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SUMMARY

ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN ORDERS ISSUED TO NÁNDOR TARÓCZY-SZMAZSENKA

The Croatian History Museum keeps orders and diplomas issued to the Hungarian citizen Nándor Taróczy-Szmazsenka, a mysterious figure from the milieu of military intelligence. He was born in Debrecen on 20 December 1874. Wounded twice in World War I and released from duty on the front lines, he was posted to administrative service in the occupied regions of Serbia, Poland and Italy. After the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1918) he served in the army of the Kingdom of Hungary until 1928, and then retired. He spoke six languages and was highly educated. He was interested in social and political subjects. In April and May 1925 he visited the Soviet Union and made many acquaintances and connections there. He foresaw, in those early days, that the country would become a world power and criticised the West for "selfish materialism". The Soviets later repaid him, in February 1945 he managed to make an arrangement with a Red Army commander and his soldiers did not touch the people or property in the Budapest quarter where Taróczy lived. In the 1950s the Hungarians stopped his pension and took away his house and he worked as a night guard. He survived several political systems and died in Budapest in 1973 at the age of 99.

After his retirement Nándor Taróczy-Szmazsenka spent time in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, probably in military intelligence. There he was decorated with the orders of those countries. In 1929 Latvia made him **Commander of the Order of the Three Stars**. In 1931 Estonia awarded him the **Order of the Cross of the Eagle**, 2nd class.</sup> In 1933 Lithuania awarded him the **Commander's Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas**.

The Zagreb collector and donor Dr Veljko Malinar acquired these decorations during Nándor Taróczy-Szmazsenka's lifetime. On 4 June 1971 Dr Malinar exchanged all the three orders with orders in the History Museum of Croatia, today the Croatian History Museum. It is interesting to mention that the diplomas belonging to the orders were not exchanged at the time, but they did come to the museum after Dr Malinar's death in 1990.