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SUMMARY

BOGOSLAV ŠULEK ON THE AUSTRIAN CURRENCY CHANGE IN 1858 AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN CROATIA

Not much is known today about the currency change in the Austrian Empire in 1858 and its implementation in Croatia. Bogoslav Šulek wrote several articles about this currency change at its very beginning and published them in *Gospodarski list*, whose

^{****}Autorova zahvalna napomena: Poticaj da sastavim ovaj tekst višekratno mi je u nekoliko godina iskazivao glavni i odgovorni urednik *Numizmatičkih vijesti*, gospodin Edgar Fabry; zahvaljujem mu se napose i za poticaje u raspravljanju o opisanoj temi.

editor he was. This was then the best-known and most widely-read Croatian newspaper. Later researchers did not note these articles, nor were they well known to numismatists although they are very important for the then history of money in Croatia. This is why the author is presenting these texts. To better understand them today, more attention should be paid to the development of money in the Austrian Empire as the wider context, because Croatian money also belonged to this empire, but this would entail additional research into at present unknown or inaccessible sources.

This article is an account of Šulek's articles *Novi novci* (New Money), *Stari novci* (Old Money) and *Nove banke* (New Banks), and of some shorter accompanying texts. The introduction gives Bogoslav Šulek's detailed professional biography. At that time he was the most versatile Croatian polymath, the most important Croatian lexicographer, the first professional and later the best-known Croatian journalist, editor, and publicist. As the then editor of *Gospodarski list*, his popular and instructive articles helped his Croatian readers to get a better grip on the ongoing currency change.

The central subject of the article is introduced through a general presentation of the chapter "Money, finances, numismatics" by Šulek, who gave a list of the main currency terms and names used in his dictionaries, and a list and short description of his other non-monetary texts on numismatics and money.

The main part of the article is a chapter in the form of a dictionary: a list and description of the names of money and monetary terms in Šulek's texts *New Money, Old Money, New Banks* and *Excerpts from Laws and Ordinances on New Money.* It gives Šulek's description of the Austrian currency change in 1858 and his observations on it.

Šulek informs his readers that the basis for this currency change was the Coinage Contract signed between the Austrian Empire and the German States on 4 January 1857. It was agreed that all the contracting states would accept a common currency measure for their money, at that time called the Customs Pound (Zollpfund), "which will weigh 500 grams or half a kilogram". But the contracting states did not reach an agreement on how much money they would mint from one customs pound. To implement the Coinage Contract in the Austrian Empire, the New Money Act was passed, which came into force on the Day of All Saints 1858, and other subordinate regulations. In this way, Austrian money was no longer based on the former convention value, i.e. the value of twenty forints (Konventionsfuss, Zwanzigguldenfuss), which had been established in the 1753 convention between Austria and Bavaria, and the Austrian value (Oesterreichische Währung) of the customs pound came into force, according to which 45 forints would be minted from one pound of silver. The implementation of this change drew out for several years, as some of the "old" money gradually went out of force and "new" money was introduced. Šulek described these changes, gave additional information and listed the names and values of the "new" money. In writing about this change, Šulek broadened general knowledge about the then Croatian monetary terms and the Croatian names for current and older money. In particular, he gave Croatian names to money and he introduced the terms stotinjak and novčić for the then new Austrian forints and kreuzers. The names *stotinjak* and *novčić* used in these meanings belong to "Šulekisms", words Bogoslav Šulek introduced into the Croatian language or whose meaning he widened.