

## UNDER THE NATIONAL AND THE STATE FLAG

Paško Lovrić, Zagreb

*Prof. Dr. Paško Lovrić,  
President of the Section of Cartography of the Croatian Geodetic Society  
and regular professor at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb*



Croatian national and state flag has waved two times under the sky of the Mediterranean beauty Barcelona. For the first time it was carried by Croatian sportsmen at the 25th Olympic games, and for the second time it was heaved by Croatian cartographers in 1995. The Republic of Croatia was, namely, due to efforts of the Section for Cartography in the Croatian Geodetic Society received into the International Cartographic Association - ICA. The event was realized primarily due to the decision of the Croatian Parliament of 8. 11. 1991 by which the Republic of Croatia became independent and sovereign state, and then owing to the organisational, scientific and productional cartographic activity which has been significantly promoted by the State Geodetic Administration. Both deserve at least a short historical and cartographic review.

The Republic of Croatia is a member of the United Nations only for four years, but it is one of the oldest European countries. Its history at the present territory started in the 7th century, in the form of Croatian principalities. The medieval kingdom of Croatia existed for almost two centuries from the coronation of the king Tomislav in 925 until the death of the last people's ruler, king Petar in 1097. This Country Croatia, i.e. in Arabian Bilad Garuasia, was marked on Idrisi's map from 1154. Even during the later centuries, under the crowns of Arpadovićs, Anžuvincis, Habsburgs and Karadorevićs, Croatia retained its state and legal uniqueness.

The most significant individual contributions were given to the cartographic knowledge about Croatia through the centuries by cartographers originating from the Croatian soil. The Croatian people made systematic cartographic presentations of their countries possible, investing into them their efforts and sweat, villeinage service and taxes. The presentations were performed by the central institutions from Venice, Vienna, Budapest, Istanbul, Paris and Belgrade.

### **The first motives from Barcelona**

Among all map users, the cartographers are mostly fond of the collectors of (old) maps and their International Map Collectors' Society - IMCoS. Their regular meetings in different states always highlight new discoveries and motives for the development of cartography. On the model of IMCoS symposium in 1986 in Barcelona, with the occasional exhibition of Catalanian maps, the symposium was organised in 1988 in Zagreb. At the exhibitions organised for that occasion in Zagreb, titled Five Centuries of Geographic Maps in Croatia and Croatian Coast on Maritime and Geographic Maps in 16-19th century organized in Dubrovnik, the huge richness of geographic maps was for the first time

presented in public. Due to these exhibitions, a more monumental and purposeful exhibition *Borders of Croatia on the Maps from 12th till 20th Century* could be organised at the beginning of 1993 in Zagreb.

Further contributions to Croatian science and culture in general, and especially to cartography are presented by an extraordinary beautiful monograph *Descriptio Croatiae - Croatian lands on geographic maps from the oldest times up to the appearance of the first topographic maps in 1993* made by the member of Academy Mirko Marković, and by the most extensive work on the cartographic knowledge of the Adriatic Area *Atlas - Cartographic monuments of the Croatian Adriatic Sea from 1995* by Mithad Kozličić.

### **Barcelona 1995**

The receipt of the Republic of Croatia into the International Cartographic Association was unanimously accepted and cordially welcome. In a magnificent city of friendly hosts, among the admirers of cartography from all over the world, who described and presented their achievements, one could very reliably determine the coordinates of Croatia, and its place in cartography. If we were better than some others, we should rejoice, and if we had been worse than those equal to us, we have to gather our wisdom and strength to catch up with and even surpass them.

The current substantial wealth of the entire offer submitted by the developed cartographies is characterized by its new graphics accompanied by the emphasized usage of colours as the means to express cartographic presentation. The colours and the perfect technical production of modern maps, which were only recently unimaginable, have been enabled by digital procedures in their production. They are produced on the basis of the centuries-old experience of cartographic expressing and of the latest discoveries in computer technology. One of the most impressive news at the exhibition were the bibliographic descriptions of American maps containing the data even about the computer accessories they were made with.

### **Lessons from Barcelona**

In the last five years the Republic of Croatia had to defend its existence through negotiations and with weapons. Therefore, there were no conditions for the creation of the reliable strategy in longterm development of cartography in the new state. As it was to be seen in Barcelona, in the European countries with the developed cartography, the roles of official cartography, of scientific and researching units and private cartographic enterprises are defined similarly.

In Croatia the official cartography should above all determine the density of the series of scales of topographic maps and the relation of the basic to the derived maps, taking into consideration the role of its initiated topographic and cartographic information system STOKIS, but also of the cadastral information system, as the fundamental spatial information systems. A special task of the official cartography together with archives is to take care of cartographic material stored in Croatian, and especially in foreign archives. It should not happen, that the succession rights of Croatia over the cartographic material from the two former Yugoslavias cannot be settled for decades, as it is the case with the examples occurring in the time after the First World War.

Scientific and researching units should above all find reliable procedures among the examples from the European East and West, which could make it possible for the Croatian cartography to pass from classical to digital procedures in map production successfully.

Private cartographic enterprises should first create new graphically nice maps, conceptually adapted to teaching purposes, intended for the most precious map users - the students.

It is to be expected that a representative wall map of the Republic of Croatia that all Croatian cartographers will be able to stand behind will soon be made. Numerous and complex tasks will not be finished by the existing cartographers. A lot of cartographic work will remain for the future generations to accomplish.