

PRO TEMPORE CON- TINUES

The editorial board of the *Pro tempore* journal of history students had gathered around the project of the 10/11 issue with a plan that continued the standards set in the previous issues of this journal. This is a dual issue which, along with the permanent sections of this journal, encompasses two topics: oral history and auxiliary sciences of history. The editorial board attempted to shape these topics into one whole which would be formed, in one part, of a traditional Croatian methodological and research basis, whose strong roots are based in the criticism of sources since the 19th century, which have been growing and developing during the 20th and 21st centuries, and in the other part, we would introduce a historical discipline which represent a step forward into a new territory for historians.

A critical analysis of sources forms the basis of modern Croatian historiography, and as a distinct discipline, the auxiliary sciences of history have been present at the University of Zagreb since 1908. The names that have marked this section of historiography, as well as its Zagreb chair, are many and well known. Among them we must mention Tadija Smičklas, Milan Šufflay and Jakov Stipišić. On the other hand, while being aware of the tradition, many of those working in this field had followed some innovative approaches – in this category we should mention Josip Matasović, Nada Klaić and Tomislav Raukar.¹ As, per tradition, the auxiliary sciences of history are narrowly connected to the study of medieval times in Croatian historiography, not least due to the influence of these historians, the ubiquity of this period in the issue should not be surprising.

Oral history, however, does not have nearly as rich and lengthy a tradition as do the auxiliary histories of science. The extensive modern use of the term „oral history“ is new, like the tape recorder,² but its tradition need not be „invented“, in so far as we are speaking of foreign historiographies, in which the discipline has been rooted since the middle of the 20th century.³ In Croatian historiography we find a wholly different state of affairs. Oral history has not been as present in our scientific community, and has been brought up through different attempts, narrow research or case-studies, as well as methodologically more-or-less precise integration of „oral sources“ into historical narratives. To show that the situation is gradually changing, a certain growing presence of oral history can be noted, in some doctoral dissertations, papers, articles or books. The papers published in this journal by students and seasoned researchers form a steady basis for further thought on the usefulness and adaptability of this method in a Croatian and a wider context, attempting thereby to sketch the disciplinary markings of oral history as a research method in itself, but also to point to its „openness“ towards other contemporary methodological approaches.

The issue is opened with the section **Viewpoints**, in which experts publish their essayistic impressions on the topics of oral history and auxiliary sciences of history. This is followed with the section **Research** which has been split into two thematic wholes: in the case of oral history the articles have been set into subsections pertaining to important topics from the history of the 20th century which are often explored through the method of oral history – while in the case of the auxiliary sciences of history the articles tend to the classically established fields of middle and early modern ages as the historical eras for which this methodology forms a necessary basis, but also some new approaches have been brought in under the cover of the auxiliary sciences. A subsection **Opinions** has been added to oral history in which we have interviewed four practitioners of oral history. Both sections contain their own reviews of works pertaining to the specific topics. In the second subsection we would especially wish to distinguish the obituary of an important figure for auxiliary sciences of history in Croatia, a professor of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Jakov Stipišić (1920-2010).

The section **On historiography** – for which the introduction was written by professor emeritus Alun Munslow – covers certain key issues, from an analysis of a contemporary role for Johann Gustav Droysen, to the tradition of the British journal *Past & Present*, for which the editorial board in 2012 made a brief interview with the late doyen of British historiography, Eric J. Hobsbawm (1917-2012), and an obituary of Hobsbawm from the pen of the renowned British historian Chris Wrigley. Above all else, the historiography section has been dedicated to three key figures in Croatian historiography, whose names are almost spoken in a single breath: Jaroslav Šidak (1903-1986), and his students and assistants, Rene Lovrenčić (1928-2012) and Mirjana Gross (1922-2012). The section also contains the segment *Anniversaria et necrologia* which is introduced by a text on Lovre Katić (1887-1961) by professor Mirjana Matijević Sokol.

The journal is rounded off with an interview with the American historian of Croatian Elinor Murray Despalatović, along with a section of reviews which lead us **Through the world of books and journals** and **Through the world of film**.

The editorial board thanks its collaborators – foreign and domestic – as well as our professors and reviewers who have made this issue much better than it would have been had their insight been lacking. We would especially like to thank our American reviewers and supporters – professors Ronald J. Grele and Marie Scatena, who opened the space for international cooperation. Alongside these facts, we owe a great debt of gratitude to those collaborators who are often unjustly left „in shadow“, the translators and proof-readers who performed their work dilligently and without hesitation. Our last debt of gratitude is reserved for our graphics editor Tomislav Vlainić, who had followed our work during these last years and has not lost neither interest, nor will or patience.

In conclusion, we offer our apologies to our readers for the lengthy time that has passed between the two issues. We wish the new generation of editors luck and success in their work.

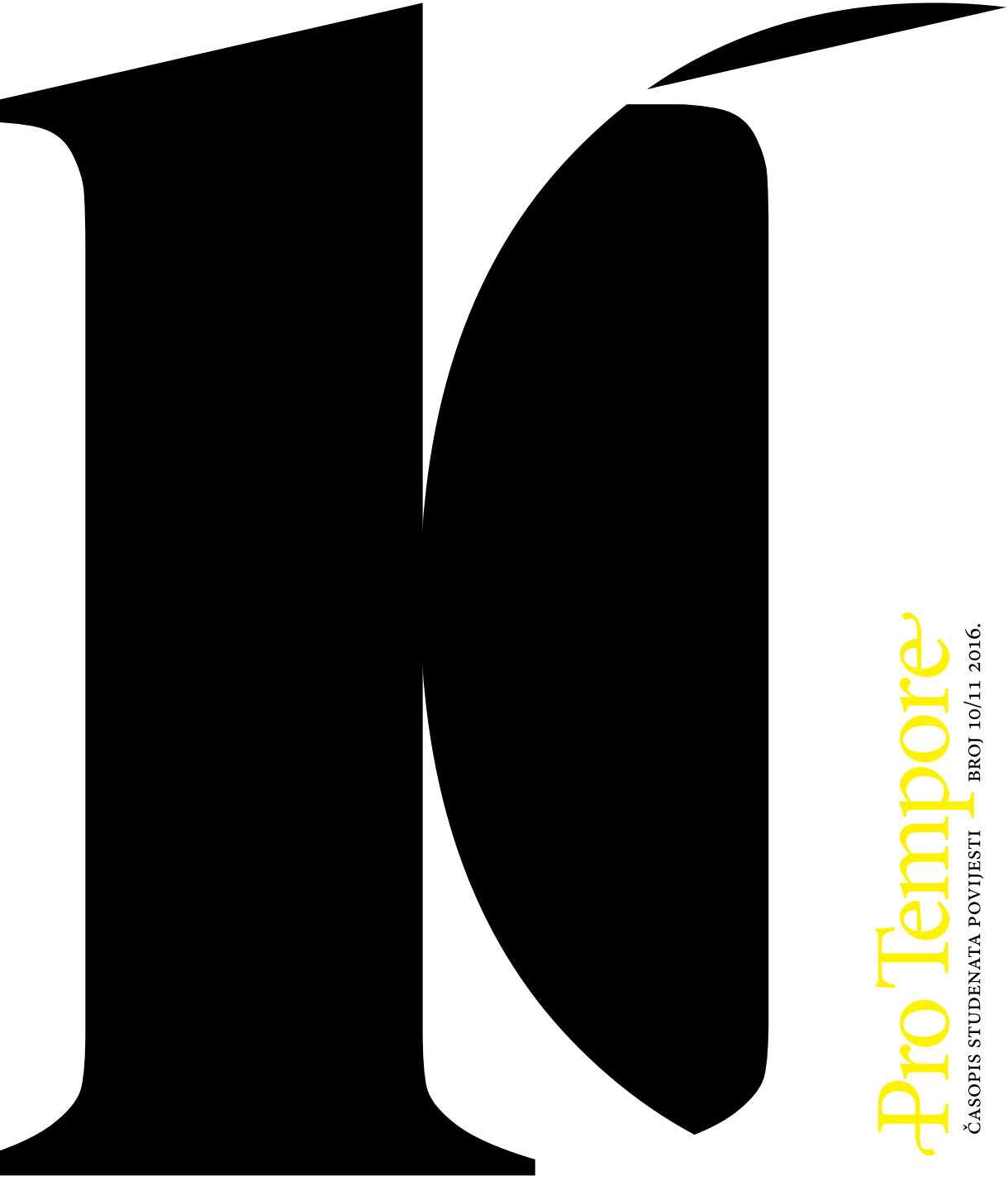
With the hope that these viewpoints, articles, reviews and memories of historians will inspire our readers, we give the *Pro tempore* 10/11 issue to its audience.

— **Tomislav Brandolica**

1 Tomislav Galović, „O stotoj obljetnici utemeljenja Katedre (1908.-2008.)“, *Pro tempore* 6/7 (2009), 362-365.

2 Paul Thompson, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History* (Oxford University Press, 2000), 25.

3 As a method, oral history – or oral sources translated into script – has existed in history since ancient times, Herodotus and Thucydides.



Pro Tempore

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