

## EDITOR'S COMMENT: EMBRACING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

### Editorial team

This is the nineteenth volume of the journal *Review of Croatian History* (RCH). As of this year, I am its editor-in-chief, the third one since 2005. My predecessor Mario Jareb managed the editorial work from 2012 to 2022. I thank him for the work done. I would also like to thank his assistant Stipe Kljaić, and the other members of the former editorial board. During their tenure, this journal increased its visibility in the domestic and international scientific community.

At the same time, I thank the new members of the editorial board for accepting the invitation to the team. The deputy editor-in-chief Ivana Horbec (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb) is a scholar focused on the social, institutional, and intellectual history of the early modern age. The editorial assistant Marko Vukičević (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb) has scientific interests in the fields of social and cultural history and the history of everyday life from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, focusing particularly on the First World War. The other members of the editorial board are experts with a scientific interest in a wide range of topics and disciplines, each within their chronological focus from medieval to 20th-century Croatian history. Tomislav Anić (Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb) is interested in the economic and political history of the 20th century. Irena Ipšić (University of Dubrovnik) has focused her scientific work on social and demographic history from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mario Jareb (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb) is a scholar with a focus on the cultural, political, and intellectual history of the 20th century. Hrvoje Kekez (Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb) is especially focused on the Croatian medieval history of elites, urban history, and heraldry. Stipe Kljaić (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb) is interested in intellectual history and the history of ideologies in the 20th century. Sanja Lazanin (Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Zagreb) has her scientific interest in the cultural, urban, and demographic history of the early modern age with a focus on ethnic and migration issues, stereotypes, and images of the Other. Eldina Lovaš (Croatian Institute of History, Department of History of Slavonia, Srijem, and Baranja, Slavonski Brod)

is interested in social and demographic history and the history of religion in the early modern period. Tihana Luetić (Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, Institute for Historical and Social Sciences, Zagreb) has her scientific interest in social, cultural, and institutional history of the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Ivica Miškulin (Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb) has a scientific interest in the political history of the 20th century with an emphasis on the contemporary history of Croatia. Antun Nekić (University of Zadar) has his research interest in the history of elites (nobles), institutional history, and history of administration in medieval Slavonia with a focus on the construction of identities, and exercise of power. The editorial team of such a wide scholarship spectrum will undoubtedly contribute to the journal's continuity in presenting the latest scientific results on Croatian history in broad chronological spectra.

## **National History as a Scope?**

The research of Croatian history is at the center of this journal's scope. However, having such a focus can be a motive for criticism. The national history approach is already considered so conventional that historians seeking successful international careers often avoid dealing with it.<sup>1</sup> In such criticism, the 'national' is associated with the 'nationalistic', and consequently the exceptionalism. In this view, Croatian professional historiography dealing with national history, regardless of its periodization, can also be misrepresented as sterile, closed, or insular. By accepting this narrative, it could be referred to as a continuity of historicism of the 19th century, that hub to the national history of the 'nationalistic' arguments. What often precedes such derogative conclusions is a superficial review of nothing more than the title of a book, article, or journal. Is it important then to deal with national history in such an environment? As to a historian of the 20th century, it is especially clear that it is.

What enables the historiographical value of national history research that goes beyond negative evaluations is the introduced methodology. Idiosyncratic narrative, in terms of bias, should be possible to avoid then. Well-documented and argument historiography should never give way to the works of "historiographical entrepreneurs", as defined by Thomas Maissen.<sup>2</sup> Critical

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Maissen, "National History and New Nationalism in the Twenty-First Century: Introductory Remarks," in *National History and New Nationalism in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Niels F. May and Thomas Maissen (New York and London: Routledge, 2021), 1-22, 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 5.

use of various sources that can produce sustainable conclusions within a peer-critique environment is the hallmark of professional historiography. On this basis, the research of national history can be approached by multiple disciplines, perspectives of observation, and methodologies. This kind of scholarship will continuously be published here.

Consequently, if Croatian professional historiography is not seen in a simplified, non-analytical, and eliminative way, one can see that it is vibrant and involved in a wide range of international historiographical movements. Through the conduction of various highly competitive scientific projects, the framework of its research gives novel impetus and foundation to the disciplines of intellectual, economic, cultural, institutional, or even political history.

## The Cover Explained

The guest editor of the thematic forum of this *RCH* issue is Vlasta Švooger (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb), principal investigator of the just-completed scientific project “European Origins of Modern Croatia: Transfer of Ideas in Political and Cultural Fields in the 18th and 19th Centuries”, on which you can read more in the following *Guest Editor’s Introduction*. Transfers of ideas as a powerful medium of shaping and influencing societies can thus be traced in a transnational and diachronic environment. In this way, Croatian history does not remain isolated, it is observed according to its constant changes and influences.

Isidor Kršnjavi, Head of the Department of Worship and Education, had the intention of transferring ideas to the Croatian school system at the end of the 1880s. Even at the central building of the Department, he pursued to symbolically furnish it with these intentions. In plain historicism narrative, of course.

Today, the named building is the house of the Croatian Institute of History where a painting by Bela Čikoš-Sesija called “Homer Teaches Dante, Shakespeare, and Goethe to Sing” is preserved in Kršnjavi’s former office. The painting was made at the personal request of Kršnjavi, who tried to allegorically mark the influence of ancient ideas on European literature. In pedagogy, he pursued it into practice by introducing the first reading book of world literature into high schools. The detail of Čikoš-Sesija’s painting is shown on the cover of this issue. Dante, Shakespeare, and Goethe are thus representing the transfer of ideas, which is problematized in many ways in this issue.

## History Lab

*The History Lab* is a new section that is introduced here. Its title is certainly not universally original, but it best explains the intention of encouraging the development of historiographical methodology, practice, work, theory, and perspectives. The papers that will be evaluated by the Editorial team as successfully argued examples of new approaches and tools in the historiographical processing of various topics, regardless of the discipline, will be published in this section. The journal's structure enables the intersection and overview of different historical periods, considering the diversity of methods and approaches in their research. Thereby, it is possible to encourage the transfer of methodology and tools in the research of cross-disciplines of history scholarship.

As part of the *History Lab*, Zrinko Novosel's article "The Basics of General Financial Science by Antun Ferdinand Albely. Knowledge Circulation and Digital Text Analysis of a Legal Textbook" is presented in this issue. The author investigated the circulation of knowledge at the beginning of the 19th century by using the tools of digital analysis of the text of the first scientific textbook on public finance written for students of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Zagreb. In his paper, Novosel tried to use digital tools to obtain enough quantitative indicators that show how the work of Antun Ferdinand Albely was influenced by the then-greatest authority on public finance, Joseph von Sonnenfels.

Finally, this issue includes papers that primarily deal with the social, political, and micro-history of the first half of the 20th century. In the article "Croatian and Slovak Political Catholicism and Clericalism in the Period Between the First and the Second World War", Domagoj Tomas researched the influence capacity of political Catholicism in Croatian and Slovak society between the two world wars. Three co-authors, Darija Hofgräff Marić, Vedran Muić and Anamarija Pupiće-Bakrač in their paper "Emigration of Korčulans to Brazil - Serious Calamity or Enticement to Emigration?" investigated the case of the most massive emigration from the island of Korčula to Brazil in 1925, examining how much the emigration was influenced by necessity or recruitment actions of local officials and agents of the steamship companies. Domagoj Novosel, in his paper entitled "A Teacher in a Croatian Village during the First World War and the Interwar Period - the Example of Stanko Horvatin in Gračani (1913 - 1933)", which is a combination of biography, microhistory and everyday history, described the life and activities of Stanko Horvatin, headmaster of the village school in Gračani near Zagreb during the First World War and the interwar period.

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Editor-In-Chief