Big anniversaries are always proper occasions to raise a glass in honour of the one celebrating and to wish them success in the future, but also to draw a line and analyse the achieved. Seventeen decades of uninterrupted publication of a newspaper is a rare jubilee not only in Europe but also the world, which can leave no one indifferent, least of all those who are well aware of the importance of the media today. The path of Narodne novine from Zagreb has been marked by revolutions, both World Wars, and the rises and falls of world ideologies — Fascism, Communism and National Socialism. Both its editors and contributors not only witnessed, but also frequently actively partook in the turbulent changes of Central Europe in both

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was helped in this by factions of the crumbling Ustasha security system.

As a political emigrant Maček spent some time in Paris (1945-1947) and then moved to Washington, where he died.

During the years of his life as an emigrant Maček did not renounce politics. When in 1947 the International Peasant Union was founded in Washington, President of the CPP was one of its leaders.

Reflecting on the fate of the Croatian people in the renewed Yugoslav state under Communist rule, Maček initially held that the union should — naturally without the Communists — be organised as it was about to be in 1939, when the Autonomous Banovina of Croatia was constituted. Towards the end of his life he changed his opinion and advocated a confederative constitution of Yugoslavia, in which each nation would lead its own life independently, while only some of the most essential common interests would be arranged by a confederal agreement. It was in this sense and within this framework that Maček supported an independent Croatian state, as is rightly highlighted by Perić. Interestingly, in his statements Maček was convinced — this is particularly underlined by

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2 I. PERIĆ, Mladi Supilo (The Young Supilo), Školska knjiga, Zagreb 1996.

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the 19th and 20th centuries — from the transformation of the Habsburg State into the dualistically constituted Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to the centralistic Karadordević Yugoslavia and the Ustasha’s Independent State of Croatia, from the Communist Yugoslav federation to the sovereign Republic of Croatia. Wishing to mark the 170th anniversary of Narodne novine — the official state newspaper of the Republic of Croatia — becomingly, Narodne novine Plc. — owned by the Republic of Croatia — invited numerous scientists (historians, linguists, lawyers, etc.), and its former and current employees to contribute to highlighting some of the most outstanding pages in the newspaper's history.

The “Introduction” by Zdravko Šimunović, President of the Board of Managers of Narodne novine Plc., and the “Foreword” by Vladimir Šeks, current President of the Croatian Parliament, are followed by an in-depth study by Ana and Ivo Perić entitled “Narodne novine 1835-2005. Povijesni prikaz” (“Narodne novine 1835-2005. A Historical Survey”, pp. 21-161). Setting forth from the fact that newspapers are, in the full sense of the word, collections of information on people and events shaping our past and greatly defining the signposts of both our present and future, and presenting a historic outline of the life of Narodne novine to the readers, the two authors rightly claim that “the beginning of the newspaper’s publication meant the beginning of the struggle for the institution of a modern Croatian state”.

Sanda Ham’s text entitled “Uloga Narodnih novina u oblikovanju hrvatskoga književnoga jezika u 19. st.” (“The Role of Narodne novine in Shaping the Croatian Standard Language in the 19th century”, pp. 165-179) underlines the significance of Narodne novine and its literary supplement Danica in shaping the Croatian standard language. The authoress correctly emphasises that the orthographic-linguistic reforms introduced in both Narodne novine and Danica continue to exist in the very fundaments of the contemporary Croatian language even today.

In the article “Hrvatsko pravno nazivlje i uloga Narodnih novina u njihovu usavršavanju” (“Croatian Legal Terminology and the Role of Narodne novine in Its Improvement”, pp. 180-186) its author Mile Mamić points out the fact that the newspaper has tremendously contributed to the Croatian legal language.

In his “fragmentary observations and impressions”, Dubravko Jelčić talks about “Narodne novine, As It Once Was” (“Narodne novine, kakve su nekad bile”, pp. 187-191). What he as a “passionate reader” notices is the fact that this long-lived Croatian newspaper also had its peculiarities. Namely, Narodne novine, the once official newspaper of the Croatian-Slavonian Government, was contributed to by A. G. Matoš, a deserter persecuted by the aforesaid Government in virtue of the law yet at the same time paid by the same Government for his contributions to the official government newspaper. As Jelčić justly points out, this peculiarity from the history of Narodne novine is most definitely to be credited to Janko Ibler, the then editor-in-chief.

The text penned by the Croatian bard and academician Dragutin Tadijanović recounts a number of his recollections of the people and events from the time when he worked as a proofreader in Narodne novine (pp. 197-200).

The article by Petar Klarić “Ignorantia iuris nocet” (“Ignorance of Law is Harmful”, pp. 203-
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204) focuses on the countless editions of legal literature published by Narodne novine Plc.


In his article entitled “Narodne novine — čuvar hrvatskoga jezika i zakona” (“Narodne novine — The Safeguard of the Croatian Language and Law”, pp. 215-222) Zvonimir Šeparović points to the fact that Narodne novine is, without doubt, an “established, important and old national institution”.

Pero Jurković briefly reminds readers of his collaboration with the Board of Editors of Narodne novine on the publication of professional literature from the field of economics in a paper bearing the title “Prva cjelovita teorija ekonomskih analiza” (“The First Complete Theory of Economic Analysis”, pp. 223-224).

In the 1990s Narodne novine Plc. also published several titles from the field of historiography. This is discussed by Lujo Marjetić in his text entitled “Moji radovi o ranoj hrvatskoj povijesti i Narodne novine” (“My Papers on Early Croatian History and Narodne novine”, pp. 225-226).

Zoran Jašić considers Narodne novine to be one of “the most significant institutions in recent Croatian history” in his text entitled “Narodne novine — jedan od najvažnijih segmenata institucionalne strukture” (“Narodne novine — One of the Most Significant Segments of Institutional Structure”, pp. 227-228).

The role of Narodne novine in the publishing of the journal of law Naša Zakonitost (Our Legality) is reflected on by Jadranko Crnić in his text under the title “Skica za povijest časopisa (Naša) Zakonitost” (“An Outline of the History of /Our/ Legality”, pp. 229-240).


Heritage obliges!

Zlatko MATIJEVIĆ

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In 2003 Matica hrvatska initiated a scientific project under the title XX. stoljeće (20th Century) by having organised symposia and having introduced a series of collected papers and studies bearing the same name. In 2006 two extensive volumes were published in the Series: the second bears the title Hrvatski jezik (The Croatian Language, the 2005 symposium) and the