

HRVATSKO-AMERIČKI DOTICAJI NA PODRUČJU MEDALJERSTVA: IVO KERDIĆ I WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON I. dio

Jedan od velikih prijatelja Ive Kerdića (Davor, 19. V. 1881. – † Zagreb, 27. X. 1953.) bio je Amerikanac William Chauncy Langdon (* 1871. – † 1947.). Doduše, nisu se nikada osobno upoznali, ali taj je Amerikanac uistinu mnogo učinio da naš veliki umjetnik postane poznatim i u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama. O tome prijateljstvu svjedoči relativno obilna, iako samo dijelom sačuvana korespondencija. Tih šezdesetak pisama - od osobite su važnosti za svakoga koga zanima umjetnost medalje između dvaju svjetskih ratova, ne samo u Europi, nego i u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, a osobito hrvatska medalja i Kerdić napose.*

Ključne riječi: Ivo Kerdić, William Chauncy Langdon, medalje, plakete

O W. C. Langdonu pisao je Ivo Kerdić u svojim memoarima. Pokojna Vjekoslava Kerdić darovala je piscu ovih redaka jedan primjerak neobjelodanih uspomena svoga oca „*Moj život i uspomene*”.¹ Neki djelovi toga rukopisa smatrala je previše osobnima za javnost pa je taj rukopis ostao neobjavljen. Citiramo:

„Drugi moj veliki prijatelj bio je Amerikanac Langdon, veliki ljubitelj medaljerske umjetnosti a jedno vrijeme ravnatelj numizmatičke zbirke u New-Yorku i veliki sakupljač medalja. Njemu sam zahvalan što me je upoznao sa Amerikom. Kao ravnatelj numizmatičkog muzeja u New-Yorku, interesira se za sve evropske medaljere, pa je slučaj da je kroz austrijske medaljere nabasao i na mene, jer kao Hrvat nisam nažalost nigdje zabilježen. Da bi me mogao plasirati u Americi trebalo je meni proći kroz Pariz ili Moskvu za Ameriku.

Kod jedne internacionalne izložbe budem zastupan sa nekoliko radova, te kao novajlija budem zapažen. Sa portretom Dobrovića probijam led za Ameriku, te ovaj portret bude odkupljen za numizmatičku zbirku u New-Yorku. Od tog doba moj dragi američki prijatelj neumorno radi da me čim više upozna u Americi i da u Evropi podignu među prve medaljere. Osim članaka koji su štampani u američkim numizmatičkim časopisima, pisano je i u Slavonic-Review, a da bi se upozorila engleska javnost na moj rad, a preko tog lista na slavenske narode za koje je taj list bio pisan, pa je baš kroz taj članak djelovalo da je god. 1927 i naše numizmatičko društvo sudjelovalo na kongresu stogodišnjice numizmatičkog društva u Londonu, gdje je moj prijatelj i tajnik Ivo Uzorinac, koji je dobro govorio engleski, priredio predavanje na samom kongresu o mojoj umjetnosti. U spomenici za stogodišnjicu engleskih numizmatičara i medaljera, bude reproducirana jedna od mojih medalja među 6 evropskih medaljera. Iako mi naše vlasti, t.j. jugoslavenski konzul, učiniše sve da spreče to predavanje, te Uzorinca uapsio u Davoru kao nepoćudna – politički – ipak je Uzorinac uspio da u zadnji čas stigne u London te to predavanje održi. To imam zahvaliti energičnom stavu direktora numizmatičkog muzeja u Londonu. U isto vrijeme piše moj dragi prijatelj u francuskom časopisu članak za francusku javnost sa reprodukcijama moji medalja u

¹ Ivo Kerdić, *Moj život i uspomene*, Zagreb, 1944.-1947., rukopis.

(Aréthuse, nedostaje u rukopisu). *Tako je bio utrt moj put za Ameriku. A ja bio sve više poznat u Americi, te su numizmatičari kupovali moje medalje dolarskom vrijednotom te je ta vrijednota puno pomogla kod gradnje moje kuće, a još više je meni pomagao moj dragi Amerikanac s tim, što sam uz Iegvia i Španjela mogao svake godine da plasiram jedno od mojih medalja za muzej, koja je bez jury-a prihvaćena kao što je slučaj sa plaketom Stjepan Radić, a kasnije bila mu je naručena medalja Aleksandra Karađorđevića. Te medalje bile su dobro honorirane. Osim što se brinuo da me Amerikanci cijene, brinuo se je da moji radovi budu bolje zastupani nego u Beogradu i Zagrebu. Nastoji da me predobije za Ameriku te kroz veze radio da dođem u kovnicu u južnoj Americi, jer se je tamo radilo na uspostavi jedne takve kovnice. Povezan pismima sa mojim bratićem Marijanom Majcenom koji je u isto vrijeme ing. u Ministarstvu građevina i preko njega nastojim da me predobije za tu stvar. Nažalost radi mojih obiteljskih neprilika i bolesti nije to uslijedilo. Tu sreću primio je moj učenik Besediček, nu nije znao da se na tom mjestu plasira, već je kao slobodni umjetnik medalje ostao u južnoj Americi dosta poznat. Kasnije ga je vukla želja za Inka plemenima na ... radi nekih reduciranih glava, koje ovi smanjuju na nepoznat način poginuo. No ove godine dobio sam obavijest nakon 15 godina da je živ u ... To me obradovalo, jer kao što sam rekao on je bio moj prvi učenik.*

Sve do još pred 3 mjeseca dopisivao sam se sa mojim dragim prijateljem, t.j. kroz 25 godina. Zadnji list pisala mi je njegova supruga da je morao u bolnicu radi leukemije, a sad sam doznao za njegovu smrt. Dobri taj Amerikanac, kojeg nisam imao sreću da upoznam lično, a čiji portret sam dva put modelirao po fotografiji, a živio sam u nadi da ću se možda sresti u Evropi, Americi ili Engleskoj prilikom proslave stogodišnjice Engleskog numizmatičkog društva, kamo se on spremao doći, no zašto nije došao u Evropu, nisam doznao. Pred rat sprema, da napravi izložbu trojice evropskih medaljera no rat je spriječio njegovo nastojanje. Za vrijeme rata putem Crvenog križa, obavještava se jesam li živ, a kada je rat završio opet mi piše i žali moju nesreću za gubitkom moje kćerke Vide, šaljuć mi utjehe. Nakon toga svršio je moj jedini prijatelj kojeg sam poštovao i cijenio. U znak prijateljskog osjećaja dajem tom Amerikancu mjesto među mojim najboljim prijateljima. Njemu ima da zahvali i narod hrvatski što mu je uz moje ime vezao medaljerstvo Hrvatske sa medaljerstvom Amerike. Danas je on mrtav, a ja mu ove retke bilježim kao važan doživljaj moga života.“²

Prema pismima, koje su izmijenili Langdon i Kerdić, sačuvanima u Arhivu za likovne umjetnosti HAZU (izvorno je Kerdić svu tu građu predao Gliptoteci JAZU),³ kao i Nadbiskupijskom arhivu u Zagrebu (donacije Vjekoslave Kerdić),⁴ može se usta-

² Ivo Kerdić, *Moj život i uspomene*, Zagreb, 1944.-1947., rukopis, 145.-147.

³ Najljepše zahvaljujem kolegicama u toj Akademijinoj ustanovi na ljubaznosti i susretljivosti.

⁴ Sačuvana pisma Williama Chauncyja Langdona, njegove žene Marion, Kerdićevi odgovori na Langdonova pisma, kao i pisma nekih drugih osoba, npr. Edwarda T. Newella, Howlanda Wooda i Vere (Čuču) Milčinović - Tashamire brojna su, ima ih više od 60: 1923. – 13., 15. studenoga; 1924. – 15. ožujka, 28. lipnja, 10. srpnja, 22. kolovoza, 7. listopada; 1925. – 1. siječnja, 15. travnja, 19. svibnja, bez nadnevka, 3. kolovoza, 9. listopada, Božićna čestitka; 1926. – 23. siječnja, 20., 17. veljače, 1. svibnja, 5. rujna, 9. listopada; 1927. – 19., 24. ožujka, 22. svibnja, 22. srpnja, bez nadnevka, 7., 16. kolovoza, 12. listopada; 1928. – 7. ožujka, 30. studenoga, Božićna čestitka; 1931. - 7. siječnja; 1937. – 13. siječnja; 10, 25. veljače, 9., 10., 17. ožujka, 2. travnja, 12. srpnja, 11. kolovoza; 1939. – 9., 23. kolovoza; 1940. – 7., 31. ožujka, 2. svibnja; 1945. – bez nadnevka; 1946. – 22. ožujka, 14., 21. travnja, 20. kolovoza, 26. rujna, 29. prosinca; 1947. - 19. ožujka. Izrazito malobrojnije sačuvane su kopije Kerdićevih listova Langdonu.

noviti da su prve doticaje uspostavili 1923. godine (13. studenoga, pismo br. 1.) te da se razvilo prijateljstvo, koje je trajalo do Amerikančeve smrti 1947. godine. Prvotno službeno oslovljavanje u pismima preraslo je tijekom vremena u vrlo srdačno oslovljavanje. Zapravo se, stjecajem prilika, Kerdić i Langdon nisu nikad susreli, usprkos umjetnikovoj želji da na neko vrijeme ode i radi u New Yorku. Budući da je njihova korespondencija uvelike nepotpuna, bilo bi od velikog interesa da se u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama pronađu pisma koja je Kerdić pisao Langdonu, a mogla bi se tražiti ili kod Langdonova potomstva, ako postoji, ili možda u pismohrani Američkog numizmatičkog društva. No, spomenuto društvo preselilo se i prije svjetske gospodarske krize s prvotne elegantne prastare adrese na nešto udaljeniju i skromniju, a današnje malobrojno osoblje nije nikada čulo za Langdona.

K tomu valja imati na umu da je u Hrvatskoj prije Drugoga svjetskog rata ograničeni broj ljudi znao engleski jezik, pa ni Kerdić nije govorio engleski, nego njemački. Netko mu je morao prevoditi Langdonova pisma na hrvatski, ali i njegova pisma namijenjena Langdonu na engleski.

W. C. Langdon, namještenik Američke telefonske i telegrafске kompanije, Bellov sustav (*American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Bell System; 195 Broadway, New York*), obnašao je dužnost predsjednika Komisije za strane medalje Američkoga numizmatičkoga društva. Kao takvome podatke o Ivi Kerdiću poslali su mu predsjednik i tajnik Jugoslavenske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti u Zagrebu (prof. dr. Gustav Janeček i dr. Marko Kostrenčić) te je tako Langdon umjetniku napisao pismo s nadnevkom 13. studenog 1923. (pismo br. 1.). U tome pismu Langdon moli Kerdića podatke o njegovim medaljama, kao i o medaljerstvu u Jugoslaviji. Slijedio je i poziv Edwarda T. Newella, predsjednika Američkoga numizmatičkoga društva Kerdiću od 15. ožujka 1924. (pismo br. 2.) da sudjeluje na izložbi stranih umjetnika, koja se trebala otvoriti u New Yorku 7. studenog 1924. Nakana Američkog numizmatičkog društva bila je pokazati razvitak umjetnosti medalje od 1910. godine nadalje, kad je održana zadnja izložba sličnog sadržaja. Svaki od umjetnika zamoljen je da pošalje od dvije to pet medalja, nastalih poslije 1910. godine. Kerdiću je to pismo netko preveo na hrvatski (pismo br. 3.).

Sljedeće pismo Kerdiću Langdon - a on je u međuvremenu od Kerdića primio list s popisom nekih od medalja i njihovim cijenama - napisao je dana 18. lipnja 1924. (pisma br. 4., 5.). Langdon također daje upute kako se medalje moraju spakirati i deklarirati te poslati u New York (dodatne naputke i informacije napisao je 22. kolovoza 1924. - pismo br. 8. - te 1. siječnja 1925. - pismo br. 10.). Zanimljivo je i to da je Langdon poziv proširio i na Antona Severa⁵ u Ljubljani i Đorđa Jovanovića⁶ u Beogradu. I to pismo Kerdić je dao prevesti (pismo br. 5.). Dana 10. srpnja 1924. Langdon obavještava Kerdića da je Američko numizmatičko društvo naručilo dva njegova rada (Tkalačka udruga, Petrinja 1908. i Zagrebačka plaketa iz 1912.) uz cijenu od \$ 5 za svaki (pismo br. 6.). Kerdić je na taj list odgovorio i sastavio popis medalja koje je poslao u New York: Petar Dobrović (1921.), Vilko Gecan (1923.), gđa Malešević, Konjički klub (1920.),

⁵ Anton Sever (* Šenčur/Kranj, Slovenija, 14. VI. 1886. - † Ljubljana, 29. I. 1965.), vodeći slovenski kipar i prvi slovenski medaljer poslije Šege (Schega).

⁶ Đorđe Jovanović (* Novi Sad, 21. I. 1861. - † Beograd, 31. III. 1953.), nestor srpskoga kiparstva i također jedan od prvih srpskih medaljera.

Ujedinjenje Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca (1918.), a i one dvije medalje koje je odabralo Američko numizmatičko društvo za svoje zbirke (pismo br. 7.).

Dana 7. listopada 1924. Langdon je potvrdio primitak pošiljke i složio se s Kerdićem u tome da je najbolja od svih medalja ona s Dobrovićevim portretom (pismo br. 9., slika 1.). Isto pismo sadrži i Langdonovo mišljenje o visini cijena, kakve je Kerdić predložio. U jednom drugom pismu Kerdiću (15. travnja 1925., pismo br. 11.) Langdon izražava sumnju da će se izložba moći pokazati u drugim američkim gradovima. Također, Langdon misli da su Kerdićeve medalje bolje od Meštrovićevih. Isto je mišljenje ponovio nekoliko godina kasnije. U pismu od 29. svibnja 1925. između ostalog Langdon piše i o stanju medaljerstva u SAD-u (pismo br. 12.).



Slika 1. Medalja Dobrović (AMZ)

U međuvremenu je, nekako u isto vrijeme, stigao u New York slikar Vilko Gecan⁷ sa svojom ženom Zorom,⁸ i sa sobom donio nekoliko otkova Kerdićeve medalje sa svojim portretom. Gecan je posjetio Langdona i darovao mu jednu od tih medalja, kao i Dobrovićevu medalju, kao Kerdićev dar (usp. pisma br. 13.-14.). Tako su i Američko numizmatičko društvo i Langdon osobno počeli sabirati radove hrvatskog medaljera. Langdon je primitak medalja potvrdio pismom – jednim od najdužih i najdetaljnijih – od 3. kolovoza 1925. (pismo br. 15.). Neke od tih medalja otkupljene su i novac se poslao putem međunarodnog novčanog naloga (*International Postal Money Order*), a druge su medalje bile dar.

⁷ Vilko Gecan (*Kuzelj, 16. VI. 1894. – † Zagreb, 25. V. 1973.), hrvatski slikar i Kerdićev prijatelj; Kerdića je portretirao 1921. godine (ulje na platnu, 69 x 93 cm; vl. Družba „Braća Hrvatskoga Zmaja“).

⁸ Zora Gecan (* 1896. – † Zagreb, 6. I. 1978.).

PISMA

Pismo br. 1.

13. studenoga 1923., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

November 13, 1923

Professor Ivan Kerdic,

Mesnicka ul. 5 / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving your name from the President and Secretary of the Jugoslavska Akademija. The American Numismatic Society wishes through its Committee on Foreign Medals to learn all it can about the medallic art in Jugoslavia and some of the other new countries of Europe, especially since they have assumed self-government. The Society is expecting a report from this committee at its annual meeting and we are anxious to make a report from this Committee at its next annual meeting and we are anxious to make our report correct and as near to complete as we can. Will you be so kind as to tell us about your own medallic work? Can you send us a list of the medals you have made? If you can send us photographs of them we should be especially glad. This is what a number of artists in other countries have done and it enables us to show very advantageously what these countries are doing. The Society hopes to gather in our Library such a collection of information and illustrations of the medallic art in Jugoslavia as may be of real interest to people of your country who may be here either temporarily or permanently, and to help nourish true understanding of your art and people among us Americans. We therefore earnestly hope for your cooperation in building such a mutual interest. With sincere greetings and respect, believe me, dear sir,

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Please address any reply to me at my personal address: 195 Broadway, New York
City

Pismo br. 2.

15. ožujka 1924., E. T. Newell / Američko numizmatičko društvo: cirkular glede izložbe medalja.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

March 15, 1924

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY will hold a Loan exhibition of Medalllic Work by Foreign Artists this coming autumn, opening on Friday, November 7, 1924.

Entries will be by artists of in the name of artists only. Exhibits may represent the work of the artist since the International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals held by the American Numismatic Society in New York in 1910. The work of an artist who has died may be included, provided that it was designed since 1910.

Each artist is invited to send from 2 to 5 examples of his medalllic work, either medals or plaquettes, and either cast struck or struck. A pair of cliches, presenting the face and reverse of the same medal, will be counted as one medal. It is desired that pieces shall not exceed 30 cm. in diameter or longest dimension.

In each country invited to send exhibits, some societies or individuals will be requested by the American Numismatic Society to act in gathering the exhibits, - to inform all the artists of that country of the Exhibition and of the conditions of it; to serve as an artist's jury to pass upon the medals offered for the exhibition as representing the art of that country; and to direct the forwarding of exhibits.

Artists are requested to send their exhibits as loans, but not to send any piece which must be returned, because in case the Society desires and can secure the funds to purchase any of the medals, it wishes to be free to keep them, simply remitting the proper price to the artist. During the Exhibition every effort will be made to aid visitors who may wish to order copies of the medals. Therefore artists are particularly requested to send with their exhibits a memorandum stating whether the medals are cast or struck, and the size and price in each form.

The American Numismatic Society will pay for the transportation, both ways, and insurance of all exhibits accepted by the society or individual acting for it in each country. These national societies or individuals are requested to send word by June 1st, if possible and not later than July 1st of the number of artists who have signified their intention to exhibit, and the approximate number of medals that will be sent. Exhibits must be send (addressed to the American Numismatic Society), so that they shall be received in New York by September 1st, if possible, and not later than October 1st.

Please address all correspondence relating to this Exhibition to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Medals at his personal address, as follows:

Mr. William Chauncy Langdon, 195 Broadway, New York City, U.S.A.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward T. Newell
President.

Pismo br. 3.

15. ožujka 1924., E. T. Newell / Američko numizmatičko društvo: cirkular glede izložbe medalja (prijevod).

Američko Numizmatičko Društvo obdržavati će Pozajmnu Izložbu Medaljnih Radova dolazeće jeseni, otvara se u Petak, 7. novembra 1924. Izložbeni predmeti mogu

biti radovi umjetnika izvršeni nakon Međunarodne Izložbe Savremenih medalja održavane po Američkom numizmatičkom Društvu u New Yorku g. 1910. Može se uvrstiti rad umjetnika, koji je već umro, ali koje bijaše stvoreno nakon g. 1910.

Svaki umjetnik umoljava se da pošalje 2-5 primjerka svog medaljnog rada, bilo medalje ili plakete, lijevane ili stancane. Cliše koji predstavlja prednju i stražnju iste medalje, smatrati će se jednom medaljom. Poželjno je da komadi ne premaše 30 cm u promjeru ili najduljoj dimenziji.

U svakoj zemlji pozvanoj da pošalje izložbene predmete, biti će bilo koje društvo, bilo pojedinac umoljen po Američkom Numizmatičkom društvu da sakuplja izložene predmete, da obavjesti sve umjetnike iste zemlje o izložbi, kao i u uvjetima iste, da predstavlja umjetnički juri te ustanovi da medalje ponuđene za izložbu predstavljaju umjetnost zemlje, te da upravlja slanjem izložbenih predmeta.

Umjetnici umoljavaju se da pošalju radove kao zajam, ali da ne pošalju komade, koji moraju biti vraćeni, pošto u slučaju da Društvo zaželi te može da si osigura iznose za kupnju medalja, želi da imade slobodne ruke da ih preuzme kupnjom, jednostavno doznačivši protuvrijednost umjetniku. Za vrijeme izložbe nastojati će se svim silama da se pomogne posjetiocima, koji zažele da naruče kopije medalja. Uslijed toga umoljavaju se umjetnici da priključe svojim radovima memorandum označivši da li su medalje lijevane ili stancane, kao i veličina i cijena u pojedinom obliku.

Američko Numizmatičko Društvo platiti će transport amo i tamo, kao i osigurinu za sve predmete primljene po društvu ili pojedincu koji djeluje za društvo u pojedinim zemljama. Ova narodna društva ili pojedinci umoljavaju se da obavjeste društvo, od 1 juna ako moguće, a ne kasnije do 1 jula, o broju umjetnika koji su izrazili namjeru da izlože, te po prilici broj medalja, koje će biti poslane. Predmeti moraju biti odaslani (naslovljeni na American Numismatic Society) tako da prispiju u New York 1 septembra, ako moguće, no ne kasnije od 1. oktobra.

Molimo naslovite sve dopise u vezi s ovom izložbom tajniku odbora za strane medalje na njegov privatni naslov kako slijedi:

Mr. William Chauncy Langdon

195 Broadway, New York

Pismo br. 4.

28. lipnja 1924., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

June 28, 1924

Professor Ivo Kerdic / Mesnicka ul. 5 / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter giving me the prices of several of your medals. It will give me pleasure to consider the question of buying one or two of these. I should very

much like to have an example of your fine work in my collection. Of that I will write to you again a little later.

I shall follow your suggestion and send an invitation for the Loan Exhibition of the Medallion Work of Foreign Artists to be held by our Society in the autumn to the Society of Yugoslav Artists. I will send it by this same mail without any delay. I will send the invitation through the Consulate General and the Ministry of Education simply supposing it to be the best way to reach all the artists. I have since then also written about the Loan Exhibition to Professor Anton Sever of Ljubljana and to Mr. George Jovanovitch of Belgrade. I now also send a copy to you. If this rather miscellaneous sending of the invitation seems in any way discourteous or confusing to anyone, will you please assure those who may be interested that my only purpose and the purpose of the American Numismatic Society is to get our invitation to the artists of Yugoslavia, as of the other countries, and to get it to them as soon as possible. So will you all please to get together and inform all the artists, decide on some kind of artist's jury to decide what shall represent the medallion art of Yugoslavia in this exhibition, and direct sending of the exhibits.

I will write to the Society you mention also that the exhibits should be sent by parcel post, registered, with a statement of the expense for postage sent in a separate letter to me, and we will refund the amount. There is no duty to be paid on medals sent to the American Numismatic Society, and parcel post is much more convenient for us than express. The address on the packages should be to the Society, as printed at the head of this letter, with the extra mark: «For the Exhibition of Foreign Medals.» With sincere greetings and best wishes, believe me

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Please use my personal address: 195 Broadway, New York City

Pismo br. 5.

28. lipnja 1924., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću (prijevod).

Zahvaljujem Vam na Vašem listu javljajući mi cijene nekih Vaših medalja. Veselit će me uzeti u obzir kupnju jedne ili dvije. Vrlo bi me veselilo imati jedan primjer Vašeg finijeg rada u mojoj kolekciji. O tome ću Vam pisati nešto kasnije.

Slijediti ću Vaš predlog i poslati poziv za Loan Exhibition stranih umjetnika u izradbi medalja i jugoslavenskim umjetnicima. Poslati ću je tom istom poštom bez odugovlačenja. Mi smo poslali tu pozivnicu kroz generalni konzulat i ministarstvo prosvjete jer smo mislili da je to najbolji put, da ista stigne u ruke umjetnika. Ja sam međutim već pisao o toj izložbi profesoru Ant. Severu u Ljubljani i Gj. Jovanoviću u Beograd. Sada šaljem kopiju i Vama. Ako se ovo slanje raznim osobama čini neuljudno i konfuzno za ikoga, izvolite osvjedočiti one kojih se to tiče, da je jedina moja svrha i svrha Am. Numismatic Soc. da pozivnica dođe u ruke jugosl. umjetnika, i da je dobe čim prije. Izvolite se dakle

svi sastati i sastaviti umjetnički jury koji će odlučiti šta će zastupati medaljičnu umjetnost Jugoslavije na toj izložbi, i dirigirati pošiljku izložbenih predmeta. Ja ću također pisati društvu koje spominjete, da izložbeni predmeti treba da budu poslani paketnom poštom, preporučeno, sa jednim popisom troškova poštarine koji se treba meni poslati u separatnom listu, a mi ćemo Vam vratiti trošak. Nema carine na medalje koje se šalju Am. Numismatic Society, a paketna pošta nam mnogo bolje konvenira nego express. Paketi neka se adresiraju na društvo, kao tiskano na glavi ovog lista sa posebnom oznakom: For the exhibition of foreign medals (za izložbu stranih medalja).

Sa najsrdačnijim mojim itd.

Pismo br. 6.

10. srpnja 1924., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

July 10, 1924

Professor Ivo Kerdic / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you that I have been authorized to order from you two of your medals for the Museum of the American Numismatic Society. These are

Medal of the Women's Union, struck bronze \$ 5.00

Memorial Medal of the City of Zagreb, struck, bronze 5.00

Will you please send these to me at my personal address by parcel post? In a letter, separately, will you please send me a bill for them in the total amount of \$ 10.00 and for the postage for sending them to me registered? On receipt I will prove the bill for payment and have payment sent you at once.

It was agreed at the time this decision was reached that I should tell you that we also very greatly admire your Dobrovic medal, and we earnestly hope that you will include the Dobrovic medal in the exhibit you sent to us for the Exhibition in the autumn, for we should very much like to have that medal in our Museum also, and it may be that we should at that time find it advisable to purchase that one also. With sincere appreciation and best wishes, and the hearty congratulations of the Committee, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Please use personal address:

195 Broadway, New York City

Do not of course include these two medals in your exhibit for the Loan Exhibition. These two will be exhibited at that time in addition to the five which we hope you will sent.

Pismo br. 7.

Kolovoz, 1924., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.

(recto, olovkom)

My dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter de dato July 10, 1924. I send you to-day by parcel post the follow medals for Exhibition:

all bronze

- 1° the Dobrovic medal: struck in 20 examples, 4.5 cm in diameter for Exhibition 15 \$
- 2° the Gecan medal: struck, in 20 exmples, 4 cm in diameter for Exhibition 15 \$
- 3° the portrait of the lady Malešević; cast in 1 example, 8 cm in di. 40 \$
- 4° the jockey medal: struck in 300 examples, 6 cm in dm. 10 \$
- 5° the Memorial medal of the freedom and of the union of the Jugoslavs on October 29, 1918, struck in 5 gold examples, 7 silver examples and 50 bronze 9 cm in dm, 100 \$

Together with these 5 medal I send also the two which you have already purchase, viz:

- 1° Medal of the Women's Union, struck bronze 5 \$
- 2° Memorial Medal of the City of Zagreb, struck bronze 5 \$

A Bill for them and for the postage for sending them in included in this letter

Very sincerely yours

Ivo Kerdić

Royal Academy of Arts, Zagreb, Ilica 85, Jugoslavia

Bill 2 medals 10 \$

postage -

Sum total -- \$

Pismo br. 8.

22. kolovoza 1924., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society/ Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

August 22, 1924

A copy is also being sent to Prof Ivo Kerdić

THE LOAN EXHIBITION OF THE MEDALLIC ART OF FOREIGN ARTISTS

To all exhibitors:

Supplementing the former letter of March 15, it is especially requested that all exhibits be sent so that they may be received in New York not later than October 1st. This is necessary in order to allow time for the proper labelling and arrangement of the exhibits in the cases of the American Numismatic Society Museum, where the Exhibition will be opened to the public on November 7, 1924.

ADDRESS – All exhibits should be sent in packages by Parcel Post, registered, but no package should have a value of more than One Hundred Dollars. They should be addressed:

The American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th Street
New York City, U.S.A.

In correspondence it has been requested that the words «For the Exhibition of Foreign Medals» be added. This should not be done. We are advised that this will be of no advantage whatsoever and that it may complicate matters.

DUTY – There is no import duty on medals, if sent to The American Numismatic Society, on entering the United States; nor will there be any export duty to be paid on their return. If there is any duty or regulation governing the entrance of the package of medals into your country, please give full particulars.

INSURANCE – The American Numismatic Society will insure all medals sent to this Exhibition by an arrangement made in New York. All exhibits will be insured from the time of their leaving the foreign country until their arrival in New York, and until their arrival in return to the country of the exhibitors. It is unnecessary for the Exhibitors to insure their medals.

REFUNDING – Exhibitors, and Committees or Individuals acting for this Society in the various countries will please send a statement of the amount of postage expended in sending their exhibits to New York. This should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Medals at his personal address, given below. These expenditures will be refunded without delay. As the Society is arranging for the insurance in New York, the Society will not pay expense incurred for insurance arranged in foreign countries.

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Personal Address:

195 Broadway/ New York City, U.S.A.

Pismo br. 9.

7. listopada 1924., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

October 7th, 1924

Professor Ivo Kerdić / Royal Academy of Arts / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia,

My dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of August 28th and now we have also received the package of medals. I have also received and accepted the draft from the First Croatian Savings Bank of Zagreb. I want at once to tell you of my personal interest in the medals you have sent. I am inclined to agree with you that the Dobrovic is the best, but also think

that we wisely chose the two we did for our purchase. I hope before long that we may find a way to add the Dobrovic to our collection also.

May I make a suggestion to you in the matter of the prices? I note the two prices you quote, the lower to the Society for its Museum, and the higher price for individuals who may see the medals in the Exhibition and wish to buy one for their own collections. This is natural and in many instances quite proper. The situation here is such, however, that I should like to raise with you for your decision the question of its being advisable to name only one price and to make that price as low as you can. There is not a widespread interest in medals here in America, even for the medals of our own artists. The lower the price of a medal, very distinctly the better chance to sell it to the individual. Medals here, at present, hardly pay their own expense unless on a strict subscription basis; it is not at all as it is in France. The Society can of course buy medals for itself, for its Museum, but it cannot sell medals to individuals; it is forbidden by its charter. Accordingly what we propose to do is to keep at the Museum a list of the prices of the medals on exhibition and if an individual asks about a medal and wants to buy it, give him the name and address of the artist and tell him what the price is; then the individual can write direct to the artist and make the purchase from him. Later we hope to find a way, to work out a way to have medals, both American and foreign, on retail sale here in New York, but we cannot do it ourselves, and we cannot get to work on it until after this Exhibition. This Exhibition, we hope, may be the first step toward it. We must start and interest in foreign medals and create a demand for them. Of course the lower the prices the better chance of this being successful. The medals issued by the Society, always by subscription, are offered to members at \$ 5.00 for bronze and \$ 10.00 for silver, struck, size usually 60 mm. /French medals also are low in price. Accordingly I think, if we are to succeed in introducing your medals to American art-loving people and collectors, it would be well if you put the prices as low as you feel you can. This is of course a matter which you alone can decide, and I simply wish to tell you the situation here and raise the question.

Do I understand that the Jugoslavian Memorial Medal is \$ 50 for one example of it or \$ 100 for one example? Please send prices for all your medals of which you have sent either medals or photographs. With best wishes and sincere interest, believe me

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Personal Address: 195 Broadway, / New York City, U.S.A.

Pismo br. 10.

1. siječnja 1925., New York – W. C. Langdon i Kerdiću.

The office of the curator / The American Numismatic Society

Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets New York

January 1st, 1925

THE EXHIBITION OF FOREIGN MEDALS

To all Exhibitors:

It is possible that the The American Numismatic Society may be able to arrange to send the Exhibition of Foreign Medals to other American cities. Before making any such arrangements, even tentatively, we wish to secure the permission of the Exhibitor to do so. This would require that the medals be kept in the United States several months longer. The cost of transportation and insurance will be taken care of by the The American Numismatic Society. In no case would such cost come upon the Exhibitors. The Society would desire permission to use its discretion, and to send part or none of an exhibit when it is impossible or impracticable to send all.

As the time is short, and as it is believed that such an extension of the Exhibition would be welcomed by all the exhibitors, The American Numismatic Society desires to obtain the consent of all the Exhibitors as near as possible to February 1st, 1925. The Society would, therefore, urge a reply by return mail. Kindly address all the replies to the Chairman at his personal address.

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

195 Broadway
New York City, U.S.A.
Recto, in pencil:

Your letter of 1st January 1925 received, and consent that all my exhibited medals be secondly your proposal sent and exhibited in other American cities also.

I beg you only by eventual transports that they be returned, as that I get them bck all in due order.

Yours truly

Pismo br. 11.

15. travnja 1925., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

April 15, 1925

Prof. Ivo Kerdić / Mesnicka, 5, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia,

My dear Sir,

I have sent you under separate cover copy of the Proceedings of the recent Annual Meeting of this Society, printed in The Numismatist. Will you please especially read on pages 152 and 159? It is now very doubtful if we can arrange to sent the Exhibition to other cities without greater expense and greater risk for the medals than we think we are justified in taking. The medal is not a popular form of art in America as yet. We have some fine medallic work done here, but they are about all either medals of award of subscription medals; they cannot be bought freely. This Exhibition is doing much

to bring the fine art medal to the attention of Americans, however, and we gratefully appreciate your sending your medals to it. I hope personally to show your medals to some more people, and possibly to be able to sell one or two of them. So with your permission, when Exhibition closes, in a very short time now, I am going to keep your exhibit here in my safe for a while longer, if I do not hear from you objecting to my doing so. All will be returned to you, transportation paid and insured. If I sell any of them at a lower price than you named, it will be subject to your consent. Personally I think your medallic work is much finer than Mestrovic's. With best wishes,

believe me,

Very truly your,

William Chauncy Langdon
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Medals

Personal address: 195 Broadway, New York City.

Pismo br. 12.

29. svibnja 1925., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

May 29, 1925

Professor Ivo Kerdic / Mesnicka, 5, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia,

My dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of May 2nd and I sincerely appreciate the confidence you repose in me in telling me to use my judgment in selling your medals. I am not willing to do this, however. On the other hand I will frankly tell you the situation here in America with regard to the price of medals and then abide your by your decision. But first I want to assure you that if I ask you to accept lower prices, or ask if you care to do so, it is not at all for any lack of appreciation of your art. I admire your work most heartily. Mr. Mestrovic is receiving much attention here this year and is charging large prices for his work; whether he is getting his prices I do not know. Personally I care much more for your medallic work than for his Wilson Foundation medal. The difficulty is that first place there is but little interest and appreciation in the medallic art here in America. We have some fine medallists, but their work all of it consists either of medals of award or subscription medals. There is no general sale for them. The medals issued by our Society, all strictly subscription medals, are invariably priced ad \$ 5.00 for bronze, and the size is usually about 60 mm. Then too the prices for beautiful French and Belgian medals is so low, even lower than ours. Thus it is difficult for your medals to compete with them. Those who want to buy a medal will be able to «get more for their money» in buying French, Belgian or American medals. It is a point that by accepting low prices now you may be able to get an entering wedge here. But of that you must decide.

Previously, the Society bought two of your medals at your own prices, and I understand that we are buying another, the Dobrovic, at \$ 12.00. I should personally be glad

to see the Yugoslavia Memorial Medal remain here, as it is a national medal as well as a fine work of art, but I know that the Society would not feel it practicable to give \$ 50.00 for one, considering all the other medals of the 15 countries which it would be so fine for us to have. They might feel they could allow \$ 15.00, if you care to accept it, but I should perfectly understand your refusing it. On the other hand, it would be prompt cash and would place it in what is the really American national museum of medals permanently. I should myself personally like very much to have the other Dobrovic medal; I agree with you it is your finest work, so far as I have seen. But as I have had to start fresh since the war, and in view of the low prices of other countries, I cannot afford it, and could offer you no more than \$ 6.00, or maybe \$ 5.00 for the Gecan. Someone has offered \$ 3.00 for the Jockey Club medal. So I simply pass these offers on to you for your acceptance or rejection, as you wish. Be sure nonetheless that no one more than I realizes how little prices have to do with the quality of the works of art. Simply would you care to let these medals stay here at these prices, or do you wish me to return them? With most sincere admiration and appreciation, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

Personal address: 195 Broadway, New York City

Pismo br. 13.

10. lipnja 1925., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu (koncept).

William Chauncy Langdon New York

Primio sam Vaš cij dopis od „...“, te Vam se najljepše zahvaljujem na istomu, kao i Vašem trudu.

Glede cijena – ako su vrlo malene – stavljam Vam na Vašu dispoziciju, da ih odredite kako mislite da je najbolje.

Glede Jugoslavenske Memorijalne medalje pako javljam Vam da ću je dati uz cijenu od 15 dolara samo za muzej. U protivnom slučaju molim da mi ju bezuvjetno pošaljete natrag jer ju uz tu cijenu, osim u museum, nikako ne mogu dati.

G. Gecana koji se nalazi u New Yorku zamolio sam da Vam preda za Vas lično po jednu medalju Dobrović i Gecan.

Primito izraz mog najiskrenijeg poštovanja Vaš IK

Pismo br. 14.

10. lipnja 1925., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu (prijevod).

Messrs William Chauncy Langdon / New York.

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of you favour of the ... and beg to thank you for same as well as for the trouble you have taken in this matter.

As regards prices, although some are very small, I leave it with you, to dispose about same at your very best convenience.

As regards The Jugoslav Memorial Medaille I beg to inform you that I would be able to dispose of same at the price of \$ 15.-, for the museum only. In the contrary case I shall be obliged if you would send me same back, as I am not able to give same to anyone else, except the museum, at the mentioned price.

I have asked Mr. W. Gecan, living in New-York, to give you personally one Dobrović and one Gecan medaille.

Awaiting your news with great interest I remain

Yours very truly

Pismo br. 15.

3. kolovoza 1925., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company / Bell System / 195 Broadway
New York

August 3, 1925

Professor Ivo Kerdić / Mesnicka, 5, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Professor Kerdic,

I thank you for your letter of July 10th. Saturday also Mr. Gecan called upon me here and presented to me copies of your Dobrovic and Gecan medals as a gift from you. I most heartily and gratefully appreciate this generous gift and value of the medals the more for their being given me by you, the artist, yourself. But I am afraid my using my own case to illustrate the situation here with regard to the prices of medals may have sounded other than I had in mind. I cannot however decline so generous a present; that would indeed be discourteous and seem as if I did not appreciate either the art of the generosity. Indeed I do appreciate both. So I accept them with most sincere and honored thanks. And now I will tell you what I had already been planning. I hope it may prove to be of some slight service to you.

The New York Public Library has a good many Branch Libraries in different parts of the city. I have arranged to cooperate with them in having exhibitions of medals. For instance, - there are four of these Branch Libraries that have asked me to let them have exhibitions of medals. In one, located where many of the Czechoslovaks of New York live, I have placed 40 medals of Czech artists. In another, to which many Finns of New York go, I am going to put an exhibition of about 35 medals of Finland. Now I am going to find a Branch which is conveniently located for a good number of Serbs and Slavs and offer them an exhibition of your medals. I have been waiting only until I heard again from you. Now, this week, I shall attend to the matter and I hope to place them in one of the Branch Libraries that has already asked me for an exhibition. But, - I have in all of your medals, including those the Society has bought, which I have borrowed from the Society for this purpose, only 10. I could combine your exhibition with that of some other country, but I should prefer not to do this; it might cause some feeling.

I therefore want to ask you if you can send me some more of your medals to show with these. I intend to let it be known that I will take orders for you for copies of any of the medals shown. I would suggest, if those of which I have seen the pictures, that you send 1 more of the Women's Union, the Memorial Medal of Zagreb, the Jockey Club; that will enable me to show the face and the reverse of these. There are three plaques which I presume have no reverse, and so 1 of each would be sufficient, - Svetozar Pribicevic (which would go well with the Lady Malesevic), the Slovenachruatisrbin, and the Slobod Krail Grav Grad Zagreb. Then maybe you could send two of the Ples Hrvata U Begu, 1912, and one of the exquisite medals of that dear little girl, Neda. That would make 9 more and give me 19 to make up the exhibition. That number would be all right, as the medals are shown in one large case or two small cases only. But If you have any other medals, maybe some you have done this past year, it would be fine to have those also. Then too, I bear in mind that it may be you cannot send some of those I have suggested. Send me also please the minimum price on each. I will then tell people who may inquire that price, or if I think it would be possible to get a higher price I will raise it. (I am remembering that the price for the National Medal of Jugoslavia is \$ 50.00 each to anyone except the American Numismatic Society). Mr. Gecan has told me he has here several copies of the Dobrovic and the Gecan medals; I have told him I hope in this was to help sell some of them. There is of course no need to send more of those two medals.

Now with regard to the sending of these medals. The trouble is that if they are sent in the ordinary way there will be a duty of 40% to pay. I am doing this on my own responsibility, with the advantage of being Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Medals of the American Numismatic Society, but without the Society's specific authorization. I think therefore that the best way will be for you to sent the medals to me in small packages by first class, or letter mail. If there do not come as a result of my showing these medals enough orders for copies of them to make it worth while, I will repay to you the amount of this first class postage. Mark each package, - «Sample medals, of no value»; and also «May not be Opened by Customs Before Delivery». That is what they are, - samples; so it will be entirely proper and will bring them through, I am confident, all right. I might also suggest that you put not more than four or five medals in the same package, and that you send only one packade on the same day. In telling people who enquire the prices of you medals I will bear in mind that for buying the medals that price will have to cover the duty that will be charged on medals sent over for sale. I will also keep in touch with Mr. Gecan and consult him about everything.

There, that is my plan, and I am very hopeful, - yes, confident, - that it will succeed. Of course, it may fail entirely. But, there is already much interest shown in the Czechoslovak Exhibition. I have made sure that they are shown in the right neighborhood, where the Czechs live. I want to do that with your medals also, put them on exhibition in the neighborhood, in the part of New York, where the Jugoslavs live. So, we will hope, and we shall see! I sincerely hope that the plan will be successful as to be truly gratifying to you; and as to obviate entirely my hesitation in accepting your very fine and most generous gift. With best wishes, and the tribute of my heavy appreciation of your fine art, believe me,

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

Address the medals to me as follows:- Mr. William Chauncy Langdon/ American Telephone and Telegraph Company,/ 195 Broadway, New York City.

Pismo br. 16.

9. listopada 1925., New York – H. Wood / Američko numizmatičko društvo I. Kerdiću.

The American Numismatic Society / Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
New York

October 9th, 1925

Mr. Ivo Kerdic / Mesnicka 5 / Zagreb, Jugoslavia,

Dear Sir,

I am sending you, herewith, a cheque for Seventeen Dollars (\$17.00) for the two medals purchased by the Society.

The balance of your medals is now being exhibited by Mr. Langdon, who has informed us that he will attend to the returning of these to you.

Very truly yours,

Howland Wood
Curator
Encs.

Odgovoreno 21.12.25 IK

Pismo br. 17.

Prosinac, 1925., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.

This message is not a greeting alone but also an earnest wish that you enjoy a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

To Professor Ivo Kerdić,

the great medallic artist of Jugoslavia and all whom he holds dear from

William Chauncy Langdon

SUMMARY

CROATIAN-AMERICAN MEDALLIC CONTACTS IVO KERDIĆ AND WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

PART 1

Among the best friends and most fervent admirers of the great Croatian medallist Ivo Kerdić (*Davor, 19.V. 1881 – †Zagreb, 27. X. 1953) was the American William