

nici-povratnici iz bijeloga svijeta. Donio je fascinantnu zbirku priča o svom pionirskom pothvatu. Te su priče spomenik možda i najvećem, ne samo hrvatskom nego i svjetskom, globtroteru. Pogotovo ako se uzme u obzir da je naš junak u svom devetnaestogodišnjem putovanju pješice, na konju, biciklom i malom jedrilicom prešao 360000 kilometara posve sam, bez logistike kakvu danas poznajemo. Zato se danas, svi mi koji se nazivamo svjetskim putnicima, moramo pokloniti Mati Svjetskome, najvećem od svih globtrotera, pravom pustolovu, koji je do jučer bio nepravедno zaboravljen.¹⁵

Šimunović je ostavio vrijedan materijal hrvatskoj putopisnoj književnosti, a nimalo manje vrijedan materijal za autobiografsko proučavanje. Osim toga u Šimunovićevim se zapisima mogu prepoznati elementi pikarskoga romana, žanra koji je pripadao tradicionalnim formama 16. stoljeća, ali je ponovno obnovljen u književnosti 20. st., kako u svjetskoj tako i u hrvatskoj književnosti.

Mate Svjetski istinski je kozmopolit koji dokazuje da granice zapravo postoje samo u glavama ljudi.

I, MATE SVJETSKI – AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS OF THE FIRST CROATIAN WORLD TRAVELER

Abstract

The world traveler Mate Šimunović (1900 - 1969), known as Mate Svjetski, and his dog Globus travelled on foot, by bicycle and by a small sailboat for 36 0000 kilometers. They travelled for 19 years, from 1928 to 1947. They visited 70 countries, thousands of islands in the Indian and Pacific Ocean where Mate met natives who lived in isolation. Everything is documented in his travel book that was signed by many statesmen and famous persons (eg. the poet Tagore, Hoover, the president of the USA) and in 26 diaries. During this epic journey he made several hundreds of photos. His rich travel legacy was collected and published in 2013 by Stipe Božić and Drago Glamuzina in a book titled I, Mate Svjetski.

This book is an example of literary genre fluidity. It combines the elements of travels, autobiography and picaresque. Mate Šimunović is modern picaro, contemporary wanderer. He is an outsider who managed to preserve his inner self and the spirit despite the fact that he was misunderstood. The wandering was the focus of his life and the sense of life he found in the beauty of travel.

Keywords: *I, Mate Svjetski; travels; autobiography; picaresque elements.*

¹⁵ Isto, str. 9-10.