

Franjo Kogoj's Role in the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts 1947–1972

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ABSTRACT:

Up until now, extensive research has been conducted on the life and legacy of Franjo Kogoj (1894–1983) who was a prominent Croatian dermatovenerologist, full-time professor and Dean of the Zagreb School of Medicine, long-standing head of the University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Zagreb University Hospital Centre, head of the Department of Dermovenerology, Zagreb University School of Medicine, as well as a full member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts (YASA). In this paper, we shall present Kogoj's role in YASA after he was elected its full member in 1947, especially during his mandates as the first Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences (1950–1958) and as Vice-President of the Academy (1958–1972). We shall follow his various publishing activities, international networking, as well as his role in the establishment of important medical institutions. The paper is based on Kogoj's articles published in Academy's periodicals, the documentation kept at the Academy's Division for the History of Medical Sciences and fragments of his material heritage preserved in the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

KEYWORDS: Franjo Kogoj, Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department of Medical Sciences YASA, dermatovenerology, Croatia, 20th century

SAŽETAK:

ULOGA FRANJE KOGOJA U JUGOSLAVENSKOJ AKADEMIJI ZNANOSTI I UMJETNOSTI 1947-1972
O Franji Kogoj (1894. – 1983.), dermatovenerologu, redovitom profesoru Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, dekanu i prodekanu u nekoliko mandata, šefu dermatovenerološke klinike tijekom četrdeset godina, redovitom članu Jugoslavenske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti, do sada je objavljen niz članaka. U ovom radu prezentirat ćemo njegovu ulogu u tadašnjoj JAZU nakon izbora za redovitog člana (1947.), kao prvog tajnika Odjela za medicinske nauke (1950. – 1958.) te kao potpredsjednika Akademije (1958. – 1972.), prateći njegove aktivnosti u realizaciji izdavačkih projekta, međunarodne razmjene, osnutka medicinskih ustanova i organizaciji kongresa. Pritom ćemo se većim dijelom koristiti Akademijinim publikacijama, dokumentacijom pohranjenom u Odsjeku za povijest medicinskih znanosti HAZU te dijelovima Kogojeve materijalne ostavštine, pohranjene u Hrvatskome muzeju medicine i farmacije HAZU.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: Franjo Kogoj, Jugoslavenska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti, Odjel za medicinske nauke JAZU, dermatovenerologija, Hrvatska, 20. stoljeće

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Figure 1. Franjo Kogoj, author Vanja Radauš, Gliptothèque CASA



Franjo Kogoj's (1894–1983) role and contributions to the development of Croatian dermatovenereology have been examined in a series of articles¹⁻²⁰, some of which were published by the Academy publications²¹⁻²⁵ (Figure 1). Unlike his printed works, Kogoj's material heritage has not yet been a subject of scientific analysis. For a number of years it has been stored in the Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, later reassigned to the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA) upon its foundation in 2014. The Kogoj Collection consists of framed photo portraits of 55 prominent dermatologists from all over the world, as well as 48 charters related to Kogoj's achievements and memberships in various professional societies, many of them international. Honorary diplomas, charters and acknowledgments have been awarded to Kogoj throughout his career for his distinguished role in the development of dermatovenereology, medicine and Croatian society in general. The greatest number of charters are related to Kogoj's honorary and other memberships in professional societies (in Europe and overseas) awarded to him in the period between 1930 and 1976, to memberships in other domestic and international medical societies (Croatian Medical Association, Slovene Medical Society, Yugoslav Medical Societies' Union) for the period between 1961 and 1977, and honorary plaques and acknowledgments (from schools of medicine in Zagreb, Sarajevo, Bratislava, Ljubljana and Rijeka) in the period from 1961 to 1975. The collection also includes diplomas and charters related to his membership in various academies that he received in the period from 1947 to 1975. This rich material forms the basis of an exhibition dedicated to Kogoj which will be opened in spring 2021, celebrating 100th anniversary of the Department of Dermatovenereology in Zagreb (established in 1921). This material is also a solid comparative foundation for revising the existing knowledge related to Kogoj's honorary and other memberships in various associations, as well as the reconstruction of his international networking.

Despite the fact that Kogoj became a full member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts (YASA) already in 1947, and that he was the secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences (1950–1958) and the Vice-President of the Academy (1958–1972), a detailed overview of his role in the Academy has not yet been published. In this article, we will present some of Kogoj's most important activities in the Academy, such as the establishment of medical institutions, international scientific exchanges, organization of symposia and lectures, as well as numerous publishing projects. To that end, we will use the data published in the Academy's bulletins (*Ljetopis* and *Rad*), the documentation kept at the Division for the History of Medical Sciences, as well as the segments of the material heritage stored in the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy.

FULL MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY IN 1947

Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts was founded in Zagreb on April 29, 1861 by the Croatian parliament. After confirming its statute on March 4, 1866, the parliament elected the first 16 members of the Academy. Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer was named its patron, while the eminent Croatian historian Franjo Rački was elected President of the Academy. From 1941 to 1945, the Academy functioned under a new name – the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts – and again under its old name YASA after the Second World War. After the establishment of the democratic Republic of Croatia, the Croatian parliament on June 26, 1991 passed a new law on the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Parliament named it the highest scientific and art institution in Croatia, while acknowledging its overall influence and historical role.

The Natural and Medical Sciences Department of the former Yugoslav Academy was founded in 1947. In that same year eminent representatives of various medical specialties and professors from the School of Medicine in Zagreb were elected as members: Branimir Gušić, professor of otorhinolaryngology;

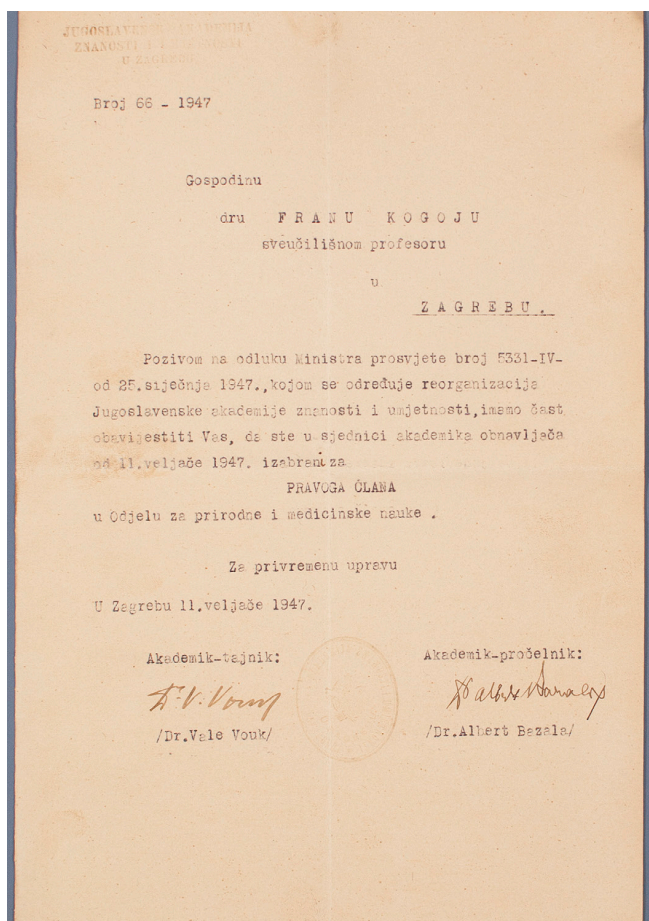


Figure 2. Certificate of Franjo Kogoj's full membership in YASA, 1947, HMMF-4486

Franjo Kogoj, professor of dermatovenereology and head of the Department of Dermatovenereology in Zagreb; and Andrija Štampar, professor of social medicine, who was elected as member of the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section²⁶ (Figure 2). Kogoj's biography, published in journal *Ljetopis* on the occasion of his membership in the Academy, states that he had previously published several monographs²⁷⁻³⁰ and 87 scientific articles. At the age of 53, he was a corresponding and/or honorary member of several dermatovenereological societies, a member of several dermatovenereology journals' editorial boards, president of the Section for Dermatovenereology of the Croatian Medical Association and a participant in a number of Croatian and international conferences³¹. One year after his election to membership in the Academy, Kogoj published a paper on the complex topic of eczema and various theoretical models explaining its etiology, which was published in the Academy's *Rad*³² (Figure 3). This comprehensive article reveals the breadth of Kogoj's erudition, as well as his capacity to observe and differentiate between various dermatological phenomena occurring in children and adults. Two years after being elected full member of the Academy, Kogoj gave a lecture *On Allergy*³³, a subject that continued to preoccupy him throughout his working life. In the same year, the Academy published Kogoj's second edition of the book *Terapija sifilisa* [The Treatment of Syphilis]³⁴, in which he presented an original method of treating syphilis, which involved two crucial factors: critical moment and liquor quinqueno. He returned to this topic repeatedly as a lecturer and as an author.³⁵

At the time when Kogoj was elected full member, the Academy consisted of the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences,



Figure 3. Kogoj's first article published in the Academy's journal "Rad", vol. 273, 1948

Department of Mathematical, Physical and Technical Sciences, Department of Natural and Medical Sciences, Department of Language and Literature and Department of Art and Music. The law on Yugoslav Academy from 1947 planned for the establishment of new scientific and art institutions. At the same time, natural and medical sciences were developing more rapidly, so the number of members from these fields grew. This eventually led to the splitting of the Department of Natural and Medical Sciences into the Department of Natural Sciences and the Department of Medical Sciences.

THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, 1950–1958

After the Department of Medical Sciences was formed in 1950, Franjo Kogoj was named its first Secretary. He performed this duty in two mandates until the end of 1958. It was a very intensive period for the Academy, marked with growth and development of museums and scientific departments. Multiple institutes and museums were being integrated into the Academy. At that time, the Academy had its publishing department with a printing office, as well as a scientific library. The President of the Academy was Andrija Štampar (1888–1958), who had substantial international experience, including the crucial role in the establishment of the World Health Organization³⁶. His qualifications proved to be more than beneficial to the Academy as well. Kogoj was also internationally renowned and, although a clinician, partial to viewing skin and venereal diseases through their interaction with ecology, geography and society in general. He dedicated a part of his investigations to professional dermatoses of factory workers³⁷. Both Štampar and Kogoj



Figure 4. Josef Jadassohn (1863–1936), Wroclaw, 1931, HMMF-4549

advocated the globalization of medicine through their activities in the Academy. Prominent scientist were being invited to give lectures, while scientific journals and other publications were being exchanged and international and inter-academic connections were being developed. Academy also financially supported the participation of its members at international symposia. For example, in 1950 Kogoj received financial support to participate at the German Congress of Dermatologists in Heidelberg, at which he lectured about penicillin as an antisyphilitic drug. Kogoj returned to this topic repeatedly, especially during his field research of endemic syphilis in Bosnia³⁸.

During Kogoj's mandate, the Department of Medical Sciences worked diligently on the establishment of new scientific research centers. As the President of the Academy, but also as a member of the Department of Medical Sciences, Štampar initiated the establishment of the Institute for Workplace Hygiene in 1947, while Kogoj advocated for the establishment of an allergology institute³⁹. Incorporating the ideology of the then popular social medicine, priorities were being set taking into consideration the interests of the working class and socially endangered population. Thus, the biggest support was given to those institutions that would identify and explore various factors compromising the health and well-being of the wider population. This aspect was reflected within the Department of Medical Sciences, which coordinated the Section for Medical Sciences and the Section for Veterinary Sciences, the Center for Leptospirosis, as well as the Biochemical Laboratory of the Institute for Workplace Hygiene. During 1952, the Academy merged all medical institutes and laboratories and established the Institute for Medical Re-



Figure 5 Charter of Franjo Kogoj as a corresponding member of the French Society of Allergology, Paris, 1951, HMMF-4476

search and Workplace Hygiene, which developed at an impressive pace. Its head was Branko Kesić, who also edited the journal *Arhiv za higijenu rada* [Archive for the Workplace Hygiene] established in 1950. Members of the Department of Medical Sciences at the time were: as full members Ivo Babić, Ivo Čupar, Branimir Gušić, Franjo Kogoj, Božidar Oklješa, Drago Perović, Andrija Štampar and Franjo Durst; and as corresponding members Branko Kesić, Ivo Tomašec and Otmar Trausmiller. The professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine in Zagreb Drago Perović regularly reported about the activities of the Section for Medical Sciences, while the veterinarian Božidar Oklješa referred about the activities of the Section for Veterinary Sciences. Meetings of the Section for Medical Sciences were not only dedicated to technical questions, but also incorporated lectures and discussions on various topics, especially those that were being prepared for publishing⁴⁰.

In the 1950s, the interest for allergy permeated various medical specialties. Kogoj's interest toward allergology had its roots in the time of his specialization, when he was impressed with experimental work and immunological research conducted in Josef Jadassohn's laboratories in Breslau (now Wroclaw in Poland). Thus, several photo portraits of dermatologists from Breslau form part of the Kogoj Collection, such as the photo portrait of Josef Jadassohn (1863–1936), the pioneer in allergology and the inventor of the patch test for contact dermatitis (Figure 4), and Hans Biberstein (1889–1965), who worked in Jadassohn's clinic and explored immunology and allergology. Kogoj's first papers on allergy were published in the late 1920s, and he continued to explore this topic throughout his career. Unsurprisingly, Kogoj gave an incentive in 1951 to organize a congress on allergy at the Academy, and the lectures given at the congress were published in *Rad* already in the following year⁴¹. His activities were also recognized internationally, so in 1952 he received the charter of the French Society of Allergology signed by its president Arnould Tzanck (Figure 5). Together with Albin Brnobić, in 1952 Kogoj founded the Allergology Section of the Croatian Medical Association, and was elected its first president⁴². In

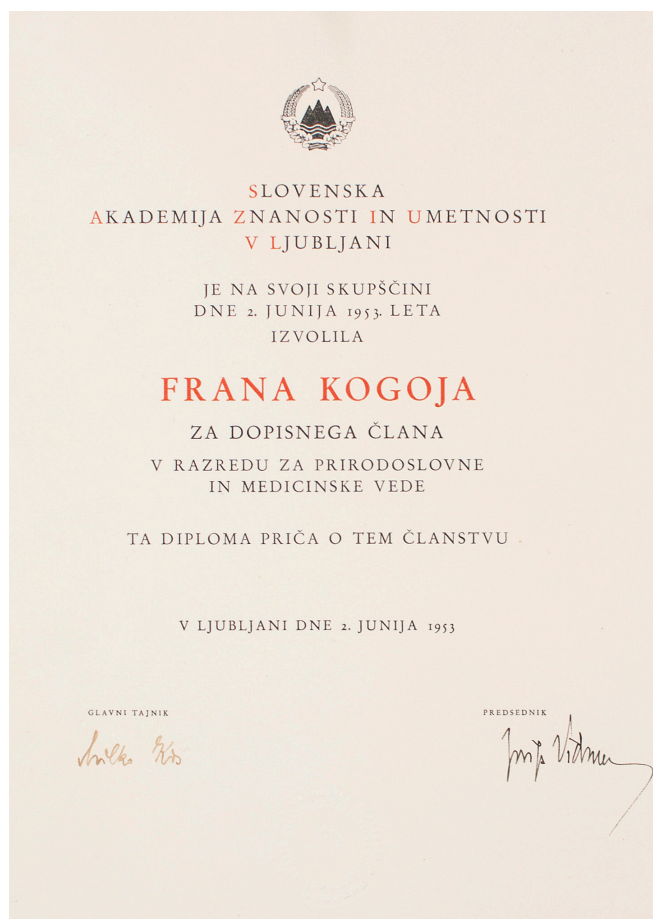


Figure 6. Charter of Franjo Kogoj as a corresponding member of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, 1953, HMMF-4487

1953, he became a corresponding member of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts (Figure 6).

Kogoj was undoubtedly responsible for inviting prominent dermatologists to the Academy as guest speakers. One of them was Alfred Marchionini (1899–1965), the German dermatologist famous for the 1950 establishment of the influential journal *Der Hautarzt*, which he edited for a number of years. From the same year there is also Kogoj's charter of his honorary membership at the Hamburg Dermatological Society, signed by Marchionini, as well as Marchionini's photo portrait with a dedication to Kogoj. Upon Kogoj's invitation, Marchionini gave a lecture at the Academy on April 22, 1952. Kogoj translated the abstract of the lecture, which was published in *Ljetopis*⁴³. Under Kogoj's editorship, the Academy also published *Izveščja dermatovenerološke klinike u Zagrebu* [The Reports of the Department of Dermato-venereology in Zagreb], which addressed topics such as micoses, burns, syphilis and other conditions⁴⁴ (Figure 7). In his chapter in the Reports, Kogoj presented his idea of the antisyphilitic therapy, emphasizing that it was "being built on foundations that derive from the biology of white treponeme and from the biology of the diseased organism"⁴⁵.

In 1954, the Department of Medical Sciences published another issue of *Rad* (book 299), while Kogoj with his associates authored the four hundred-page book *Spolne bolesti* [Venereal Diseases] published by the Academy. The Department of Medical Sciences also started preparing a new publication on geriatrics, and several lectures were being given on this subject during the Department's regular meetings. The work on collecting medical

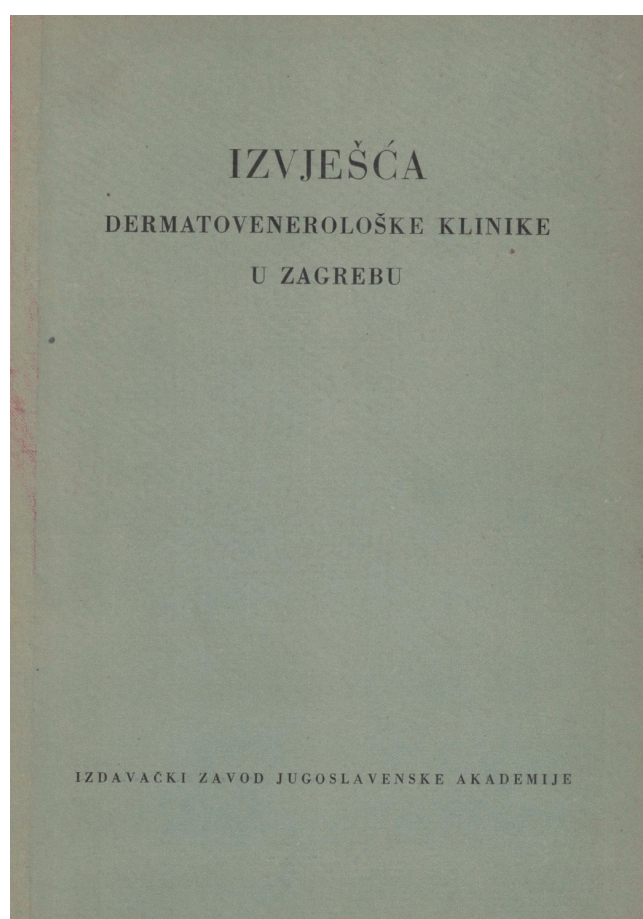


Figure 7 Report of the Department of Dermatovenereology, ed. Franjo Kogoj, YASA, Zagreb, 1952

and veterinarian terminology was also taking place. Given his important role in helping young scientists, Kogoj was assigned by the Academy's Council to participate at the CIOMS (Conseil des organisations internationales des sciences medicales) meeting in London in October 1954⁴⁶.

In 1955, Kogoj published a paper *O generaliziranoj kandidijazi* [On Generalized Candidiasis] in the Academy's journal *Rad*⁴⁷. In the same year, he gave a lecture *O postanku nekih bolesti* [On the Genesis of Certain Diseases] at the Academy. The Academy granted him financial support to participate at the international congress in Lille, where he gave a lecture on professional dermatoses, as well as his trip to Munich, where he gave a keynote at the meeting of the Society of Dermatologists. At the time, the grants were being given only to the candidates that applied for active participation in the international congresses, while the candidate did not necessarily need to be Academy's employee or its member. In his reports of the annual meetings by the Academy's Assembly, Štampar emphasized this openness of the Academy "towards all who wish to advance science and art and its dedication to provide financial support"⁴⁸. During 1955, the German dermatology journal *Der Hautarzt* published a paper by Alfred Marchionini dedicated to Kogoj on the occasion of his 60th birthday⁴⁹.

Among the many activities coordinated by the Department of Medical Sciences, one of the most progressive occurred within the Division for the History of Medicine of the Institute for Medical Research, led by the historian of medicine Mirko Dražen Grmek (1924–2000). In 1955, the Academy published

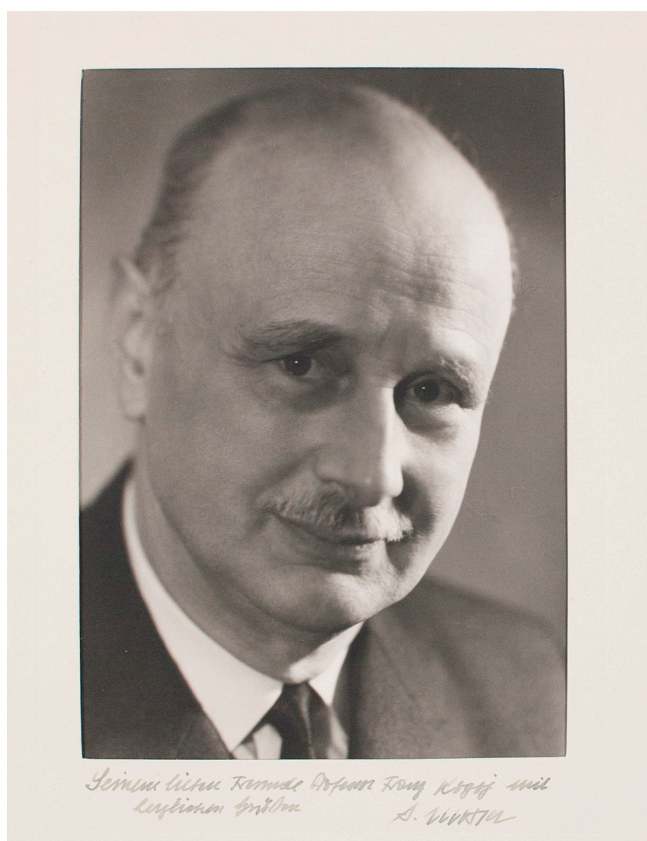


Figure 8. Anton Musger (1898–1983), corresponding member of YASA, Graz, circa 1960, HMMF-4562

Grmek's work *Hrvatska medicinska bibliografija* [Croatian Medical Bibliography]⁵⁰, while the members of the Department reviewed papers submitted by other historians of medicine. The Department sent Grmek on a study leave in Padua and Venice for two weeks, after which a lengthy report of the visit was published in *Ljetopis*⁵¹. At that time, the Department reflected the care which was being put into the development of the Croatian medical terminology. In 1955, Drago Perović reported that the project of cataloging the terminology had already commenced, and during one of the Department's regular meetings, he suggested the first one thousand terms, while also stimulating the discussion about the Croatian terms for tonsils⁵².

Inter-academy contacts were established between related Academy departments of the former state. For example, together with Otmar Trausmiller, Kogoj participated as the Department representative at the meeting of medical departments of the Three Academies and the Science Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina held in Ljubljana on February 27, 1957⁵³. In the same year, Kogoj participated at the international congress in Stockholm and entered the selection for the Preparatory Committee of the Twelve for the next dermatology congress, which was to be held in Washington in 1962⁵⁴.

Publishing business in the Academy developed according to its financial constraints. For instance, up until 1958 the Academy published fifty books annually, while in 1958 that number was almost halved at only twenty-six books due to a significantly smaller budget. In 1958 the number of employees also dwindled, since the Balneo-climatological Division, as well as the Division for Immunochemistry of the Institute for Medical Research were merged with the School of Medicine in Zagreb⁵⁵. During 1958, *Simpozij o gerontologiji* [Symposium on Gerontology]



Figure 9. Sven Hellerström (1901–1977), Stockholm, 1960, HMMF-4546

ology] was published and the activities related to the study of social pathology in the near future were agreed. Further on *Rad* number 316 was published and activities related to the research of medical terminology were continued, while those related to the veterinary terminology were temporarily suspended. Financial grants for congresses continued to be given to active participants, among others to Kogoj, who traveled to Krakow for the meeting of the Polish Dermatovenereological Society, where he was awarded a charter for honorary membership. Kogoj also received the financial grant for the Third International Congress on Allergy in Paris.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY (1958–1972)

In January 1959, Fellow of the Academy Ivo Čupar replaced Kogoj as the Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences. Kogoj was elected Vice-President of YASA on November 23, 1958, a position he held until March 15, 1972. As Vice-President and member of the Academy's Presidency, Kogoj was involved in the ongoing administrative work, especially the fostering of inter-academic and international cooperation. The Kogoj Collection enables the reconstruction of the networking behind some of the keynote lectures given by prominent international researchers in the Academy. Undoubtedly, the person behind Musger's (1952) and Marchionini's (1954) lectures was Kogoj, who maintained close contacts with both of them. Austrian dermatologist Anton Musger (1898–1983) was famous in our academic community for his initiative to hold interclinical colloquia between Graz and Zagreb, at which he also gave lectures. As an ex-rector of the University of Graz, Musger was present at the ceremonial meeting of the Teacher's Council of the School of Medicine in Zagreb held on December 20, 1967, when Kogoj was awarded a charter documenting his honorary membership at the School⁵⁶. Musger also held a keynote lecture



Figure 10 Award by the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of YASA, Belgrade, 1966, HMMF-4507

Noviji podaci o kožnoj retikulozi [New Data on Reticulosis of the Skin] in 1954, and on June 20, 1969 he was elected corresponding member of YASA57 (Figure 8).

A notice about the lecture held by the renowned Swedish dermatologist Sven Hellerström (1901–1977), responsible for his description of Lyme borreliosis, was published on the pages of *Ljetopis*⁵⁸. It was accompanied with information regarding Kogoj's participation at the Congress of Dermatovenereologists in Stockholm in 1957, presided by Sven Hellerström, and included the portrait with Hellerström's dedication to Kogoj from 1960 (Figure 9). It is without a doubt that Hellerström, just like Musger and Marchionini previously, held his lecture in the Academy after being invited by Kogoj. Similar circumstances brought to Zagreb the British team of dermatovenereologists led by Geoffrey Barrow Dowling (1891–1976), whose undated photograph is also in the Kogoj's collection of photo portraits. Dowling was a skin diseases consultant for St Thomas' and St John's Hospital, where he encouraged histopathological research and pointed out benefits of applying high doses of calciferole in the treatment of lupus vulgaris. He also founded the famous Dowling Club, which enlisted Kogoj as one of its members in 1959. In that year, a group of British dermatologists headed by Dowling visited Zagreb's Department of Dermatovenereology, as well as the Academy, where "a public meeting" was held⁵⁹. Despite high workload, Kogoj continued to publish in the Academy's *Rad*. In 1963, he gave a lecture in the Academy about Mal de Meleda, and in the same year this lecture was published by the Academy.

In the sixties, Kogoj sped up his activities related to allergology. During 1961, he organized the First Congress of Yugoslav Allergologists, as well as symposia on allergology in 1964 and 1967. It was his initiative on April 16, 1965 that led to the founding of YASA's Allergology Center on Hvar, "as a scientific research institute within the Academy's Department of Medical Sciences"⁶⁰. Members of the Expert Committee of the Center were, according to the decision by the Academy's Presidency on July 1, 1965, Branimir Gušić, Arpad Hahn, Zlatan Sremec and Milorad Mimica, while Franjo Kogoj was the head of the Expert Committee and the Center itself. The Director of the Allergology Center on Hvar was Želimir Dujmović, who trained in the Netherlands specifically for this role. During 1965, Kogoj participated at a meeting of the German Society for Allergology in Freiburg and Budapest, again with the Academy's support⁶¹.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1966, Kogoj received an award by the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia, which is also preserved in his collection (Figure 10). On June 30, 1967 elections for the Academy's Presidency were being held. Grga Novak was again elected President, while Kogoj was again elected Vice-President with 72 votes out of 74⁶². Kogoj was the recipient of prestigious charters for his contributions, especially in German speaking regions. Of particular importance is his election to the membership of the German Leopoldina (1966), the Austrian Academy of Science (1971) and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (1964).

In the seventies, Kogoj still focused on allergology. He organized the Dies italico-jugoslavici medicinae destinati in 1968, 1971, 1972 and 1974⁶³. In the period between 1967 and 1974, he was the Director of the Institute for Clinical Medical Research of the School of Medicine and the University Hospital Center Zagreb. In 1970, the Academy published Kogoj's book *Bolesti kože* [Skin Diseases]⁶⁴. The first number of *Glasnik Alergološkog centra JAZU* [Bulletin of the Allergology Center YASA], the first journal in Yugoslavia dedicated wholly to allergology, was published in 1972. This important undertaking, according to Vinko Bogdanić, would not be possible without Kogoj⁶⁵ (Figure 11). Kogoj's involvement in the Allergology Center's council and the editorial board of the Bulletin lasted until September of 1973, when the Department of Medical Sciences accepted Kogoj's resignation⁶⁶.

At the meeting of the Academy's Assembly on March 15, 1972, members of the Academy thanked Kogoj, whose mandate as Vice-President ended. On that occasion Fellow of the Academy Branimir Gušić stated that although he had participated only in the final three out of thirteen years of Kogoj's mandate in the Presidency, he knew that in the most difficult situations which required careful thinking, it was always Kogoj who knew how



Figure 11 Acknowledgment for the preservation of culture heritage of the island of Hvar, Hvar, 1974, HMMF-4461

to find the best solution. Among those who thanked Kogoj for his work in the Presidency was Grga Novak, who said: “During these thirteen years, which is not a short amount of time, he was always a best friend and a best adviser”⁶⁷.

Kogoj had an interest in a variety of topics in dermatovenereology, trying to assess the specificities of local dermatopathology in their relation to global knowledge. His work in the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts underlines this aspect, especially concerning his attempts to accommodate dermatovenereology within a broader social and cultural context. In that respect, Kogoj’s legacy outlines the establishment and the development

of institutions, scientific publishing, networking, cooperation and knowledge exchange, research in dermatovenereology and allergology, while contributing to the Croatian medical history and attempting to collect medical and veterinary terminology. Apart from this lasting legacy, Kogoj left the Academy a segment of his material heritage: a bust by Vanja Radauš, which his daughter Breda Kogoj Kapetanić donated to Gliptrotheque CASA in 2015, as well as the collection of photo portraits and charters which are now kept in the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy CASA.

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