

SUMMARY

SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE OSIJEK NEW TOWN AND IT'S SURROUNDINGS

Out of the other sculptures removed, there is an imposing Baroque statue of St. Ivan Nepomuk (once placed in front of the parish church of St. Mihael in the Fortress), but only memories remained.

This work supplements the data that were published in the previous volume of Osijek anthology as parts of letters by various authors which describe the past of Osijek's New town.

The author concludes that the New town, as an agricultural outskirts of Osijek, was founded in the end of 17th century, at the same time when the first works on the construction of new fortress began, earlier than some other authors quote.

All circumstances point to the fact that in the area of New town, at the same time with the works on the fortress, a shooting-range with the City garden was founded, which gradually develops into magnificent park with numerous attractive contents, and above all, a gala state-room with a stage, and becomes the center of social life in Osijek. The shooting-range, as a seat of Shooting society (according to the data from 1784), becomes the center of prominent citizens not only from Osijek, but from other places as well.

After the World War II, the new municipal authorities, with no sense and understanding for ecological and monumental values, had the whole park brought under cultivation, and the beautiful trees were sold for firewood! After that the ground was used for a football playground!

Due to great inflow of visitors to the City garden and Shooting-range, during the last century, there is a public transport to the New town. In the beginning it was a horse omnibus, and since 1884 a horse tram. An effort to bring the electric tram to the New town during electrification of Osijek in 1926. failed due to problems with realization of the crossing across the state railway-track. In 1930 there is the first private bus line from Upper to Down town via New town, but due to limited needs, couldn't survive. The other reason for unprofitability was cobble roadway.

The social structure of the inhabitants was very heterogeneous, which reflected on the houses, habits and customs of the inhabitants. Cultural life is present nevertheless, and thus a private music school is very successful, then a chess club, fire-brigade, and other organizations.

The New town has a joint grave-yard with the Fortress (Tvrđa), as it had a joint parish (until in 1976 a new parish of St. Ćiril and Metod was found). That grave-yard was abound in many interesting and valuable old tomb-stones, which mostly disappeared after the World War II. The remaining ones cry for protection. Out of many interesting cult monuments of national character, that were placed in the free area around the Fortress (Tvrđa), the author stresses the Stone cross (on the road heading from the New town to the Fortress), which represented environmental entity inserted into the surrounding area; then the onetime Calvary which was originally placed next to the Drava river (eastwards from the Fortress), and later on was moved to the south, but after the World War II disappeared.