

O MOM PRIJATELJU ZDENKU BRUSIĆU

Samo priča o nozi lišenoj gotovo svih osjetila koja je, jednom zgodom zalivena vrelinom brudetom, bubrila kao fritula kad se friga, a on s beskrajnim žalom plakao zbog finih bokuna ribe koji su se davili u masnoj kaljuži na dnu našeg broda, bila bi dovoljna za legendu o Zdenku Brusiću. Mi koji smo ga dobro poznavali i bili mu bliski, bili smo apsolutno sigurni da je on negdje srknuo barem gutljaj čarobnog napitka vječne mladosti, vedrine i neutažive dječje znatiželje. Nije bilo drugog načina da se objasni ta njemu svojstvena ambivalentnost. Bio je vedar, zai-gran, optimističan, dobronamjeran, gotovo ruralno prostodušan, a istovremeno ozbiljan, temeljit, studiozan i tvrdoglavo uporan. Imao je još jednu važnu osobinu. Kao znanstvenik bio je velik zato što je znao od malih, gotovo beznačajnih djelića nečega što drugi nisu ni uočavali stvarati grandiozne spoznaje. Uvijek me iznova oduševljava, recimo, njegov nenadmašni briljantni rad na pronicanju u tajne prapovijesti jan-jetine koja se peče na ražnju i ispod peke. Zato što ga poznajem možda i bolje nego neke članove svoje obitelji, kroz taj znanstveni rad koji je u svom stilu nazvao „oda o janjetini s ražnja“ mogu ga u svakom trenutku, sada kada ga više nema među nama, prizvati u misli točno onakvog kakav je bio, a bio je profinjeni, elokventni sladokusac – znanstvenik koji uživa u životu.

Sudbina je htjela da Zdenko trajno obilježi i moj život, iako smo on i ja u njega zakoračili potpuno drukčijim, po mnogo čemu nespojivim putovima koji su se mogli dotaknuti, ali nikako se nisu mogli stopiti u široki i bogati zajednički život na kojem ćemo, istražujući povijest, i sami postati povijest. A upravo se to dogodilo.

ABOUT MY FRIEND ZDENKO BRUSIĆ

It would suffice to mention the story about a numb leg which was swelling as fritters in hot oil, owing to spilling of hot fish stew, and his lamentations over fine pieces of fish in the greasy sludge at the bottom of our boat to create a legend of Zdenko Brusić. All of us who knew him well and were close to him were absolutely certain that somewhere, sometime he took at least a sip of magical potion of eternal youth, joy and insatiable curiosity of a child. There was no other way to explain this ambivalence which was so characteristic of Zdenko. He was merry, playful, optimistic, benevolent, almost bucolically simple-minded, but at the same time serious, thorough, meticulous and painstakingly persistent. He had another important characteristic: he knew how to recognize small, almost trivial particles of something overlooked by others and to use them in making important conclusions which made him a truly great scholar. For instance I was repeatedly fascinated by his unsurpassed brilliant work on study of the secret prehistory of roasting lamb on a spit or under a lid. Since I knew him better than I know some of the members of my family, through this scholarly work which he entitled „ode to spit roast lamb“ in his very own specific style, I can recall him to my mind whenever I wish, now that he left us, exactly as he was – sophisticated, eloquent epicure – scholar who enjoyed life.

By a twist of fate Zdenko left permanent mark in my life, although two of us took different, in many aspects irreconcilable life paths which may have touched but never join into a wide and rich life together in which in our research of history, we became history. And that is exactly what happened.

Počelo je 4. rujna 1967. godine kada smo s rive u Murteru policijskim brodom zaplovili prema otoku Gnaliću ispred Biograda na moru. Ništa nije dalo naslutiti da je to bio početak divne prijateljske i znanstvene avanture koja će trajati desetljećima, a da će se more sa svojim tajnama pretočiti u naše vene i čvrsto nas povezati do kraja života. Dan je bio lijep, more mirno, a mi, mladi šibenski povjesničari i arheolozi Zlatko Gunjača, Zdenko Brusić i ja kao instruktor ronjenja, uživali smo u rijetkoj zgodi da se plovi tako dobrim brodom, a k tome smo imali i važnu misiju koja nas je ispunjavala ponosom. Plovili smo dakle prema otoku Gnaliću kako bi provjerili priču da tamo, nedaleko od njega, na dnu mora leže ostatci nekog davno potonulog broda. Ništa, baš ništa toga bistrog ljetnog dana nije dalo naslutiti da smo nas trojica, Brusić, Gunjača i ja, „osuđeni“ na divan, bogat i uspješan zajednički život. Tada nismo ni u primislima slutili što nas čeka i da ćemo biti obdareni rijetkom privilegijom da radimo ono što volimo.

Gledajući danas na te dane, vidim da im je boju, ton, okus, miris i emocije dao upravo Zdenko. Mogao je on nekoga tko ga nije poznavao svojom hedonizmom, ljubavlju prema dobroj spizi i vinu, oduševljavanjem ljepotom žena i mora i svojim posebno finim darom za guštanje u svim guštima navesti na pomisao da je neozbiljan pa čak, onako vječno zaigran i dječjački vedar, i pomalo na pozitivan način infantiln. I ne bi bili u krivu jer on je zaista bio takav, ali Zdenko je istovremeno bio i istinski znanstvenik, studiozan, ozbiljan i temeljit. Uvijek je znao kada je vrijeme za „igru“, a kada za rad. Nikada to nije pomiješao, ali je itekako znao neke svoje gušte pretvoriti u ozbiljne znanstvene projekte.

Mislim da sam tog 4. rujna 1967. godine, dana koji će se pretvoriti u za Hrvatsku važan povijesni datum, zapravo prvi puta upoznao Zdenka, iako smo se poznavali. Obojica smo rođeni Šibenčani, ali nismo se družili. Pripadali smo različitim generacijama, Zdenko je bio stariji od mene, a imali smo različite interese i svatko je od nas imao svoju ekipu kako to već biva. Pa ni Zlatka Gunjaču nisam do tada osobito dobro poznavao. Kako smo se ipak našli zajedno na toj plovidbi? Zlatko je došao u Šibenik 1966. godine i počeo raditi u šibenskom muzeju. Već tada je imao ideju o vrijednosti podmorskih arheoloških lokaliteta, da ih se mora istražiti i zaštititi. Želio je provjeriti i priče o potonulom brodu kod Gnalića koje su se u to vrijeme proširile. Kako o ronjenju nije znao puno, a bez toga nije mogao ostvariti svoj naum, došao je do ronilačkog kluba „Kornati“. Tako

It all started on September 4, 1967, when we sailed towards the island of Gnalić in front of Biograd na Moru on a police boat. We could not have known that it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship and scholarly adventure which was about to last for decades, and that the sea will pour into our veins with all its secrets and join us firmly for the rest of our earthly existences. The weather was fine, sea was calm, and young historians and archaeologists from Šibenik Zlatko Gunjača, Zdenko Brusić and me as a diving instructor enjoyed rare occasion to sail in such a good boat, and in addition we had an important mission which filled us with pride. We were sailing to Gnalić to check a story that shipwreck remains laid on the seabed near this islet. There were absolutely no signs that the three of us Brusić, Gunjača and me were „destined“ to have wonderful, rich and successful life together. At the moment we had no idea what lay ahead of us and that we would be given a rare privilege to make our passion our career.

Looking back at those days, I can clearly see that Zdenko was the one to enrich them with colour, tone, taste, smell and emotions. His hedonism, love for good food and wine, delightment with female charms and beauty of the sea, and particularly pronounced affinity to enjoy all possible joys might make one think that he was not serious enough or even infantile in a positive way as he was always playful and boyishly merry. And there is some truth in it, but Zdenko was at the same time a genuine scholar, meticulous, serious and thorough. He always knew when was the right time to „play“, and when to work. He never mixed those two, but he knew how to turn some of his joys into serious scientific projects.

I think that I met Zdenko for the first time on the mentioned September 4, 1967, day which was about to become an important historical date for Croatia, though we already knew each other as we were both born in Šibenik but we did not hang out together. We belonged to different generations, Zdenko was older than me, and we had different interests and each of us had his group of friends. I did not know Zlatko Gunjača particularly well up to that moment. How did we end up together on that boat? Zlatko came to Šibenik in 1966 and started working in the Šibenik museum. He already had the idea about the importance of the underwater archaeological sites, that they needed to be explored and protected. He also wanted to check the stories about a sunken ship near Gnalić which started to spread at the time. He did

smo se upoznali. Uz njega je uvijek bio i Zdenko. Njih su dvojica zajedno studirali i bili cimeri pa nije čudo što su imali slične ambicije i razmišljanja. Njih su dvojica bili kolege arheolozi, a ja sam bio tek mladi, znatiželjni i ambiciozni dečko koji je znao roniti. Trebao im je upravo takav, a Zlatko je nekako odmah procijenio da sam baš ja taj.

Kada se danas sjećam svega onoga što se tada događalo kod Gnalića, čini mi se kao da ne prizivam u misli stvarni događaj, nego neko poglavlje iz romana Ive Brešana pomiješano sa slikama iz štorija Miljenka Smoje. Sve što smo tada poduzeli bilo je smrtno ozbiljno, ali danas s distance od pola stoljeća vjerojatno bi o tome bila snimljena komična televizijska serija ili humorom prožeti film sa simpatičnim likovima domaćih junaka i stereotipima jugoslavenske milicije, stranih turista – pljačkaša, dišpetožnih bodula i pretencioznih novinara.

Najprije smo nedaleko od obale Gnalića ugledali čamac s dvojicom ronilaca. Pomislivši da je riječ o pljačkašima amfora, policajci su ih zaskočili, ali su im na brodu našli samo spužve. Međutim, otkrili su da se pod morem krije još jedan ronilac. Uporno je odbijao izroniti. Izgubili su strpljenje pa su me zamolili da zaronim i izvučem ga na površinu. Nekako mi je to pošlo za rukom. Kada su ga podigli na brod postao je agresivan. Vitlao je prema policajcima svojim pojasom s olovnim utezima! Policajci su toj trojici, a bila je riječ od dvojici Murterina i jednom Nijemcu, oduzeli svu opremu nakon čega su postali vrlo drski. Govorili su da ih nije briga za opremu jer je imaju na bacanje, a zatim su s omalovažavanjem kazali da mogu, ako hoće, kupiti i policiju jer su našli brod pun zlata! Nisu znali da je policija doplovila do Gnalića i da je sa sobom povela arheologe i ronioce baš zbog potrage za potonulim brodom. I tu su slučaj i sudbina prvi puta izravno upleli svoje prste u povezivanje Zdenka, Zlatka i mene. U potragu za brodom bila su poslana trojica ronilaca. Bili smo to Boris Santini, Vinko Šarić i ja. Boris i Vinko su zbog kvarova na opremi morali odustati pa sam u moru, kao tragač, ostao samo ja. Tražio sam, ali ništa nisam uspio naći. Već sam bio odustao kada mi je Zlatko Gunjača kazao da pokušam još jednom. Poslušao sam ga. Zaronio sam još jednom i odmah na dnu ugledao komade stakla i nekakve čunjeve. Razgrnuo sam rukom mulj i vidio puno raznih predmeta rasutih svuda naokolo. Kada sam se osvrnuo oko sebe, vidio sam i golemi predmet koji je nalikovao na škrinju, a kada sam još malo pročeprkao po mulju ukazali su se limovi zlatne boje! Izronio sam i počeo vikati kako dolje ima zlata kao u priči! Na

not know much about diving, and his idea could not be realized without divers, so he came to the diving club „Kornati“ and that is how we met. Zdenko was with him. Two of them studied together and were roommates so it is not surprising that they shared attitudes and ambitions. They were archaeologists, and I was just a young, curious and ambitious guy who knew how to dive – exactly what they needed. Zlatko immediately decided that I was the one.

When I recall happenings at Gnalić, it seems to me that it was not an actual event, but a chapter from the novel by Ivo Brešan in combination with images from the stories by Miljenko Smoje. Everything we did back then was very serious, but from a half century distance it seems like a comedy television series or film with likable characters of local heroes and stereotypes of Yugoslav police, foreign tourists – robbers, obstinate locals („*boduli*“) and pretentious journalists.

First we saw a boat with two divers close to the coast of Gnalić. The policemen checked them out thinking that they may be amphora stealers, but they found nothing but sponges on their boat. However they did discover that another diver was still under the surface and he refused to come out. They lost patience and sent me to get him out which I eventually did. When he got to the boat he became aggressive. He swayed his lead weight belt towards the policemen who confiscated all the equipment of these three, two locals from Murter and a German. They said they did not care about the equipment as they had plenty and then they said condescendingly that they could buy entire police if they wanted because they found a ship full of gold! They did not know that the police sailed to Gnalić bringing along archaeologists and divers in search of a sunken ship. Coincidence and fate acted once more in joining the three of us. Three divers were sent to look for the shipwreck. Those were Boris Santini, Vinko Šarić and me. Due to malfunctioning of their equipment Boris and Vinko had to give up so I was the only diver left in the sea. I searched but could not find anything. I had already given up when Zlatko Gunjača urged me to try once more and so I did. I dived again and saw glass fragments and some kind of cones on the seabed. I removed the mud and saw many different objects scattered all around. When I looked around, I saw a large object resembling a chest, and after I rummaged through the mud little bit more I saw sheeting in the colour of gold! I dived out and started shouting that I found gold! There was an eruption of joy on the boat and I remember

brodu je nastalo oduševljenje, a Zdenko je, sjećam se, pocupkivao sretan kao dijete kada dobije žarko željenu igračku.

Tako je počela hidroarheologija u Hrvatskoj. Istina, limovi koje sam pronašao nisu bili zlatni, već mjedeni što nas je jako razočaralo, ali ne zadugo jer smo ipak pronašli mletački trgovački brod prepun blaga neprocjenjive vrijednosti koji je potonuo 1583. godine. Odmah smo znali koliko je brod star jer sam već na tom prvom ronjenju naletio na veliki top na čijoj je cijevi bila utisnuta 1583. godina. Od onog što je izvađeno iz te srednjovjekovne olupine nastala je zbirka s preko 10 tisuća vrijednih uporabnih i umjetničkih predmeta među kojima se nalazila i čuvena drvena škrinja u kojoj su i nakon četiri vijeka na dnu mora bili očuvani odjevni predmeti i 54 metra skupocjenoga svilenog damasta! Kada sam je otkrio, kucnuo sam po njoj drškom ronilačkog noža i iz nje su počeli izlaziti mjehurići zraka koji je ostao u njoj zarobljen od kada je brod potonuo. Sjećate li se uzrečice o suhoj krpici na dnu mora koja se koristi kada se želi reći da je nešto nemoguće naći ili postići? E, pa mi smo našli gotovo doslovno suhu krpicu na dnu mora što je bilo ravno pretpostavci da ćemo Zdenko, Zlatko i ja zajednički preroniti doslovno cijeli Jadran.

Nakon fantastičnog otkrića moralo se odmah krenuti u akciju. Nju su organizirale Ksenija Radulić i Sofija Petricioli, a osim mene, Gunjače i Brusića bili su uključeni članovi tadašnjeg Kluba podvodnih aktivnosti „Kornati“ iz Šibenika, Damir Lozić, Edi Macuka, Toni Anić, Martin Mojmir, Rato Čakić, Zoran Herak, Vinko Šarić, Boris Santini, Tomislav Balin, Joško Bogdan i još neki iskusniji ronionci. Podvodna arheološka iskapanja kod Gnalića kao najzbudljiviju priču iz dana u dan pratili su tadašnji najbolji novinari, a nas smo trojica, Zdenko Brusić, budući dr. Zdenko Brusić, profesor na Filozofskom fakultetu u Zadru i jedan od najuglednijih hrvatskih znanstvenih autoriteta uopće, Zlatko Gunjača, budući ravnatelj Muzeja hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika u Splitu, jedne od najvažnijih hrvatskih kulturnih i znanstvenih institucija, i ja, budući viši restaurator-konzervator u Muzeju Grada Šibenika i predavač restauracije i konzervacije na Odsjeku za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru, postali medijske zvijezde u današnjem smislu te riječi. U toj se ulozi uopće nismo snalazili, ali da nam je godila, godila nam je. A kome ne bi?

Otkriće olupine mletačkog broda kod Gnalića bilo je toliko je važno da se 4. rujna 1967. godine zaista može smatrati datumom službenog početka

that Zdenko was hopping happily as a child who just got a toy he has been dreaming of.

That was the beginning of underwater archaeology in Croatia. Admittedly the sheeting I found was not golden but brass which was a great disappointment, but not for long because we found Venetian merchant ship full of priceless treasure which sank in 1583. We knew the age of the ship because in the first dive I found a large cannon with the year 1583 indicated on its barrel. Objects recovered from this medieval shipwreck make a collection of over ten thousand valuable utilitarian or artistic artifacts including the famous wooden chest which preserved clothes and 54 meters of precious damask for four centuries! When I found it, I tapped it with a handle of my diver's knife and air bubbles starting getting out of it, trapped in it since the ship sank. Remember a proverb about a dry cloth at the bottom of the sea when you want to indicate to something impossible? Well we found almost literally dry cloth on the seabed which was just as unbelievable as the assumption that Zdenko, Zlatko and me would explore the submarine world of the entire Adriatic together.

After this fantastic discovery we had to act immediately. Ksenija Radulić and Sofija Petricioli organized further actions and except for the three of us, following members of the Club of Underwater Activities „Kornati“ participated in the excavations: Damir Lozić, Edi Macuka, Toni Anić, Martin Mojmir, Rato Čakić, Zoran Herak, Vinko Šarić, Boris Santini, Tomislav Balin, Joško Bogdan and some other experienced divers. The best journalists of the time wrote about the underwater archaeological excavations at Gnalić on a daily basis as a most exciting story, and the three of us, Zdenko Brusić, future Zdenko Brusić, PhD, professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zadar and one of the most renowned Croatian scientific authorities in general, Zlatko Gunjača, future head of the Museum of Archaeological Monuments in Split, one of the most important Croatian cultural and scientific institutions, and me, future senior restorer and conservator in the Šibenik City Museum and lecturer of courses in restoration and conservation at the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar, became celebrities in the present sense of the word. We were lost in that role, but still flattered by all the attention.

Discovery of the Venetian shipwreck at Gnalić was so important that September 4, 1967 can really be considered as the official beginning of the Croatian underwater archaeology but Zdenko was always cautious about the entire issue and he was

hrvatske hidroarheologije, no Zdenko se o tome uvijek izjašnjavao s oprezom ne dozvoljavajući da prevladaju emocije ma koliko bile jake. Kada bi se o Gnaliću i početcima hrvatske arheologije povela riječ, on je upozoravao da se ideja o hidroarheologiji počela rađati četiri godine prije otkrića kod Gnalića, i to u Šibeniku gdje je bilo održano povijesno važno savjetovanje tadašnjih Odjela za pomorsku historiju i arheologiju na kojemu se sa stručnog i znanstvenog aspekta govorilo o konzervatorskim istraživanjima i zaštiti podmorskih arheoloških nalazišta i spomenika na području tadašnje SR Hrvatske. Zlatko i Zdenko, tada mladi zanesenjaci netom stigli s fakulteta, već su bili počeli „zavirivati“ ispod površine mora. Amfore su već bile tražena roba, a postojali su i pojmovi podvodnih pljačkaša i podmorskih gusara. Zdenko je još kao student amaterski „pretraživao“ dno mora oko Nina, a Gunjača se povezao sa šibenskim Klubom podvodnih aktivnosti „Kornati“ i njegove članove privolio da sudjeluju u rekognosciranju podvodnih arheoloških lokaliteta. Kao član „Kornata“ Gunjača je pričama o drevnim potonulim brodovima razbuktao moju maštu i probudio u meni želju za otkrivanjem tajni podmorja. I prije Gnalića povremeno smo odlazili na more u potrazi za ostatcima antičkih i srednjovjekovnih brodoloma.

Stjecajem okolnosti ja sam tada jedini imao ronilačko odijelo, ronilački sat s dubinomjerom, pa čak i fotoaparatus za podvodno snimanje. Tu, u to vrijeme rijetku i dragocjenu opremu dobio sam od njemačkog književnika Waltera Matesa koji je volio roniti, a ja sam bio angažiran da mu asistiram i brinem o njegovoj sigurnosti. Brusić i Gunjača tada još nisu znali dobro roniti, ali su naučili nakon otkrića kod Gnalića. Od tada smo svuda išli zajedno. Sva trojica koristili smo moje ronilačko odijelo, iako su i Brusić i Gunjača bili puno krupniji od mene. Teško da bi danas netko čak i pokušao obući dva broja manje ronilačko odijelo, ali njima dvojici ništa nije bilo teško i ništa ih nije moglo spriječiti u njihovu naumu. To što smo tada radili nije bilo bezopasno. Recimo, nismo imali kompresor pa smo mogli roniti samo s bocama koje smo ponijeli s kopna, a problem dekompresije rješavali smo učeći napamet američke tablice za dekompresiju, ali nitko nije stradao niti se razbolio. Sve u svemu, imali smo više sreće nego pameti.

Zdenko i Zlatko Gunjača kod mene su položili ronilački tečaj i od tada smo zajednički ronili u potrazi za podvodnim arheološkim lokalitetima doslovno duž cijelog Jadrana. Zahvaljujući sreći, spretnosti i znanju došli smo do još tri senzacionalna otkrića.

never overwhelmed by emotions no matter how strong they might have been. When discussing Gnalić and the beginnings of the Croatian archaeology, he emphasized that the idea of underwater archaeology was born four years before the discovery in Gnalić, on the historically important conference of the Departments of Maritime History and Archaeology in Šibenik where conservation explorations and protection of the underwater archaeological sites and monuments in the area of the Socialist Republic of Croatia at the time were discussed from professional and scientific point of view. Zlatko and Zdenko, young enthusiasts at the time, fresh from the university, had already started „peeking“ under the sea surface. Amphorae were in high demand, and underwater robbers and pirates were already known. Zdenko explored seabed around Nin while he was a student, and Gunjača made connections in the Club of Underwater Activities „Kornat“ and talked the members into participating in reconnaissance of underwater archaeological sites. As a member of the „Kornati“ club Gunjača told stories about ancient shipwrecks and in that way he awoke my imagination and wish to discover secrets of the undersea world. Even before Gnalić we occasionally went to the sea in search of ancient and medieval shipwrecks.

By a combination of circumstances I was the only one who had a diving suit, diver's watch with depth gauge and even an underwater camera. German writer Walter Mates gave me this valuable equipment, very rare at the time, as he liked diving and he hired me to assist him and take care of his safety. At the time Brusić and Gunjača did not know how to dive but they learned after the Gnalić discovery. Since then we went everywhere together and used my diving suit although both of them were heavier than me. It is difficult to imagine in present-day circumstances that someone would try to put on a diving suit two sizes smaller, but they did not mind and they were very determined. What we did back then was dangerous, as for instance we did not have a compressor so we could dive only with bottles we took with us from the shore, and the decompression problem was solved by learning by heart American tables of decompression. Luckily nobody was hurt or killed. All in all we had more luck than sense.

I held a diving course for Zdenko and Zlatko Gunjača and ever since we dived together in search of underwater archaeological sites across the entire Adriatic. Owing to luck, skill and knowledge we reached three more sensational discoveries. As early as 1971 after important underwater archaeo-

Već 1971. godine, nakon značajnih hidroarheoloških istraživanja u kod otoka Tijata, Svršate i Murtera, u Šibenskom kanalu i Prokljanskom jezeru, pa u Kornatima te kod otoka Kakna, Hrbošnjaka, Velikog Kamešnjaka i Primoštena, kod otoka Zlarina pronašli smo olupinu antičkoga trgovačkog broda iz 1. stoljeća. Lokalitet je bio diran, ali ne i devastiran. Arheološka istraživanja tog lokaliteta trajala su punih pet godina. Nakon toga smo istraživali podmorje Mljeta, Dubrovnika, Korčule, Pelješca... A onda je uslijedila nova senzacija. Zdenko je, slijedeći tragove koje je u moru oko Nina uočio još kao mladić, otkrio fantastične drvene brodske konstrukcije zakopane u pijesku. Riječ je o nalazu koji je na svjetlo dana iznio famoznu *conduru croaticu* i tajnu starohrvatskog brodovlja. Nedugo zatim, na povratku s otoka Šipana, u Hutovom blatu i na Vrelu Desilu pronašli smo izvrsno očuvane brodove izdubljene u jednom komadu debla. Na tragu tog otkrića upravo su na tom mjestu pronađeni savršeno očuvani ostatci ilirskog brodovlja koji su bez daha ostavili sve svjetske stručnjake za to razdoblje ljudske povijesti.

Nakon Gnalića interes za podvodne arheološke lokalitete i hiroarheologiju doslovno je eksplodirao. Zdenko je međutim i tim trenutcima ostao trezven. Nije pao u euforiju, nego je postao jednim od najupornijih zagovornika i promicatelja nužnosti i obveze čuvanja toga nacionalnog blaga i onemogućavanja njegove devastacije i pljački koje su već postale masovne. Imati amforu postalo je modom, a naše su podmorje pljačkali domaći ribari, ronionci, spužvari, vojnici JNA, stranci... Tadašnji Republički zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture imenovan je nositeljem aktivnosti na zaštiti podmorskoga arheološkog blaga, a mi smo se, uz redovna istraživanja, pretvorili u interventnu zaštitnu grupu koja je izlazila na teren nakon svake dojave o bilo kakvom nalazu na morskom dnu. Pristupilo se i izradi karata značajnijih podvodnih nalazišta kako bi ih policija mogla nadzirati i s površine. Zdenko se toj misiji jako posvetio. Bio je neupitni autoritet i imao je veliki utjecaj i na stvaranje opće svijesti o vrijednostima koje krije podmorje i potrebe da ga se čuva. Počeli smo za podvodne radove dobivati i sredstva, a hidroarheološke grupe formirane su u Rijeci, Senju, Zadru, Šibeniku, Splitu i Dubrovniku. Tada se počela kupovati prva ronilačka oprema. Našim su grupama, kao primjerice u Dubrovniku, pristupili ronionci koji su vadili i preprodavali amfore, ali su nakon edukacije postali najbolji i najvatreniji borci za zaštitu podmorskih lokaliteta. Takve je Zdenko najviše volio, a

logical excavations near the islands of Tijat, Svršata and Murter, in the Šibenik Channel and Lake Prokljan, then on Kornati and near the island of Kakan, Hrbošnjak, Veliki Kamešnjak and Primošten, we found a sunken merchant ship from the 1st century near the island of Zlarin. The site was disturbed, but not devastated. Archaeological excavations of this site lasted for five years. Then we explored the submarine areas of Mljet, Dubrovnik, Korčula, Pelješac... And then a new sensation happened. Following the traces in the sea around Nin which he noticed as a youth, Zdenko discovered fantastic wooden boat constructions dug in the sand. This was famous *condura croatica* revealing the secret of early Croatian boats. Shortly thereafter, during our return from the island of Šipan, we found excellently preserved boats carved in one piece of trunk in Hutovo blato and Vrelo Desilo. After this discovery perfectly preserved remains of the Illyrian boats were found at this place which impressed all world experts dealing with this period of history.

Interest in underwater archaeological sites and underwater archaeology literally exploded after Gnalić. However Zdenko remained sober-minded even in those moments. He did not become euphoric but he persistently promoted necessity and obligation of preserving this national treasure and prevention of its devastation and looting which became massive by that time. It became fashionable to own an amphora, and underwater sites were looted by local fishermen, divers, sponge-divers, soldiers of the Yugoslav Army, foreigners ... Former Republic Institute of Protection of the Cultural Monuments was an institution in charge of protection of underwater archaeological treasure and we turned into an intervention team for protection who checked every report on possible finds from the seabed. Map of important underwater sites was made so that police could control them from the surface. Zdenko was very active in this field. He was an unquestionable authority and had great influence in creation of general awareness of treasures hidden under the sea surface and need to preserve it. We started getting financial support for underwater research, and groups for underwater archaeology were formed in Rijeka, Senj, Zadar, Šibenik, Split and Dubrovnik. First diving equipment was acquired in this period. Our groups were approached by the divers who stole and sold amphorae, e. g. in Dubrovnik, but after education they became the best and most ardent activists for protection of the underwater sites. Zdenko loved such „converts“ most, and they loved him back, just

i oni su voljeli njega kao što su ga voljeli i poštivali mnogi ako zbog ničega drugog, onda zbog načina na koji je guštao u dobrom jelu i spravljao spizu ne slušajući ničije savjete, ali ne zato što je bio arogantan, već zato što je nakon ronjenja obično satima bio gluh, ali je i to spadalo u riznicu njegova šarma. Siguran sam da ćemo ga pamtiti koliko po njegovom znanstvenom radu, toliko, a možda još i više, po onom njegovu pogledu ispod obrva, iskri radosti u njegovim zjenicama i prijateljskom osmijehu.

Fotografije: Dalibor Martinović, Milan Orlović i Stanko Ferić

like many others who respected him if for nothing else then for the way he enjoyed good meal and prepared food without listening to anyone's advice, not because he was arrogant but because he was deaf for hours after diving but it was just another aspect of his charm. I am sure that he will be remembered for his scholarly work, but just as much, and perhaps more, for his look beneath the eyebrows, sparkle of joy in his pupils and friendly smile.

Photo: Dalibor Martinović, Milan Orlović i Stanko Ferić

Translation: Marija Kostić







