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Summary

Baroness Ivka Ožegović (1873 - 1923)

Key words: Ivka, Baroness Ožegović, teacher, philanthropist, patriot, the Croatian Woman, national guard, patriotism.

Baroness Ivka Ožegović was born around 1873 in a Hungarian urban family Hayos. By vocation she was a teacher and after having married Baron Lewis Ožegović she focused on humanitarian and voluntary work. She was among the most enterprising members of almost all Croatian institutions and was an ardent supporter of Zagreb-based *First Workers' Society*,

The Voluntary Firefighting Association of Križevci, and *The Croatian Peasants' Singing Society Petar Zrinski* in Vrbovec. She helped with establishing *The Ladies' Association* in Koprivnica. The Baroness also performed the duty of chairwoman of the organisation *Croatian Woman* and the female branch of *The Croatian National Guard*.

During World War One Baroness Ožegović worked as a nurse in the Red Cross Hospital in Obrtna ulica in Zagreb, where, apart from taking care of the wounded she also taught the illiterate to read and write.

The baroness was the first to publicly encourage Croatian women to worship the Zrinski and Frankopan cult and also tried to make people aware of the value of women's work. She stood for self-determination of the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes and supported preservation of the Croatian language in which she wrote occasional verses and emotional poems full of patriotic feelings.

Ivka Baroness Ožegović died on 26th January 1923. 15 000 people came to her funeral, and the ceremony was conducted by the very Bishop, Dr. Lang.