

## **MAY IT NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!**

When we marked the important and exceptional 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous publication of our magazine *Numizmatičke vijesti* (Numismatic News) at the end of last year, we could not even imagine what was lying in store for us this year.

Right at the beginning of the year, we were unpleasantly surprised by the decision of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia not to continue co-funding our magazine, as it had been doing for thirty years, since the creation of our independent state. The Ministry of Culture and Media explained their decision only by saying that they were legally and formally discontinuing double funding for a programme from the state budget. As *Numizmatičke vijesti*, as a scientific journal, was also being co-funded by the Ministry of Science and Education, this move was easiest for them to make although we could only publish our journal with financial support from both the ministries. It is unfortunate that no stronger coordination between ministries exists so there are no professional services to watch over and monitor the fate of Croatian journals, at least the ones whose quality truly contributes to the international reputation of our culture and science.

At the end of February 2020, we were hit by the global coronavirus pandemic that is still rife although slowing down, and which is preventing many direct human contacts and greatly damaging many activities, including our own. The activities of the Croatian Numismatic Society (HND) were additionally affected by the catastrophic earthquake of 22 March 2020, when the seat of our Society was damaged.

Because of all this, we have been living under considerable stress all year round as we could not be sure of the further existence of our *Numizmatičke vijesti*. We believed that the Ministry of Science and Education would continue funding the journal but we did not know the amount or when the funds would be allocated. All financial issues related to its publication were “hanging” in the air almost until mid-December 2020, when we learned that we would receive funding from the Ministry of Science and Education, but insufficient to print the magazine.

But then a much desired and happy situation took place. The Croatian Monetary Institute (HNZ) accepted our offer of cooperation and made a decision to help the publication of our magazine this year, through the Agreement on Business Cooperation HNZ - HND. Without the funds from the Croatian Monetary Institute we would not have been able to publish this year’s number. We, on the other hand, have committed to permanently leave a space in our journal for the publication of all information related to the work of the mint, minting Croatian coins and medals. In this way, with full understanding of the overall situation in which *Numizmatičke vijesti* had found itself, HNZ gave momentous help to our magazine this year.

**Editor in chief**  
**Edgar Fabry**