

THE YEAR OF AN IMPORTANT JUBILEE 1928 - 2018

A full 90 years ago the idea to found our own national numismatic society came true. Until then our numismatists could only be members of Austrian, Hungarian or other numismatic societies.

This was why Benko Horvat convened the Founding Assembly of our Society for 21 December 1928. The Assembly was held in the Archaeological Department of the National Museum in Zagreb, in the presence of more than twenty future Society members. At it the Society rules were adopted and the first Management Board elected, which was immediately constituted. It consisted of Benko Horvat, president, Alfred Makanec, vice-president, Ivo Uzorinac, secretary, architect Zlatko Koščica, treasurer, Ivo Kerdić, keeper of the sample collection, Matija Ivanac, librarian, and Professor Josip Klemenc, member of the Board.

The members of the first Management Board, drawing on their knowledge, abilities and reputation, immediately began firmly to root the foundations of the Society, and we use this occasion to once again express our deeply-felt gratitude to them.

Throughout its long activity, many of our Society's members were significant, notable and distinguished numismatists from our country and the world. They contributed to the importance and quality of our activities publishing journals and catalogues, creating beautiful and artistic medals and tokens, organising exhibitions and congresses.

Besides these very important and outstanding predecessors, we must also mention the people who were at the head of our Society during its 90 years. Another special feature is that during its 90 years of existence our Society has had only five presidents.

The first president and founder was **BENKO HORVAT**, president from 1928 to 1954. Horvat was an eminent, world-renowned numismatist (especially for coins from Antiquity), a patron of culture, a donor (today's Benko Horvat Collection), the initiator of our magazine *Numismatika*, and so on.

The second president of the Society was **IVAN MEIXNER**, from 1954 until his death in 1985. He was a notable scholar, a numismatic connoisseur, but also a rather retiring person. For thirty years he was the great name of our Society.

The third president was **GJURO KRASNOV**. He held this position from 1985 until his voluntarily retirement from this office in 1989 because he wanted someone younger to continue as head of the Society. From 1962 Krasnov had been the Society's secretary, the initiator of all its activities, its true *spiritus movens*, and it was during this time that he achieved all his most important results. He was an excellent organizer, especially of medal exhibitions, was a long time editor of *Numizmatičke vijesti*, a supporter of sculptors/medallists, and so on.

The fourth president of the Croatian Numismatic Society was **EDGAR FABRY**, from 1989 to 1993. He introduced new ideas into the Society's work, and set in motion and fulfilled the wish of the Society's members to have their own premises. During his term in office, he also introduced the Society's commendations and prize medals: the Benko Horvat Medal and a standing medal for life achievement. He voluntarily resigned from the position of Society president to assume the responsible post of its secretary, and since 1999 also the post of editor-in-chief of *Numizmatičke vijesti*.

The fifth, current president of the Society, **DAMIR KOVAČ**, assumed the position of president in 1993 and has been performing it very successfully. He takes an active part in all the Society's activities, he deserves merit for acquiring our current premises, because we had to leave our first premises so that they could be returned to their rightful owner, he plans the Society's public promotion, especially by organising exhibitions with items from his own collection. He is a trusted and confident president of the Society.

All the presidents thus far have through their personalities and undoubted worth built an enduring part of their lives into the 90-year-long activities of the Croatian Numismatic Society.

Editor-in-chief
Edgar Fabry