

NUMIZMATIČKE VIJESTI AND THE RECESSION

Here we are, at the end of another calendar year and approaching the usual time for the coming out of our *Numizmatičke Vijesti* (Numismatic News). The printer has practically finished preparations and will begin printing this year's number in the next few days. Everything seems to be all right, but is it?

I kept putting off writing this editorial because I was waiting for information about how much money the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports would provide for this year's *Numizmatičke vijesti*. All that Ministry let us know was that we would certainly get something. Even the fact that our *Vijesti* is among the happy periodicals that will receive support of some kind cannot make us too happy. It is a sad fact that among the approximately two hundred scientific and scientific/professional journals in Croatia, more than one third will not get financial support this year. As the editor of this periodical, I am sorry for those who are in this situation because I am well aware of what putting out a periodical entails.

Besides the incomprehensibly long period without any information about the funding of *Vijesti* for this year, we also openly question the competence of the Professional Commission for Scientific Publications of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. We do not challenge and we respect the professional level of the Commission members, who are eminent scientists and experts but unfortunately only in their own professions. The Commission does not include one single historian, art historian or archaeologist, let alone archaeologist/numismatist. Considering that this Ministry co-finances many historical and archaeological journals (among them also *Numizmatičke vijesti*) it would be desirable for the Commission's composition to "cover" all the fields that are co-financed.

We already suspected and saw the signs of this year's crisis last year. That is why we decided on a smaller number of pages already in the planning stage of this year's *Vijesti*, and did not even think of making any in colour.

We must say that this year the Ministry of Culture provided *Vijesti* with the same sum as it did last year, for which we thank them. Without these funds we could not print *Numizmatičke vijesti* at all. But even so we will not be able to pay for all the expenses for the periodical at once. We will have a fine, slightly thinner journal and also debts, which we hope will be "covered" by a belated, almost symbolical subsidy from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

I am sorry that this number of *Numizmatičke vijesti* (the twelfth number that I have edited) has found itself in such an unpredictable situation, but it is nevertheless the most important that the journal has come out.

Editor in chief

Edgar Fabry