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Croatian Academy of Engineering

Engineering Power

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CAETS

Croatian Academy of Engineering received a memo from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia dated April 7th, 2008 with regards to the organization of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Ruđer Bošković in 2011.

Extract of the memo:

“Apart from the preparations for international symposium celebrating the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Illyrian Provinces, a project of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Ruđer Bošković has also been announced.

We are free to entrust you with the organization of the celebration with the participation of Croatian and French scientists and historians in 2011 in respect to the experiences gained in the realization of the Nikola Tesla project.” (završetak citata).

At the meeting of the Presidency held on May 12th, 2008 Croatian Academy of Engineering accepted the proposal of the Ministry. Therefore, we would like to inform you below about the characteristics of the life and work of Ruđer Bošković.

Ruđer Josip Bošković – Toward the 300th Anniversary of his Birth

So far numerous pages have been written about famous and world renowned Croatian scientist Ruđer Josip Bošković and his work. He has been a scientist with a wide scope of activities; philosopher, astronomer, mathematician, physicist, geodesist, constructor of instruments, hydro technician, expert in statics, archeologist and moreover a writer and diplomat. In preparations to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his birth, let us briefly remember his life and work with special emphasis to his contribution to engineering.

He was born in Dubrovnik on May 18th, 1711 and died in Milan on February 13th, 1787. In Dubrovnik he attended Collegium Ragusinum up to 1725 when he joined the Jesuits in the novitiate of St. Andrew on Quirinal in Rome. He finished the novitiate with *ad studia* rating in 1727. At the main college of his order, Collegium Romanum, he attended rhetoric from 1727 to 1729, as well as triennial studies of philosophy from 1729-1732 and theology from 1738-1741. In the period between the studies of philosophy and theology he lectured, as master of *grammaticae et humanitatis*, in colleges of Rome and Fermo. In 1740 as the third year student of theology he started lecturing *mathematics* at the Collegium Romanum study of philosophy. He took his clerical vows and the oath of obedience to the pope in 1744. During his life he changed four posts: public professor of *mathematics* at the Collegium Romanum study of philosophy from 1740 up to 1760, together with absence from Rome due to research and diplomatic reasons; professor of *mathematics* on the revived University in Pavia from 1764 to 1789 under Austrian authority; professor of *applied mathematics with optics and astronomy* at the court colleges in Milan from 1770 to 1773; head-master of optics with the French Navy from 1774 up to 1782.

He undertook four voyages: a visit to Dubrovnik in 1747, geodetic and cartographic expedition from Rome to Rimini from 1750-1752, travels to Lucca and Vienna from 1756-1758 due to hydro technical dispute between Lucca and Tuscany and a study travel to European capitals from 1759 to 1763 when he visited

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HATZ 28 Kačić Street, P.O.B. 59, 10001 Zagreb, Croatia, e-mail: hatz@hatz.hr, web: www.hatz Vol 7(1) 2008 – ISSN 1331-7210

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Editor-in-Chief/Glavni urednik: Zlatko Kniewald

Editorial Board/Urednički odbor: Zlatko Kniewald, Goran Granić, Stanko Tonković, Branka Zovko-Cihlar.

Secretary of the Editorial Board/Tajnica Uredničkog odbora: Marija Pačar Translator and reader/Prevoditeljica i lektorica: Goranka Lokin

Collaborators in this issue of the Bulletin/Suradnici u ovom broju Glasnika: Zdenka Bolanča, Juraj Božičević, Jasna Kniewald,

Zlatko Kniewald, Miljenko Lapaine, Stanko Tonković, Đurđa Vasić-Rački, Branka Zovko-Cihlar, Vilko Žiljak

Phone/Fax: + 385 1 4922 559 Fax: + 385 1 4922 569

Technical Editor/Tehnički urednik: Vladimir Pavlić, GRAPA, Zagreb, Croatia

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