

Book review: Husref Tahirovic, *Dr. Isak Samokovlija – Life in a White Coat*

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AUTHOR:

STELLA FATOVIĆ-FERENČIĆ

In the premises of the Cultural and Information Center of the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zagreb, in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Center for the Coordination of Medical Research in Sarajevo, the promotion of the book by academician Husref Tahirović, *Dr. Isak Samokovlija - Life in a White Coat*, was set up on November 9, 2023. The promotion was opened by the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Croatia, Elma Kovačević-Bajtal. The book was presented by: academician Lidija Lincender-Cvijetić, Stella Fatović-Ferenčić, the Head of the Division for the History and Philosophy of Science, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Julija Koš, expert in Jewish studies, and finally its author Husref Tahirović, academician of ANUBiH. Zoran Perković, minister-counselor at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zagreb, also gave short introductory speech. The moderator was an actor Mirza Pinjić. The promotion aired traditional Sephardic songs from the *Unforgettable Sephardic Melodies* cycle by singer-songwriter Jagoda Flory.

Isak Samokovlija is primarily known for his literary works such as: *Od proljeća do proljeća* (1929), *Nosač Samuel* (1946), *Tragom života* (1948) and *Priča o radostima* (1953), as well as several dramas such as *Hanka*, *Plava Jevrejka*, *On je lud*, and *Fuzij*. Less recognized on the other hand is his medical work in various places throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. This evidently motivated the author Husref Tahirović to elaborate on that part of Samokovlija's life. The book contains two parts: the first is Samokovlija's biography, represented and illustrated in detail and documented with ninety-eight quotations. The second part contains Samokovlija's articles divided according to their form into four categories: texts with developed characters, short stories, professional articles and poetry. Among the texts with developed characters, the series of texts by *Baba Mara* stands out. All presented texts have educational commitment and are composed in a simple and memorable way that public can understand it properly.

Samokovlija healed people who belonged to different nations or religions, and who, even during periods of peace, lived next to each other bringing support or spiritual upgrading to each other. The book is instructive and almost addictive. I believe, therefore, that its content will take root among readers in the same way that Isak Samokovlija's enlightening texts led the fight against diseases and ignorance and took root among the people of our territories.

