

ECOVAST-ovci za Hrvatsku

Izvan, ili iza, "službenog" angažmana, kojim se ECOVAST zalagao za Hrvatsku svojim međunarodnim ugledom kao nevladina organizacija, stoji barem jednako tako velik ulog pojedinaca. U svakom slučaju tu je bila dobra volja i spremnost pojedinih članova predsjedništva i izvršnog odbora. Sa Jean-Pierreom Dichterom, tadašnjim predsjednikom, i Michelom Dowerom, potpredsjednikom, postojala je u tijeku svih onih najtežih mjeseci rata 1991. gotovo neprekinuta telefonska i fax "linija" radi izmjene informacija i koordiniranja akcija.

Najosobnije i najsvestranije bilo je nesumnjivo djelovanje *Jane Wade* i *Johna Sella*, koji su kao uvaženi savjetnici za arhitekturu i njezino očuvanje profesionalno bili možda najmotiviraniji, premda svi mi jako dobro znamo da je njihova moralna motivacija bila mnogo dublja. Iz vlastite pobude, iz humanizma, pokrenuli su sastavljanje peticije za očuvanje svjetske arhitektonske baštine Dubrovnika, koju su potpisali vodeći arhitekti Velike Britanije, njih šezdeset. Rukom pisanu peticiju priložili su apelu za povijesnu baštinu kojim su se osobno obratili generalu Kadijeviću, predsjednicima republika Hrvatske i Srbije dr. Franji Tuđmanu i Slobodanu Miloševiću. Njihov apel za Dubrovnik jugoslavenskom ambasadoru u Londonu supotpisali su vodeći članovi ECOVAST-a iz cijelog svijeta. No još je važnije da se njihovi naponi nisu iscrpili apelima. Stalnim napisima u dnevnom i stručnom tisku (*The Independent*, *The Times*, ili *Building Design*, najčitanijem engleskom stručnom časopisu za arhitekturu) hrabro su se pridružili malobrojnim našim zagovornicima šireći istinu o Hrvatskoj. Nisu ih pokobile ni prijetnje koje su neizostavno morale uslijediti. Na prvu vijest o bombardiranju Zagreba, 7. listopada, javili su nam se u Institut zatraživši detaljne podatke o štetama, što su odmah i objavili. I na kraju, čim su se za to stvorile okolnosti, u srpnju 1992., odazvali su se našem pozivu da posjete Hrvatsku. Troškove puta i boravka pomogli su namiriti British Council i Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske. Bez straha su nam se pridružili u obilasku ratom razorenih krajeva istočne Slavonije, dok se još mir na tim prostorima nije potpuno ustalio, došavši s nama do prvih obrambenih linija u Nuštru. I još nešto. Saznali smo da su njihova brojna izlaganja o ratnim razaranjima u Hrvatskoj nakon povratka u Englesku polučila snažne reakcije u stručnim krugovima, i to prije svega nepristranom uvjerljivošću i autentičnom dokumentiranošću. Kad bi svaka institucija imala samo jednog prijatelja poput Jane i Johna - Hrvatska ne bi trebala brinuti o svom statusu u svijetu. Hvala im!

Members of ECOVAST for Croatia

Beside or behind the "official" commitment to Croatia of ECOVAST as a prestigious, non-governmental organisation, an equally large part is being played by individuals. There was in any case good will and readiness to help on the part of individual members of the presidency and the executive committee. Throughout all those most difficult months of the war in 1991. almost uninterrupted contact by telephone and "fax" was maintained with Jean-Pierre Dichter, chairman at the time, and with Michel Dower, vice-chairman, with the aim of exchanging information and co-ordinating action.

*Undoubtedly the greatest personal commitment and the most diverse activity must be credited to Jane Wade and John Sell, who as highly respected consultants on architecture and its conservation were professionally most strongly motivated; we well know, however, that their moral commitment was even more profound. On their own initiative, from purely humanitarian motives, they launched a petition in support of the preservation of the world's architectural heritage which was signed by leading British architects, some sixty in number. The handwritten petition was enclosed with an appeal on behalf of this historical legacy addressed personally to General Kadijević and to the Presidents of the Republics of Croatia and Serbia, Dr Franjo Tuđman and Slobodan Milošević. Their appeal for Dubrovnik submitted to the Yugoslav Ambassador in London was signed by leading members of ECOVAST throughout the world. Still more important, however, was the fact that their efforts were not restricted to such appeals. With frequent articles in the daily press and in professional journals (*The Independent*, *The Times*, or *Building Design*, the most widely read English architectural journal) they had the courage to join the small number of our supporters in spreading the truth about Croatia. They were not intimidated by the threats that were inevitably bound to follow. When the first news of the bombing of Zagreb came on 7 October, they contacted us at the Institute, seeking detailed information about the damage and immediately making it public. And finally, as soon as circumstances permitted, in July 1992, they responded to our invitation to visit Croatia. The British Council and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia assisted in the payment of travel and maintenance expenses. They fearlessly accompanied us on a tour of the war-damaged districts of Eastern Slavonia, joining us in a visit to the front line at Nuštar. We have learned that their numerous accounts of war damage in Croatia given after their return to England evoked a powerful reaction in professional circles, especially on account of their impartial plausibility and their authentic documentary evidence. If every institution had only one single Friend like Jane and John - Croatia would have no need to worry about her status in the world. Our thanks go to them!*

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His Excellency The Yugoslav Ambassador 28th October, 1991
The Yugoslav Embassy DUBROV/1/JS
London
WB
Fax: 071 370 3838

Dear Sir,

Dubrovnik

We are appalled that the historic city of Dubrovnik is being used to blackmail its people into surrender.

Dubrovnik is not of military significance, it does not contain a large minority population, it has never been part of Serbia or Montenegro - its people should not be asked to evacuate it so that it can be 'liberated'. Liberated from what? Surely, all the people of the city want is to be liberated from threats by the Yugoslav army and navy.

Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, and in that sense it belongs to all the people of Europe. As a World Heritage site the city belongs to all the people of the world therefore the Yugoslav army has no right to destroy it for its own short-sighted aims. There must be people within the army and the federal government who have a bigger vision and who appreciate its ancient Dalmatian culture.

We would like to see a declaration by the Yugoslav People's Army that it will immediately cease its offensive against the city and will desist from any action that would damage the historic city.

Would you please convey this message to the federal authorities as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

John Sell and Jane Wade

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Jean-Pierre Dichter	Luxembourg
Michael Dower	England
Michael Nightingale	England
Philip Venning	England
Robert Venturi	USA
Denise Scott-Brown	USA
Angus Fowler	Germany
Bernard Mignon	Belgium
M. Guyon	France
Suzanne Thibaut	France
Martin Drury	England
Philip Noel-Baker	Greece
Andras Roman	Hungary
Tim Tatton Brown	England
Moragh Shaffrey	Ireland
Cary Carson	USA
M. Lundgren	Sweden
Rebecca Wade	USA
Boris Brkovic	England
Ray Fahl	England

Apel Johna Sella i Jane Wade za Dubrovnik s potpisima članova ECOVAST-a upućen jugoslavenskom ambasadoru u Londonu.

An appeal for Dubrovnik by John Sell and Jane Wade, with signatures of members of ECOVAST, addressed to the Yugoslav Ambassador in London.

SELL WADE POSTINS
Architects & Conservation Consultants
Park & Garden Conservation Consultants

The Editor 19th September, 1991
Times Newspapers Ltd MIS-2/11/JS
1 Virginia Street
London E1

Dear Sir,

Over the last few weeks we have been in frequent contact with a friend and colleague in the town of Petrinja in Southern Croatia. Davor Salopak is an architect working in his own office with a mixed Croatian and Serbian staff. He has been responsible over the last few years for the restoration of many of the historic buildings of his region including beautiful timber houses in the villages.

He described to us the destruction in and around Petrinja which in his words is "not war but vandalism". On the 2nd September Croatian forces deliberately left the town as they had no defence against the tanks ranged against them; two tanks entered the town and shelled the centre for one and a half hours destroying the tower of the 18th century baroque church and damaging many other buildings including his own office and house, leaving him with no place of work and no home. Sixty six catholic churches and two orthodox churches are known to have been destroyed in Croatia.

On a recent visit to Yugoslavia we visited the village of Brest; a wonderful village of traditional timber houses along the banks of the Rupa river. This defenceless village has been bombed and damaged. The hill village of Hrstovica is one of between 10 and 20 traditional villages completely destroyed.

Much of the destruction seems to be motivated as an attack on Croatian symbols rather than for military reasons. The church and monastery at Topusko have been destroyed; the archbishop's palace and the museum at Djatovo were attacked yesterday; the medieval cathedral at Šibenik had been shelled. 10 historic towns have been seriously damaged. In our opinion, however unwise some of the early actions and

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statements of the Croatian government, nothing justifies the war being waged against Croatia or the destruction of its small towns and villages. It is worth pointing out that no destruction has taken place outside the borders of Croatia.

Yours sincerely

John Sell *Jane Wade*

John Sell
Chairman
Rural Architecture Working Group
of the European Council for the Village and
Small Town (ECOVAST)

Jane Wade
Rapporteur
Rural Architecture Working Group
(ECOVAST)

SELL WADE POSTINS
Architects & Conservation Consultants
Park & Garden Conservation Consultants

Pismo Johna Sella i Jane Wade izdavaču Times Newspapers Ltd u Londonu.

A letter by John Sell and Jane Wade to the publisher, Times Newspapers Ltd, London.