

*SUMMARY***DECORATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF ITALY
FROM THE COLLECTION OF DECORATIONS OF THE CROATI-
AN HISTORY MUSEUM**

The Croatian History Museum has a large number of Italian decorations, 179 items in all, and we cannot publish all of them in one number of the magazine. We therefore decided to single out the older, more beautiful and more valuable decorations – thirty six medals, their miniatures, ribbon bars, diplomas and dies for casting them, dating from before and after the unification of Italy.

The Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus (Ordine dei Santi Maurizio e Lazzaro) is an old order of knighthood formed in the 16th century by the union of the Order of St Maurice and the Order of St Lazarus. In 1816 the King of Sardinia, Victor Emanuel, turned the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus into an order for merit.

Another old order of knighthood, the Constantine Order of Saint George (Ordine costantiniano di San Giorgio), was instituted between 1520 and 1545 by the Angelus-Druvastus brothers. In 1697 Francesco I Farnese, Duke of Parma, took over the order and was its grand master. Under his magistracy the order achieved a high reputation. It was abolished after the unification of Italy in 1859/1860.

The Military Order of Savoy (Ordine Militare di Savoia) was instituted in 1815 by the King of Sardinia, Victor Emanuel, and was awarded as recognition for important military feats, especially courage in battle, and only exceptionally for outstanding military service in peacetime.

The Civil Order of Savoy (Ordine civile di Savoia) was instituted in 1831 by the King of Sardinia, Charles Albert, heir to Victor Emanuel. Charles Albert decided to reward those of his subjects “who had devoted themselves to other professions, no less useful than military service (...)”

The Order of the Crown of Italy (Ordine delle Corona d’Italia) was instituted in 1868 by King Victor Emanuel II to commemorate the unification of Veneto and Italy. The order was awarded very liberally for “the most outstanding merit, both by Italians and foreigners, and especially for merit that directly affects the interests of the nation”.

The Colonial Order of the Star of Italy (Ordine coloniale delle Stella d’Italia) was instituted in 1914 by King Victor Emanuel III. Its foundation was in connection with acquiring the colony of Libya; it was intended for the inhabitants of Libya – new Italian subjects.

All the orders of the Kingdom of Italy were suppressed after the proclamation of the Republic of Italy on 2 June 1946. Only the Military Order of Savoy survived, which was renewed in 1955 under the name of the Military Order of Italy (Ordine Militare d’Italia).