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SUMMARY

ON THE USTASHA EMIGRANTS' PLANS FROM 1934 TO INTRODUCE THE KUNA AS OFFICIAL CURRENCY

Writers about the 5 kuna silver coin, minted in 1934, drew different conclusions, some of them contradictory. The original documents kept in Belgrade, accessible on microfilm in the Croatian State Archives, shed light on many details of the activities of the Ustasha Movement in Italy aimed at actually introducing the "kuna" monetary unit (which was to be divided in 100 "banicas"). The Ustasha Headquarters published provisions in 1934 about the reasons for introducing the above names. These provisions also described the 5 kuna coin, brought a list of exchange rates with the main world currencies of the time, and laid down the exact pay in kunas for officials, priests and military and administrative officers. The conclusion is that the coins really had been minted in 1934, not to commemorate the assassination of King Aleksandar but as the first step towards introducing the new currency, first among members of the Ustasha Movement and then, in the as yet undefined future, in Croatia itself. On the other hand, documents confirm that no purchases or sales were made using this money and, despite the detailed instructions, salaries were not in fact paid in kunas, but members of the Ustasha Movement bought the coins as souvenirs. The further production of kunas and banicas was prevented by Italy's reaction to the assassination of King Aleksandar, when Ante Pavelić was interned and later the activities of the whole Ustasha organisation banned.