović, director of the Archives of Vojvodina, Serbia
Translation from Serbian: Martin Prebudila

Đura Daničić, real name Đorđe Popović, studied in Bratislava from 1841 to 1844, at the time of the greatest brilliance of the Pan-Slavic idea, when Ľudovít Štúr taught at the Evangelical Lyceum. The reasons for Daničić's arrival in Slovakia lie in the good reputation of the Bratislava lyceum with its Slavic school and the tradition of Slavic mutuality that had already been established, as well as the tradition of Serbian-Slovak concord. According to Kovijanić: *„Here, Daničić learned and mastered the Slavic languages, Czech, Slovak, Russian and Polish, even before he got to the department of the famous Slavist Miklošič; there he finally decided to reform Vuk Karadžić's literary language and spelling, before entering Vuk's important circle in Vienna, he became a supporter of Vuk's thought and replaced his own name and surname (Đorđe Popović) with a name from Vuk's Serbian folk songs.*"

Đuro Daničić (4 April 1825 – 17 November 1882), Serbian philologist, translator, linguistic historian and lexicographer

Đura Daničić came to the Bratislava Evangelical Lyceum at the age of seventeen, *„he was entered in the register under serial number 88: Popović Đorđe, of the Orthodox faith, devoted to legal sciences, from Novi Sad, Báčka, parent: mother Ana, widow of the parish priest from of a certain town, he will eat at the school table, he came from the Novi Sad gymnasium." ... „It was not mentioned anywhere that he was a ‚Hungarian', as was later the case for Miletić and all Serbian and Slovak students from the territory of Hungary in the years 1845-1848 years."* According to Kovijanić, Daničić was one of the best students of the lyceum, and if it were not for his grades in the Hungarian language and Hungarian literacy, „Daničić would have been one of the first among the first".

Among others, Daničić became friends with Janko Štúr, Andrej Hodža, Milan Hodža's uncle, and many other Slovaks and Serbs who were educated in Bratislava and taught by Kovač-Martini – natural sciences and Gottfried Šrer – history, aesthetics and poetry, professor, who introduced him to the works of Schiller, Shakespeare and Goethe. There was also a Serbian language lectureship at the Štúr Department. During Daničić's time, Pravoslav Červenak (1816 – 1842), author of the book *Zrkadlo Slovenska, was a lecturer of the Serbian language and the history of Yugoslavia.*

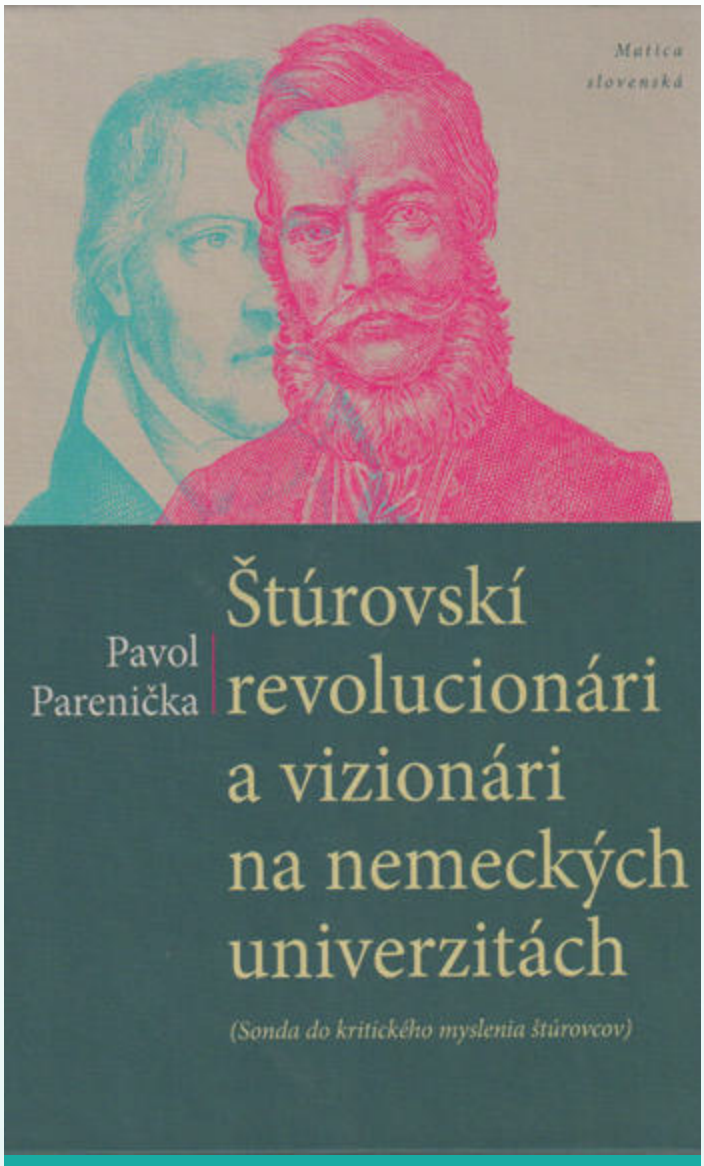
During his studies in Bratislava, Daničić wrote poems, aphorisms, short essays and translated from German, Slovak Czech and Russian, as well as from Polish. He signed these texts with his initials and published them in Belgrade's *Srbské noviny* and *Podunavka magazine*. Nothing was known about these works for a long time, and in addition to Kovijanić, the works of the young Daničić were also pointed out by Đorđe Živanović in the study Mladý Daničić. Among other things, Daničić translated the discussion of the Czech scholar Purkyně, Serbs in the Circle of Slavs, which was read in the Serbian Student -Association in Bratislava.

At the end of 1844, Daničić went to study in Pest and then in Vienna, where he was attracted by Vuk Karadžić, *„around whom gathered an important circle of Serbian youth, with whose power Vuk would win the final victory,"* says Kovijanić. *„It was there that Daničić, like Štúr at that time, began to realize that he should start going from his nation to Slavs, and not the other way around." Kovijanić's main conclusion about Daničić's training is that „he left Bratislava as a great Štúr , and from Vienna as a large and thoroughly built vukovec".*

Kovijanić also familiarized Slovak readers with Daničić's Slovak period, so in the text Štúr's Serbian Students he says that Daničić was one of Štúr's most famous students: *„Đura Daničić, from Novi Sad, our famous scholar, ... as a student from Bratislava, he was a very diligent writer of Serbian newspapers and magazines. He also composed poems and translated the poems of the Slovak poet Ľudevít Žella. He is definitely the most famous person among all of Štúr's students."*

PARENIČKA, Pavol. *Štúr´s generation revolutionaries and visionaries at German universities* (Probe into the critical thinking of the Štúr´s generations). Martin: Slovak Matica, 2022, 295 p. ISBN 978-80-8128-287-4.

Pavel Parenička's scientific monograph *Štúr´s generation revolutionaries and visionaries at German universities* with the subtitle Probe into the critical thinking of Štúr´s generation was created within the project APVV-180479: Research of key competences for a knowledge-based society in the context of the historical, social and economic specificities of the Slovak Republic with regard to history, culture and traditions. The monograph approximates the thought processes and their cultural and political overlaps among the younger generation of Štúr´s generation, respectively. of Young Slovakia, dating back to the 30s and 40s of the 19th century. The Young Slovakia movement was part of the second phase of the Slovak national revival and at the same time parallel to the Young Europe movement, in which Young Germany became the leading force, inspired by German classical philosophy and romanticism. A decisive role in this direction was played by Goethe, Schiller, Fichte, but especially Hegel, but also by other brilliant Hegelians with a reference to the ideals of freedom and morality, which were projected from the university grounds into art, literature, culture and politics, which culminated in 1848 and 1849 by a series of bourgeois-democratic revolutions in Germany and other European countries, including the Habsburg Monarchy, the Kingdom of Hungary and Slovakia. They were about the transformation of the old feudal estate world into a new, more democratic society, built on national-civic principles. In Slovakia, the Young Slovakian generation, centered around its leader Ľudovít Štúr, stood at the head of cultural-political, national-revival, integration, apologetic and emancipatory efforts at this time. She systematically expanded her educational horizons at German universities, primarily in Berlin, Halle and traditionally in Jena. Each chapter of the monograph presents individual universities in a unified structure, while describing the university towns, the history and founders of the universities, their professors, famous graduates, and scholars who studied at them. Among others, Karol Štúr, the older brother of Ľudovít Štúr, a classmate of Karol Heinrich Marx, and Samuel Tomášik, the author of the famous hymn *Hey, Slavics!*, graduated from the University of Berlin. Their teachers in the philosophical spirit of Fichte and Hegel in the metropolis of Prussia were the theologians Marheinecke, Neander and Twesten and the philologist Franz Bopp. Ľudovít Štúr, Benjamín Pravoslav Červenak, Samo Bohdan Hroboň, Andrej Sládkovič, Ján Kalinčiak, August Horislav Krčméry, Samuel Dobroslav Štefanovič and dozens of others attended the Ľudovít Štúr, Benjamín Pravoslav Červenák, and dozens of others who were lectured by Hegelian theologians Gesenius, Tholuck, Müller, Schwarz, philosophers Hinrichs, Ruge, Erdmann, Schaller, historians Leo, Roepell and Duncker, philologist August Pott. Special mention should be made of professors August Tholuck, Richard Roepell and August Pott, who spiritually, ideologically and politically shaped the members of the Štúr´s generation community, while many of them also established working and friendly contacts. Although the University of Jena, where the spirit of Goethe was most prominent, was not as sought after by students from Slovakia as it was in the past, Karol Kuzmány studied here with professor Fries, theologians Hase, Danz and Schott, historian Luden and philologists Eichstädt, Stickel and Weissenborn. , Ľudovít Matej Šuhajda, Karol Braxatoris, Ľudovít Augustín Haan, Jonatan Dobroslav Čipka and others. Each portrait of the Štúr´s generations educated in Germany also includes an overview of their activities in the Young Slovakian movement, a description of their study stays and established contacts at German universities, but also their involvement in the revolutionary years of 1848 and 1849 in the Slovak Uprising as a revolution for the national and social rights of the Slovaks. The course of the insurrectionary events forms the synthesizing content of the epilogue of the monograph, which depicts the events of how Ľudovít Štúr and the Štúr´s generations rose up politically and militarily against Hungarian domination and feudal survivals in Hungary and Slovakia. The Štúr´s generation elite of a European format matured at German universities, shaped the modern Slovak nation and opened the door to the stage of European history for the first time The monograph has a German resume and a name index.



Cover of the monograph. Source: Slovak Matica

MARCINČIN, Matúš. *Karol Strmeň: Crystal on a forgotten island*. Bratislava: Post Scriptum, 2022, 392 p. [Libri Historiae Slovaciae. Artes& Litterae VIII.]. ISBN 978-80-8218-041-4.

On the occasion of the centenary of the birth of the important Slovak poet, translator, essayist, journalist, university professor and one of the most important personalities of the Slovak exile after 1945 Karol Strmeň, the monograph *Karol Strmeň: a crystal on a forgotten island* is published, which represents the most comprehensive view of his work to date and a life that took place on two continents and in several countries.

Karol Strmeň was born as Karol Adam Bekényi on April 9, 1921 in Slovenský Meder (today's Palárikovo). After the Vienna Arbitration (1938) he became an emigrant for the first time. He left the Germanized grammar school in Nové Zámky, finished his studies at the emergency Slovak grammar school in Šurany, and then entered the Catholic seminary in Ostrichom, from which he was expelled in 1942 for reasons of nationality. At that time, out of defiance, he gave up his family name Bekényi and adopted the name Strmeň, which was supposed to be difficult for Hungarians to pronounce. He continued his university studies at the University of Bratislava, majoring in philosophy and the Slovak language.

He published for the first time as a high school student, the Catholic intellectual environment of the Svorad student dormitory had a decisive influence on him at the university. At the beginning of the 1940s, he fully contributed to the growth of Slovak culture as an agile journalist, poet, translator, critic and essayist. They included him in the so-called Slovak Catholic modernity, which he himself never identified with.

At that time, he published translations of Dante, RM Rilke, EA Poe and M. Eminesco. In 1943, he published his poetic debut, *Výžinok života*. In November 1944, he published the poem *Testament as a book*, with which he said goodbye to Slovakia, because in January 1945, out of fear for his life, he left his homeland before the advancing Red Army and for the second time - this time at the age of twenty-four – accepted the difficult fate of an exile.

After a dangerous journey through the territory of the Czech Republic and Germany (he even survived the bombing of a train during which his translation of Dante's *Inferno burned*), he reached Italy, where he was taken in by the first Slovak envoy to the Holy See, Karol Sidor, together with other exiles. Stremeň was involved in helping refugees, while still writing poems and translating. At the end of 1946 in the Basilica of St. Peter married Sidor's daughter Oľga in the Vatican. After the ceremony, they were received by the then Pope Pius XII. and gave them a special blessing. In January 1947, they finally received official permission and emigrated from Naples to the USA.

In the United States of America, they initially lived in great poverty in the Pennsylvania city of Scranton. Their situation improved only after moving to Cleveland, the capital of the state of Ohio, where a strong Slovak community lived. Here, Karol Strmeň embodied his own version of the story of the American dream, when he literally rose from nothing to become an internationally recognized personality. He became a respected university professor of French literature, poet and translator. He was involved in Slovak exile life, among other things, in 1952 he co-founded the *Slovak Institute* in Cleveland and later the *Society of Slovak Artists and Writers Abroad*. He was at the birth and operation of the most important cultural magazine of the Slovak exile – the quarterly for Slovak culture *Most* and others.

In exile, he became a phenomenal translator, translating at a high level from 25 world languages. He is the compiler of the unique *Anthology of the world poetry of Visits*. In books, he published translations of Dante's *Inferno*, a selection from Petrarch's poetry *Laurel*, Eliot's drama *Murder in the Cathedral*, selections from the poetry of Rilke and Claudel, Mauriac's essays, etc. In 1954, he translated the entire *New Testament*. He also published a translation of Claudel's drama *Satin Pantyhose*, translations of ancient Japanese poetry Kokinshu, lyrics by Francis Jammes and many others. His life's work, on which he worked for over thirty years (however, he did not live to see its publication), is a collection of poetry, *Stokvetá rieka*, which consists of a selection from the lyrics of the ancient Chinese poet Tu Fu in Strmeň's congenial translation.

His own poetic work is represented, for example, by the collections *Silver legend* and *Spring floodplains are waiting*, but above all the highlight of his poetic work is *Fish omen*. Strmeň's own magnificat consists of a collection of spiritual poetry *Preblahoslavená*. Internationally acclaimed poet and composer, member of the Slovak Institute Karol Strmeň (*Chevalier des palmes académiques*, 1970; *Cervantes Prize*, 1994 and others) tragically died in a car accident on October 15, 1994. His death ended the so-called overseas exile line. Slovak Catholic modernity.

In the presented monograph, the author tells the story of Strmeň's life on the layout of five acts of a classical drama, which he connects with his original and translated work. He chose the form of an overview, which summarizes the evaluations so far, puts them in correlation with his manuscript legacy and the latest research, and last but not least, shows them in the context and completion of his entire life. Despite unfavorable external circumstances, even in exile, Karol Strmeň created a remarkable work that was practically unknown in Slovakia until the „gentle revolution", the fall of communism in 1989 and the change of the political regime. He earned respect and recognition abroad despite the fact that even abroad he still remained above all the creator of free Slovak culture. The goal of the author's efforts was to create a starting point for all further research and reflection on Strmeň's life and work and thus facilitate the work of those who will deal with this great personality of Slovak literature in the future.

The monograph also contains probes into selected problems related to Karol Strmeň's own or translation work. The book ends with a bibliography of book editions of his original and translated works, a list of selected manuscript fragments from his archival legacy, and a selected bibliography about the author. Stremeň's life and work are summarized in a brief chronological overview. Last but not least, the book's asset is the extensive iconographic appendix.

NEW EDITIONS OF CROATIAN MATICA

Croatian Matica, Croatia

Croatian Matica also participated in the Interliber international book fair this year, the 44th edition of which was held from November 8 to 13, 2022, at the Zagreb fair. In the 5th pavilion, the best selection of Matica books awaited visitors, top reading that deserves a place in every home. On Thursday, November 10, a meeting was held with the main authors, editors and translators, including: Nives Opačić, Pavao Pavličić, Stjepan Damjanović, Krešimir Nemec, Dubravko Jelačić BužiSlovak Maticaki, Stipe Kutleša, Mate Maras, Dino Milinović and others.

Among the many titles that deserve attention, we highlight **Viktor Žmegač**´s new book Top European Novels, in which the author presents his selection of the best novels from the history of world literature. In addition to a selection of canonical works, such as the inseparable *Dôme selý rytir Don Quijote de la Mancha*, *Robinson Crusoe* or *Madame Bovary*, academician Žmegač also included undeservedly less well-known classics such as Goethe's Kindred Souls or Balzac's *Thirty- Year-Old* or several relatively contemporary and highly influential works, such as Rilke's *Notes by Malte Laurids Brigge and Grass's Tin Drum*. He supplemented his selection with the stimulating novel *Map and Territory* by Michel Houe llebecq.

Among the new editions of this year's Interliber, we highlight several titles.

Selected works of I Vesna Parun in Centuries of Croatian literature

The Croatian Matica joins the celebration of the centenary of the birth of one of the greatest Croatian poets by publishing the first of two books of selected works by Vesna Parunová in its library, A Century of Croatian Literature. Thanks to the new critical choice of the editor Tvrtko Vuković, in addition to her most famous poems, some of those that appeared only in the first editions made it into the first book. A selection from her rich poetic work includes poems from the collection *Zora a vychry* from 1947 to *The Cursed Rain* from 1969. In addition to an extensive preface, the book contains a verified bibliography, a yearbook and notes on the selection and sources. It is equipped with photographs by Zlata Vucelić, the author of the most beautiful and famous photographs of Vesna from her younger days.

Ivo Brešan: Selected works: Short prose

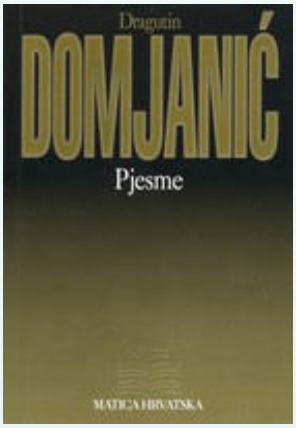
The third volume of *Ivo Brešan's Selected Works* contains the author's short prose published in two books: *Torhliny & other stories* (2000) and *Mrtvi nich nepotrejuju* (2014). Both were created simultaneously with the novels published in the previous volume, and according to the editor Vinko Brešić, they are *„in a way like sketches for possible novels"*, but for various reasons they remained at the level of more comprehensive short stories. Brešan's short stories, as well as previous plays and novels, were well received by critics and readers. It is less known that Brešan's work also contains several essays and autobiographical-memoir contributions. Vinko Brešić included in this volume the author's important autopoetic text *Basic principles of my theater system* (1996), the memoir appendix *My „cases"* (1992), the entry *Autobiography* (1997) and an interview from 2000.

Agrippa d'Aubigné: Tragedies

Théodore Agrippa d'Aubigné (1552 – 1630) is a French writer, historian and military leader, the author of the religious-political epic *Tragédi* (1616), which is considered the crowning work of the French Baroque. The extensive work, written over three decades, consists of 9,000 verses and tells the story of the conflicts between Catholics and Protestants during the religious wars in France. The epic has seven parts and a prologue, and the description of the events mixes noble and satirical registers. Many parts of the writer's songwriting have exceptional poetic power, often taking over the vocabulary and pathos of biblical verses. After its publication, the epic fell into oblivion, only for later romantics to discover its power, the beauty of its lyrical sections, and the wealth of imaginative techniques.

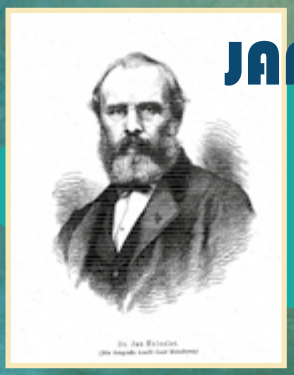
Dragutin Domjanić: Poems

The collection of *Poems* is the last book that Dragutin Domjanić published during his lifetime. It is an unusual historical circumstance that the last book of poetry of the famous Croatian poet was published in Belgrade only three months before his death in the Cyrillic alphabet, which is why this book is still almost unknown to Croatian literary critics. In the Maticas edition, the aesthetic highlights of Domjanić's Štokava poetry are presented to the Croatian audience for the first time, transcribed into Latin script, thus opening up the possibility of gaining new readers for these exceptional Domjanić's verses.



You can find more information on the website of Croatian Matica.

WE REMEMBER



JAN HELCELET

210th birth anniversary

2 January 1812 Dolní Kounice, Czech Republic – 19 February 1876 Brno, Czech Republic
He worked as a professor at the University in Olomouc and at the Technical University in Brno. Moravian journalist, national worker, politician, doctor and naturalist, chairman of Moravian Matica. Member of the Imperial Council and the Moravian Provincial Assembly. He cooperated in the petition of the Slavic Congress with the intention of establishing a federal state with equality for all peoples.

JÁN PALÁRIK

200th anniversary of birth

April 27, 1822 Raková, Slovakia – December 7, 1870 Majcichov, Slovakia
Playwright, journalist, editor, publicist, publisher, educator, national figure. As a Roman Catholic priest, he worked in several places. He was involved in literary, cultural, political and religious life. He cooperated with the evangelical Štúr´s generations, defended and promoted Štúr´s generation Slovak.

JOZEF KAROL VIKTORIN

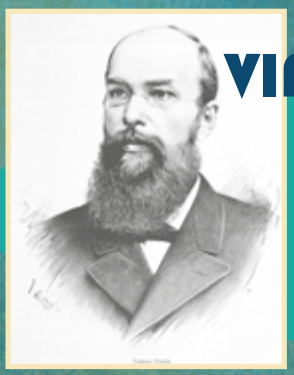
200th anniversary of birth

12 March 1822 Zavar, Slovakia - 20 July 1874 Budapest, Hungary
Slovak national actor, publicist, writer, publisher, organizer of literary life. He has merits in bringing together the Catholic and Evangelical movements in the revival, he is a contributor to the *Slovak National Newspaper* and *Tatra eagle* (*Orol Tatranský*). He took part in the battles in the Slovak uprising of 1848/1849. As a Catholic priest, chaplain and parish priest, he worked in several cities.

IVO ANDRIĆ

130th anniversary of birth

October 9, 1892 Dolac, Bosnia and Herzegovina - March 13, 1975 Belgrade, Serbia
Serbian writer, novelist, short story writer, winner of the Nobel Prize (1961) from Yugoslavia. His novel *Bridge on Drina* deals with life in Bosnia under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. He worked as a civil servant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later he was a diplomat and ambassador to Germany.



VINCENC PRASEK

110th death anniversary

9 April 1843 Milostovice, Czech Republic – 31 December 1912 Napajedla, Czech Republic
Silesian pedagogue, linguist, writer, journalist and national revivalist. In the years 1876 to 1877, he was involved in the creation of Opava Matica, later he was its chairman. Founder of the Heritage Museum in Olomouc (1883) and the Matica Opava Museum (1884). Between 1883 and 1895, he was the first director of the Czech grammar school in Opava. He published more than three thousand newspaper and magazine articles.