

O počasnim doktoratima dodijeljenima Nikoli Tesli u Zagrebu i drugdje

About honorary doctorates awarded to Nikola Tesla in Zagreb and elsewhere

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SAŽETAK

U ovom radu, na osnovi sustavnoga redoslijeda i cjelovitoga prikaza, opisana je dodjela počasnog doktorata Nikoli Tesli na Sveučilištu u Zagrebu. Pritom su korišteni primarni izvori informacija (zakoni, dokumenti, prijevod doktorske diplome, novinski članci). Ukazano je na to da je Tesla dobio počasno mjesto na novom rektorskom lancu. Također je dan osvrt na dodjelu počasnih doktorata Nikoli Tesli i na drugim sveučilištima i visokim školama, služeći se sekundarnim izvorima (referentna literatura, katalozi, mrežne stranice). Kritičkim prikazom ukazano je na to da postoji dosta pogrešno navedenih podataka u dosad objavljenim publikacijama, što je ispravljeno. Štoviše, dodani su i protumačeni novi dosad nepoznati podatci. Na osnovi tako tretiranih podataka

SUMMARY

This paper aims to provide a systematic and comprehensive overview of the process involved in awarding honorary doctorates to Nikola Tesla at the University of Zagreb as well as other universities and colleges. Primary sources of information were reviewed (laws, documents, translation of doctoral diploma, newspaper article) for the doctorate awarded by the University of Zagreb. Secondary sources (reference literature, catalogs, web pages) were reviewed for doctorates awarded by other universities. The findings were critically evaluated. It is briefly mentioned that Tesla was given an honorary position on the new rector's chain. The critical evaluation indicated that a lot of erroneous data has been published so far. These erroneous data have been carefully corrected. Additionally, new data has been discovered, analysed and incorporated in the manuscript. Based on the data treated in this way, a synthesis of knowl-

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načinjena je sinteza znanja o dodjeljivanju počasnih doktorata Nikoli Tesli.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: Nikola Tesla, dodjela počasnih doktorata, druga sveučilišta i visoke škole, Sveučilište u Zagrebu

TIJEK I POSTUPAK DODJELE POČASNOG DOKTORATA SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU NIKOLI TESLI IZ TEHNIČKIH ZNANOSTI

Ovaj rad iznosi nove, dosad nepoznate činjenice vezane uz tijek i postupak dodjele titule počasnog doktora Sveučilišta u Zagrebu te manje poznate okolnosti vezane uz uručivanje Tesli diplome počasnog doktora tehničkih znanosti. Kako je riječ o tehničkoj tematici treba pojasniti kako se razvijala visokoškolska tehnička nastava u Hrvatskoj. Tehnička visoka škola u Zagrebu osnovana je 10. prosinca 1918., započela je s radom 1. listopada 1919., a nastava već 20. listopada iste godine. Kao samostalna ustanova škola je imala svojega rektora i dekane na čelu pojedinih (od sveukupno osam) odjela. [1] Prema zapisniku Proforskog vijeća tehničke visoke škole sa sjednice održane 13. srpnja 1920., raspravljano je o inicijativi Rektorata Sveučilišta u Beogradu o jedinstvenom zakonu na Sveučilištu u Jugoslaviji. Vijeće je tada smatralo važnim da škola ostane samostalna i neovisna o sveučilištu. Budućnost škole bila je upitna jer se već godine 1921./1922. javljaju glasovi o preseljenju škole u Beograd. Godine 1922./1923. škola je smanjila broj odjela i nije održala nastavu za III. i IV. godinu elektrotehnike, ali ni to nije otklonilo opasnost za sigurnost i opstanak škole. Na sjednici vijeća od 10. veljače 1925.

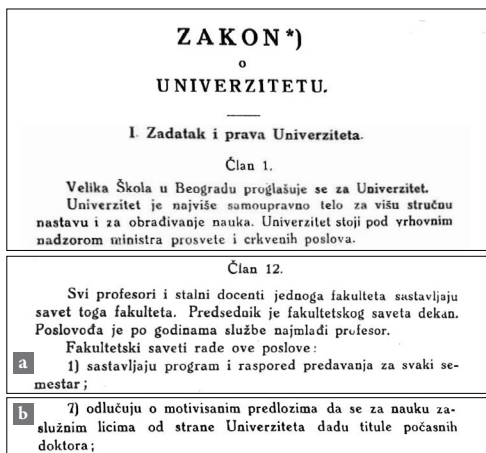
edge about the awarding of honorary doctorates to Nikola Tesla was made.

KEYWORDS: Nikola Tesla, awarding of honorary doctorate by University of Zagreb, awarding of honorary doctorates by other universities and colleges

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF AWARDING AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB TO NIKOLA TESLA IN TECHNICAL SCIENCES

Given that we are dealing with a technical topic, it is of interest to point out how higher education technical teaching developed in Croatia. The Technical High School in Zagreb was founded on December 10, 1918, it started operating on October 1, 1919, and classes began on October 20, 1918. As an independent institution, the school had its own rector and deans of individual departments (8 in total). [1] According to the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020, the Council of Professors of the Technical High School discussed the proposal put forward by the University of Belgrade that the unified Yugoslav University Law be developed. At that time, the Council considered it important that the School remained independent and independent from the university. The future of the school, however, was questionable. As early as 1921/22 there were rumors about moving the school to Belgrade. In 1922/23 the school carried out a reduction of departments and did not hold classes for III and IV year of electrical engineering, but even that did not eliminate the danger of the school being closed. At the council's meeting held on 10 February 1925, the new university law and the Technical High School were discussed. While some participants of the meet-

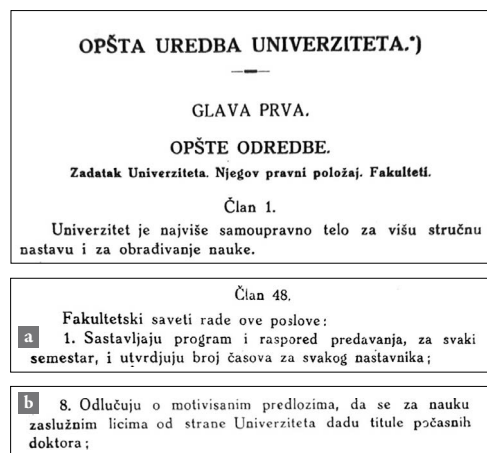
raspravljalo se o novom sveučilišnom zakonu i Tehničkoj visokoj školi. Dio nazočnih zastupao je tezu o samostalnosti škole, dok su drugi preporučili oprez jer bi se moglo dogoditi da kao samostalna škola u budućnosti bude zastavljena. Dana 9. prosinca 1925. na izvanrednoj sjednici profesorskog vijeća raspravljalo se o novom sveučilišnom zakonu. Od dvadeset nazočnih šest ih se izjasnilo da škola bude samostalna, dok ih je četrnaest predlagalo da škola postane fakultet. Kako se uvidjelo da zakonska osnova o sveučilištu ne će biti tako brzo ozakonjena, ministar prosvjete Stjepan Radić (1871. – 1928.) došao je do spasonosne ideje da se financijskim zakonom Tehnička visoka škola pretvori u fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. To bi se ostvarilo tako da Zakon o Univerzitetu u Beogradu (slika 1) i Opća uredba tog Univerziteta (slika 2) protegnu valjanost na Sveučilište u Zagrebu. [2]



Slika 1. Zakon o Univerzitetu u Beogradu [3]:
a – član 12. Zakona, stavak 1;
b – član 12. Zakona, stavak 7

Figure 1. The Law about the University of Belgrade [3]
a – article 12 of the Law, paragraph 1;
b – article 12 of the Law, paragraph 7

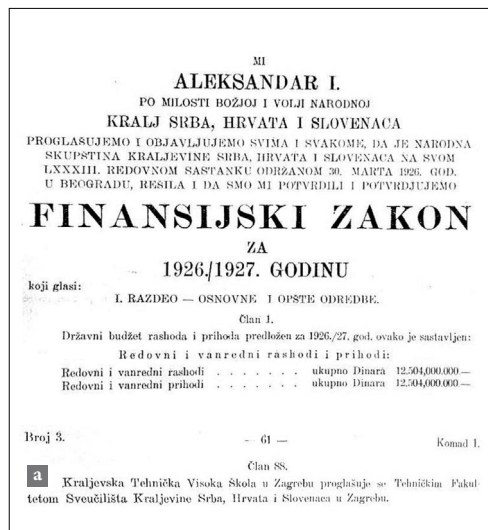
ing advocated the thesis of the independence of the Technical High School, other participants of the meeting recommended caution, because of the risk of being neglected if the School remained independent. On December 9, 1925, the new university law was discussed at an extraordinary session of the faculty council. Of the 20 present, 6 were in favor of the school being independent and 14 were in favor of the school becoming a part of a university. As it became clear that the new university law would not be legislated in a timely manner, the Minister of Education Stjepan Radić (1871-1928) came up with the life-saving idea of using the Financial Law to turn the Technical High School into a faculty of the University of Zagreb. This would be achieved if the law about the University of Belgrade (Figure 1) and the General Regulation of University of Belgrade (Figure 2) extended their validity to the University of Zagreb. [2]



Slika 2. Opšta uredba Univerziteta [4]:
a – član 48., stavak 1; **b** – član 48., stavak 8

Figure 2. General regulation of the Belgrade University [4]
a – article 48, paragraph 1;
b – article 48, paragraph 8

Financijski zakon za 1926./1927. (slika 3) stupio je na snagu objavom u *Službenim novinama* Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca 31. ožujka 1926. [5] Tako je od 1. travnja 1926. škola *de iure* postala Tehnički fakultet. Rektorat Sveučilišta u Zagrebu službeno je izvijestio školu da je Tehnička visoka škola nakon proglašenja financijskoga zakona *de facto* postala Tehnički fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Na posljednjoj, 200. sjednici vijeća



Slika 3. Financijski zakon za 1926./1927. a – član 88.

Figure 3. Financial Law for 1926/27 season a – article 88

Tehničke visoke škole, koja je održana 15. svibnja (neki izvori navode 25. svibnja) 1926., pročitan je dopis rektora Sveučilišta u Zagrebu Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca Drage Perovića (1888. – 1968.) br. 1863 od 11. svibnja 1926. upućen rektoratu Tehničke visoke ško-

Financial Law for class 1926/27. (Figure 3) was put in the effect with its publication in the Official Newspaper of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes on March 31, 1926. [5] Thus, from April 1, 1926, the school became the Technical Faculty. The Rectorate of the University of Zagreb has officially informed the school that the Technical High School, as a matter of fact, became the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb after the promulgation of the Financial Law. At the last, 200th session, of the Council of the Technical High School, which was held on May 15 (some sources say May 25) 1926, a letter from the Rector of the University of Zagreb of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Drago Perović (1888-1968) was read. The letter no. 1863, dated May 11, 1926, was sent to the Rectorate of the Technical University in Zagreb. [2,6] The letter stated that the academic senate would start acting according to the new law. The newly formed Technical Faculty was requested to elect a dean and vice-dean, according to the new law (Art. 88), and inform the rector's office about the outcome. The rector was to convene a session of the university senate. [7]

On completion of the 200th session of the Technical High School, the 1st session of the Council of the Technical Faculty was held. An objective difficulty should be pointed out here. Due to the Zagreb earthquake in the year 2020, it was not possible to get possession of the minutes from the sessions of the Technical Faculty from 1 to 156 (until December 12, 1936), which can be found in the second book of minutes. However, first book of minutes was available, on May 28, 1926, the Technical Faculty informed the rectorate of the University of Zagreb in document number 843/1926 that the Council of the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb on May 26, 1926, at its second regular session, unanimously decided that Nikola Tesla,

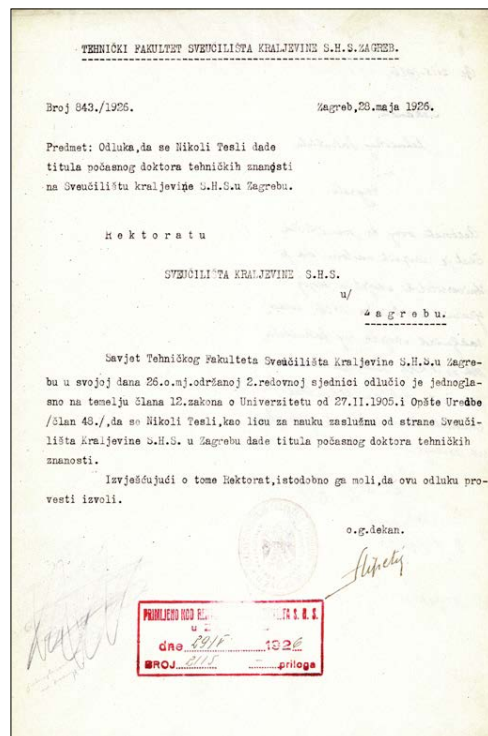
le u Zagrebu. [2,6] U dopisu se navodi da će „akademički senat početi djelovati po novom zakonu a naslov se umoljava da prema novom zakonu (čl. 88) izabere dekana i prodekana te o tome obavijesti rektora te će nakon učinjenog rektor sazvati sjednicu univerzitetskog senata“.

[7] U nastavku te sjednice održana je 1. sjednica Savjeta Tehničkog fakulteta. Ovdje valja ukazati na objektivnu poteškoću, jer zbog potresa u Zagrebu godine 2020., nije bilo moguće doći u posjed zapisnika sa sjednica Tehničkog fakulteta od 1. do 156. (do 12. prosinca 1936.) koji se nalaze u drugoj knjizi zapisnika. Tehnički fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu je 28. svibnja 1926. spisom broj 843/1926. obavijestio Rektorat Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, da je savjet Tehničkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu dana 26. svibnja 1926. na svojoj drugoj redovitoj sjednici jednoglasno odlučio da se Nikoli Tesli, kao osobi zaslužnoj za nauku od strane Sveučilišta u Zagrebu dodijeli titula počasnog doktora tehničkih znanosti (slika 4).

Rektorat Sveučilišta u Zagrebu je spisom broj 2115-1926 od 21. lipnja 1926. obavijestio dekanat Tehničkog fakulteta u Zagrebu da je sveučilišni savjet na svojoj sjednici od 2. lipnja 1926. usvojio zaključak savjeta Tehničkog fakulteta da se Nikola Tesla promovira na čast doktora tehničkih znanosti *honoris causa* i to jednoglasno. [8]

Te činjenice dosad nisu objelodanjene. Javnosti je bilo poznato jedino to da je svečana promocija uručenja diplome počasnog doktora tehničkih znanosti Niko-

as a person credited for his contribution to science, was awarded the title of honorary doctor of technical sciences by the University of Zagreb (Figure 4).



Slika 4. Odluka Tehničkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu o dodjeli počasnog doktorata Nikoli Tesli

Figure 4. The decision of the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb to award an honorary doctorate to Nikola Tesla

On June 21, 1926 (file number 2115-1926), the rectorate of the University of Zagreb informed the dean of the Technical Faculty in Zagreb about the outcome of the university council session held on June 2, 1926. The conclusion of the Technical Faculty council was that Nikola Tesla be promoted to the honor of Doctor of Technical Sciences *honoris causa* was unanimously accepted. [8]

li Tesli bila održana u Zagrebu 29. lipnja 1926. (slika 5).

O dodjeli počasnog doktorata Nikoli Tesli na Sveučilištu u Zagrebu od dnevnih novina pisao je izravno jedino *Jutarnji list* [10], a posredno dnevnik *Riječ* [11]. U nepotpisanom članku u *Jutarnjem listu*

The process involving honorary doctorate title to be awarded to Nikola Tesla has not been published before. To date, the only information known to the public was that the ceremonial conferral of the awarding of the diploma of Honorary Doctor of Technical Sciences was held in Zagreb on June 29, 1926 (Figure 5).



Slika 5. Preslika diplome Sveučilišta u Zagrebu iz 1926. o dodjeli titule – *gradus doctoris honoris causa* u području tehničkih znanosti Nikoli Tesli [9]

Figure 5. Copy of the diploma of the University of Zagreb from 1926 awarding the title – *gradus doctoris honoris causa* in the field of technical sciences to Nikola Tesla [9]

netočnost se pojavljuje već u samom naslovu. U njemu je navedeno da je Tesli dodijeljeno odlikovanje začasnim doktorom tehničkih nauka. To tada nije bilo tako.

Only one daily newspaper, *Jutarnji list*, directly wrote about the awarding of an honorary doctorate to N. Tesla at the University of Zagreb. [10] In addition, the daily newspaper *Riječ* wrote about it

Ipak, počasni doktori kojima je ta čast podijeljena za vrijeme kada je Hrvatska bila u sastavu Austro-Ugarske Monarhije mogli su se podičiti da su dobili odlikovanje. Ali to je moralo biti potvrđeno od samog cara. U *Jutarnjem listu* objavljen je i govor rektora zagrebačkog Sveučilišta kojeg je on u auli Rektorata dana 29. lipnja 1926. održao na toj svečanosti. Rektor je naglasio: „Nikola Tesla usljed svojih svjetskih pronalazaka, koja su od fundamentalne važnosti, predstavlja simbol pronalazača. Slava njegova imena proširila se diljem svijeta. Tesla nije naučenjak običnog tipa: već njegov rad graniči sa umjetnošću. Uvažavajući njegove epohalne pronalazke fakultet zagrebačkog Sveučilišta predložio je univerzitetkom vijeću, da mu se u znak priznanja njegovih pronalazaka podijeli čast doktora tehničkih nauka »*honoris causa*«. Na svečanosti su još govorili i dekan Tehničkog fakulteta prof. Gjuro Stipetić (1876. – 1946.) i prof. Stanko Hondl (1873. – 1971.), kao predstavnik akademije. U tom se članku uočava nepotpunost jer je izostavljen podatak da Tesla nije bio nazočan na svečanosti.

Zanimljivo je da je Stanko Hondl deset godina kasnije također govorio na svečanosti posvećenoj Nikoli Tesli. [12] Rektor Stanko Hondl je 1936., u povodu osamdesete godišnjice rođenja Nikole Tesle, na skupu posvećenom u njegovu čast, rekao: „...Ako smo ga imenovali doktorom tehničkih znanosti, nismo htjeli da ga ocijenimo jednostrano: Tesla nije samo zastupnik tehnike, radnik na polju primijenjene znanosti, nego je, poput tolikih drugih znamenitih tehničara, još i fizičar. Po nje-

indirectly. [11] In the unsigned article published in *Jutarnji list*, the inaccuracy was found in the title itself. The title stated that Tesla was awarded a diploma of Honorary Doctor of Technical Sciences, which was not correct.

At the time when Tesla was awarded the honorary doctor title, Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his honorary doctorate had to be confirmed by the emperor himself. *Jutarnji list* also published the speech given by the rector of the University of Zagreb in the aula rectorate during the award ceremony, on June 29, 1926. The rector emphasized: „Nikola Tesla, due to his world-class inventions, which are of fundamental importance, is a symbol of inventors. The fame of his name spread all over the world. Tesla was not an ordinary scientist: his work bordered on art. Recognizing his epoch-making inventions, the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb proposed to the university council that he be awarded the honor of Doctor of Technical Sciences »*honoris causa*«. The dean of the Technical Faculty, prof. Gjuro Stipetić (1876-1946) and representative of the academy, prof. Stanko Hondl (1873-1971), also spoke at the ceremony. The article, however, was incomplete; it did not state that Tesla did not attend the ceremony.

Interestingly, prof. Stanko Hondl also spoke at the ceremony dedicated to Nikola Tesla 10 years later, in 1936. [12] The ceremony was held in Tesla's honor on the eightieth anniversary of his birth. Rector prof. Stanko Hondl said: „...If we appointed him a doctor of technical sciences, we did not want to evaluate him unilaterally: Tesla is not only a representative of technology, a worker in the field of applied science, but, like so many other famous technicians, he is also a physicist. In 1891, at a gathering of electrical technicians, Tesla stated that nature was the most interesting and most valuable research topic of them all. In 1992, he claimed that

mu je priroda, kako je izjavio pred američkim elektrotehničarima g. 1891, predmet od kojega nema zamamljivijega ni vrijednijega da se proučava. A najljepši je za njega »izum« – kako reče pred Englezima g. 1892. – otkriće t.z.v. radiantne tvari. Rekao je u to doba, kada još nije mogao slutiti golemu važnost što će ta pojava steći u tehnici 20-tog stoljeća. Govorio je tom zgodom iz njega fizičar, kojemu upoznavanje prirode samo po sebi ide nad sve one koristi kojima to upoznavanje može uroditi za čovječji materijalni život.“

U ovom radu, uz presliku diplome *honoris causa* daje se i prijevod originalnoga latinskoga teksta na hrvatski jezik. Prijevod je načinio vrsni prevoditelj Teo Radić. On je uz cijeli tekst preveo i kraticu pri vrhu diplome: Q.B.F.F.F.Q.S. Hrvatski je prijevod te kratice: „Bilo dobro, blagoslovljeno, sretno i čestito“.

U prijevodu nastavak teksta glasi:

MI REKTOR

I SVEUČILIŠTE KRALJEVINE SRBA,
HRVATA I SLOVENACA U ZAGREBU.
DRAGO PEROVIĆ, DOKTOR OPĆE
MEDICINE, REDOVNI PROFESOR
ANATOMIJE I DEKAN TEHNIČKOG
FAKULTETA; GJURO STIPETIĆ,
INŽENJER, REDOVNI PROFESOR
BRODOGRADNJE, I JERKO ALAČEVIĆ,
INŽENJER, REDOVNI PROFESOR
GRADNJE CESTA I ŽELJEZNICA
PROPISNO IMENOVAN PROMOTOR
ODLUKOM TEHNIČKOGA
FAKULTETA,
NIKOLI TESLI,
INŽENJERU, POČASNOM ČLANU
MNOGIH AKADEMIJA ZBOG

the most beautiful »invention« was a discovery of so-called radiant substances. This statement was given at the time when he could not have guessed the enormous importance that radiant substances would acquire in the technology of the 20th century. He spoke as a physicist for whom getting to know nature in itself went beyond all the benefits that getting to know nature can bring into human material life.“

In this work, along with a copy of the *honoris causa* diploma itself, a translation of the original Latin text into Croatian is provided. The translation was made by the excellent translator Teo Radić. Along with the entire text, he also translated the abbreviation at the very top of the diploma: Q.B.F.F.F.Q.S. The Croatian translation of that abbreviation is: „Be well, blessed, happy and virtuous“.

In the translation, the continuation of the text reads:

WE RECTOR

AND THE UNIVERSITY OF KINGDOM
OF THE SERBIANS; CROATS AND
SLOVENIANS IN ZAGREB. DRAGO
PEROVIĆ, DOCTOR OF GENERAL
MEDICINE, REGULAR PROFESSOR
OF ANATOMY AND DEAN OF THE
TECHNICAL FACULTY GJURO STIPETIĆ,
ENGINEER; REGULAR PROFESSOR OF
SHIPBUILDING AND JERKO ALAČEVIĆ,
ENGINEER; REGULAR PROFESSOR OF
ROAD AND RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION
PROPERLY APPOINTED PROMOTER
BY DECISION OF THE TECHNICAL
FACULTY

TO NIKOLA TESLA,

AN HONORARY MEMBER OF MANY
ACADEMIES, WE AWARDED THE
HONORARY TITLE OF DOCTOR TO
THE ENGINEER, FOR EXCEPTIONAL

IZUZETNIH I SJAJNIH ZASLUGA
U TEHNIČKIM ZNANOSTIMA
I LJUDSKOM RODU VRLO
KORISNIH IZUMA NA POLJU
ELEKTROTEHNIKE DODIJELILI
SMO POČASNI NASLOV DOKTORA
TEHNIKE TE SVA PRAVA I
POVLASTICE; A ZA OVJERU TOGA
ČINA POBRINULI SMO SE DA SE
OVA ISPRAVA POTVRDI PEČATOM
SVEUČILIŠTA. ZAGREB,
29. LIPNJA 1926.

Pri dnu diplome su vlastoručni potpisi (slijeva na desno) promotora Jerka Alačevića (1876. – 1963.), rektora Drage Perovića i dekana Gjure Stipetića. [13]

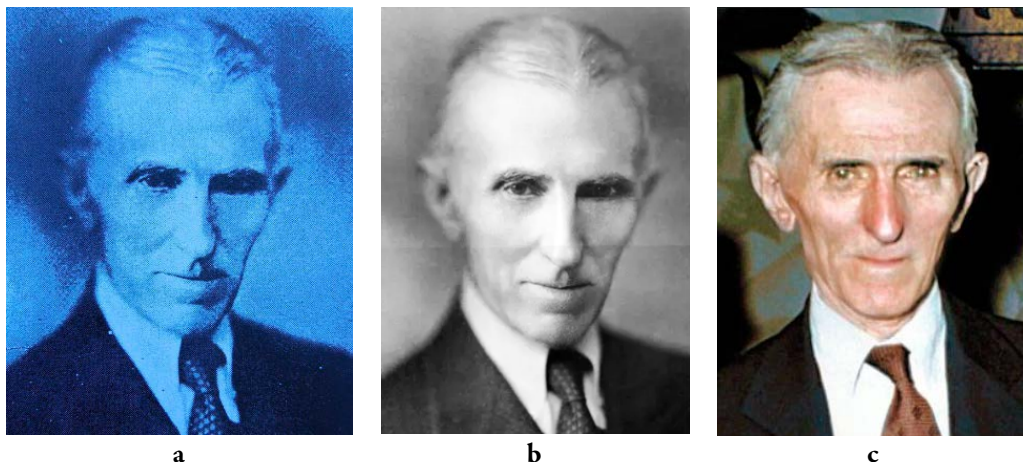
Okolnosti vezane uz dodjelu diplome i listova rektora Sveučilišta i dekana Sveučilišnog fakulteta također su osvijetljene u ovom članku. Profesor Milan Čalogović (1878. – 1945.) je Tehničkom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu javio da je 6. kolovoza 1926. uručio Nikoli Tesli diplomu i listove rektora i dekana. Na kraju obavijesti Milan Čalogović moli da se obavijest o predaji diplome proslijedi rektoru Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Pri dnu obavijesti je nadnevak 10. kolovoza 1926. i naziv grada u kojem je pisana, a to je bio New York. Taj dokument sa izvorom je usuglašen u Zagrebu 31. kolovoza 1926., kada je dopisom broj 1256/1926 Tehnički fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, obavijestio Rektorat Sveučilišta u Zagrebu da dostavlja pismo profesora Milana Čalogovića kojim javlja da je Nikoli Tesli osobno uručio diplomu počasnog doktora tehničkih znanosti i privatni list poslan od strane rektora (slika 6).



Slika 6. Popratni dopis Tehničkog fakulteta Rektoratu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu uz pismo prof. dr. Milana Čalogovića

Figure 6. Cover letter from the Technical Faculty to the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb with a letter from prof. dr. Milan Čalogović

AND BRILLIANT MERIT IN TECHNICAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITY AND VERY USEFUL INVENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. TECHNIQUES AND ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES; AND FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THAT DEED, WE MADE SURE THAT THIS DOCUMENT WAS CONFIRMED WITH THE SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY. ZAGREB,
JUNE 29, 1926.



Slika 7. Nikola Tesla u dobi od 77 godina

a – Tesla prema Iveziću, **b** – Tesla prema Pejnoviću, **c** – Tesla Online

Figure 7. Nikola Tesla at age of 77

a – Tesla according to Ivezic, *b* – Tesla according to Pejnovic, *c* – Tesla Online

Iz prijamnog je štambilja utvrđeno da je Rektorat navedeni dopis primio 21. rujna 1926. pod brojem 4019 i to s jednim prilogom. [8] U nastavku je fotografija Nikole Tesle (slika 7) u poznim godinama. [14]

Druge počasti

Uz proslavu 300. obljetnice osnutka Sveučilišta godine 1969. izrađen je novi rektorski lanac – ovratnik, dar ondašnjega predsjednika Jugoslavije Josipa Broza Tita. Lanac – ovratnik rad je kipara i medaljera akademika Koste Angelija Radovanija (1916. – 2002.) i sastoji se od četrnaest srebrenih pločica, gotovo kvadratnog oblika, poredanih u obliku trake na koju su izrađene medalje (slika 8).

S rektorove desne strane ovratnika na člancima, poredani odozdo prema gore, nalaze se sljedeći likovi:

At the very bottom of the diploma are the handwritten signatures (from left to right) of promoter Jerko Alačević (1876-1963), rector Drago Perović and dean Gjuro Stipetić. [13]

Circumstances related to the awarding of the diploma and certificates of the University Rector and the Dean of the University Technical Faculty are also covered in this article. Professor Milan Čalogović (1878-1945) informed the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb that he presented Nikola Tesla with the diploma and letters from the rector and dean on August 6, 1926. At the end of the notification, Milan Čalogović asks that the notification about the graduation be forwarded to the rector of the University of Zagreb. The notification was written in New York and dated August 10, 1926. The notification document was agreed with the source in Zagreb on August 31, 1926, when in letter number 1256/1926, the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb forwarded the letter of notification received from



Slika 8. Novi rektorski lanac Sveučilišta u Zagrebu iz 1969.

Sliku je za potrebe Sveučilišta u Zagrebu snimio Filip Beusan, a ustupljena je ljubaznošću gospođe Sandre Kramar, voditeljice Ureda za odnose s javnošću

Figure 8. The new rector's chain of the University of Zagreb from 1969

The photo was made for the needs of the University of Zagreb by Filip Beusan, and was provided courtesy of Mrs. Sandra Kramar, Head of Public Relations Office

1. **Mathias Flacius-Illyricus, Matija Vlačić Ilirik** (1520. – 1575.), protestantski teolog, crkveni povjesničar, filolog
2. **Marcus Antonius de Dominis, Markantun de Dominis** (1560. – 1624.), biskup u Senju, nadbiskup u Splitu, filozof i matematičar

Professor Milan Čalogović to the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb. In the letter of notification Professor Milan Čalogović stated that he had personally presented Nikola Tesla an honorary doctorate in technical sciences and a private letter sent by the rector (Figure 6).

According to the receipt stamp, the above specified document (number 4019, with one attachment) was received by the rectorate on September 21, 1926. [8] For the sake of interest, photographs of Nikola Tesla (Figure 7) in later years are included. The photographs related to the awarded of honorary doctorates. [14]

Other honorary

With the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the University, in 1969, a new rector's chain was made – a collar, a gift from the president of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito. The chain-necklace is the work of sculptor and medalist academician Kosta Angeli Radovani (1916- 2002) and consists of fourteen silver plates, almost square in shape, arranged in the form of a strip on which medals are made (Figure 8).

To the right of the rector's collar on the articles, arranged from bottom to top, are the following characters:

1. **Mathias Flacius-Illyricus, Matija Vlačić Ilirik** (1520-1575), protestant theologian, church historian, philologist
2. **Marcus Antonius de Dominis, Markantun de Dominis** (1560-1624), bishop in Senj, archbishop in Split, philosopher and mathematician
3. **Marinus de Ghetaldi, Marin Getaldić** (1568-1626), writer and scholar, mathematician who dealt with geometrical optics
4. **Pavao Ritter Vitezović** (1652-1713), writer, historian and politician

3. **Marinus de Ghetaldi, Marin Getaldić** (1568. – 1626.), pisac i učenjak, matematičar koji se bavio geometrijskom optikom
4. **Pavao Ritter Vitezović** (1652. – 1713.), književnik, povjesničar i političar
5. **Vatroslav Jagić** (1838. – 1923.), profesor komparativne lingvistike i slavistike
6. **Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger** (1856. – 1936.), sveučilišni profesor i ravnatelj Geološko-paleontološkoga odjela Hrvatskoga narodnoga muzeja u Zagrebu
7. **Andrija Mohorovičić** (1857. – 1936.), geofizičar i seizmolog, upravitelj Meteorološkoga observatorija u Zagrebu.
S rektorove lijeve strane na ovratniku su:
 8. **Franciscus Patricius, Fran Petrić** (1529. – 1597.), profesor filozofije, pisac radova o astronomiji i meteorologiji
 9. **Faustus Verantius, Faust Vrančić** (1551. – 1617.), filozof, povjesničar, leksikograf i izumitelj
 10. **Joannes Lucius, Ivan Lucić** (1604. – 1679.), povjesničar
 11. **Ruđer Josip Bošković** (1711. – 1787.), matematičar, fizičar, astronom, filozof
 12. **Franjo Rački** (1828. – 1894.), profesor teologije, kanonik, povjesničar i političar
 13. **Fran Bulić** (1846. – 1934.), teolog, klasični filolog, arheolog, ravnatelj Arheološkoga muzeja u Splitu
 14. **Nikola Tesla** (1856. – 1943.), izumitelj izmjenične struje i radio-tehnike.
5. **Vatroslav Jagić** (1838-1923), professor of comparative linguistics and Slavic studies
6. **Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger** (1856-1936), university professor and director of the Geology-Paleontology Department of the Croatian National Museum in Zagreb
7. **Andrija Mohorovičić** (1857-1936), geophysicist and seismologist, director of the Meteorological Observatory in Zagreb.
From the rector's left side on the collar are:
 8. **Franciscus Patricius, Fran Petrić** (1529-1597), professor of philosophy, writer of works on astronomy and meteorology
 9. **Faustus Verantius, Faust Vrančić** (1551-1617), philosopher, historian, lexicographer and inventor
 10. **Joannes Lucius, Ivan Lucić** (1604-1679), historian
 11. **Ruđer Josip Bošković** (1711-1787), mathematician, physicist, astronomer, philosopher
 12. **Franjo Rački** (1828-1894), prof. theologian, canon, historian and politician
 13. **Fran Bulić** (1846-1934), theologian, classical philologist, archaeologist, director of the Archaeological Museum in Split
 14. **Nikola Tesla** (1856-1943), inventor of alternating current, radio technology.
On the face of the chain pendant are the figures of:
 15. **Marko Marulić** (1450-1524), writer and Christian humanist
 16. **Ivan Gundulić** (1589-1638), Baroque poet and politician in the Dubrovnik Republic.
On the reverse is:
 17. **Josip Juraj Strossmayer** (1815-1905), Bishop of Đakovo and politician. [15]

Na licu privjeska lanca nalaze se:

15. **Marko Marulić** (1450. – 1524.), književnik i kršćanski humanist

16. **Ivan Gundulić** (1589. – 1638.), barokni pjesnik i političar u Dubrovačkoj Republici.

Na naličju lanca nalazi se:

17. **Josip Juraj Strossmayer** (1815. – 1905.), đakovački biskup i političar. [15]

DODJELA POČASNIH DOKTORATA NIKOLI TESLI NA DRUGIM SVEUČILIŠTIMA I VISOKIM ŠKOLAMA

Teslin mukotrpan i plodonosan rad nije ostao bez priznanja. Tako su Tesli, uz zagrebačko Sveučilište, počasne doktorate podijelili Sveučilište Columbia (1894.) (slika 9), Bečka Visoka tehnička škola (1908.) (slika 10), Beogradski Tehnički fakultet i Univerzitet (1926.) (slika 11), Praška Visoka tehnička škola (1936.) (slika 12), Poitiersovo Sveučilište u Francuskoj (1937.) (slika 13), Visoka tehnička škola u Grazu (1937.), Visoka tehnička škola u Brnu (1937.) (slika 14), Pariško Sveučilište Sorbona (1937.) (slika 15), Politehnička škola u Bukureštu (1937.) (slika 16), Sveučilište u Grenobleu (1938.), Sofijsko Sveučilište (1939., doktorat iz fizike) i drugi.

Zanimljivo je da se najviše i najpouzdanijih podataka nalazi u publikaciji *Tribute to Nikola Tesla*, Teslinog Muzeja u Beogradu [15] i katalogu Matee Brstilo Rešetar – *Nikola Tesla: the man who lit up the world*, Ministarstva kulture Republike Hrvatske

AWARDING OF HONORARY DOCTORATES TO NIKOLA TESLA AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Tesla's painstaking and fruitful work did not go without recognition. In addition to the University of Zagreb, Tesla was awarded honorary doctorates by Columbia University (1894) (Figure 9), Vienna Technical College (1908) (Figure 10), Belgrade Technical Faculty and University (1926) (Figure 11), Prague Technical College (1936) (Figure 12), University of Poitiers in France (1937) (Figure 13), University of Technology in Graz (1937), University of Technology in Brno (1937) (Figure 14), University of Paris Sorbonne (1937) (Figure 15), Polytechnic School in Bucharest (1937) (Figure 16), University of Grenoble (1938), Sofia University (1939 – doctorate in physics) and others. Interestingly, the most reliable information is given by the data published in the Publication *Tribute to Nikola Tesla*, Nikola Tesla Museum, Belgrad [15] and the catalog by Matea Brstilo Rešetar – *Nikola Tesla: the man who lit up the world*, Zagreb, Ministry of Culture, the Republic of Croatia. [9] The aforementioned publication lists 12 honorary doctorates awarded to Nikola Tesla. Reliability is reflected in the fact that the publication states (in addition to the years) the dates or months of the awarding of the doctorate.

Here it is interesting to note that Tesla received honorary doctorates in New York and Vienna without his consent. [16]

It is also interesting to emphasize the double mistake made by the Technical Univer-



Slika 9. Doktorat Sveučilišta Columbia, New York, dodijeljen u lipnju 1894.

Figure 9. Doctorate from the Columbia University, New York awarded in June 1894

[9] s popisom 12 počasnih doktorata dodijeljenih Nikoli Tesli. Pouzdanost se te publikacije očituje i u činjenici što se u njoj osim godine navode i potpuni nadnevcu ili samo mjeseci dodjele doktorata.

Ovdje valja napomenuti da su počasni doktorati u New Yorku i Beču Tesli dodijeljeni bez njegova pristanka. [16]

Ovdje je zanimljivo naglasiti dvostruku pogrešku koju je načinila Tehnička visoka škola u Brnu. Prva pogreška odnosi se na nadnevak Teslina rođenja (umjesto 1957.

sity in Brno. The first mistake concerns the date of Tesla's birth (Tesla was born in 1856, not in 1957) and the country of birth (he was born in Austria-Hungary, not in Yugoslavia). Dušan Pejnović emphasized that the information about Tesla's birth was given quite wrongly in his series of three continuations of one work written in 1927, so it crept into lexicons and American encyclopedias. In 1944 Pejnović stated (in footnote 5 on p. 102): There are often incorrect biographical and geographical data about Tesla.



Slika 10. Doktorat Tehničke visoke škole u Beču, dodijeljen 24. svibnja 1908.

Figure 10. Doctorate from the Technical University in Vienna awarded on May 24, 1908

treba stajati godina 1856.) i država rođenja nije Jugoslavija već Austro-Ugarska Monarhija. Dušan Pejnović je već 1927. u svojoj seriji od tri nastavka jednog rada naglasio da se podatak o Teslinom rođenju često pogrešno navodi, pa se to uvuklo u leksikone i američke enciklopedije. Pejnović je također u svom radu iz 1944. naveo (u fusnoti 5 na 102. str.): „O T e s l i dolaze često neizpravni biografski i zemljopisni podatci. La grande Encyc-

La grande Encyclopédie t. 30 (Paris) brings: Tesla „...Hungarian physicist...; in Encyclopedia Americana 16 (New-York-Chicago 1926) it is stated that Tesla studied technology in Graz, the capital of Croatia (there is similar information in Encyclopedia Britannica, 14. iz. Vol 21/1929); Poggendorff's Handwörterbuch (1904) writes that the Tesla's birthplace is in Serbia. The correct information about Tesla is in the lexicon



Slika 11. Doktorat Tehničkog fakulteta u Beogradu, dodijeljen 15. lipnja 1926.
Figure 11. Doctorate from the Technical Faculty in Belgrade awarded on June 15, 1926



Slika 12. Doktorat Tehničke visoke škole u Pragu, dodijeljen 28. listopada 1936.
Figure 12. Doctorate from the Technical College in Prague awarded on October 28, 1936



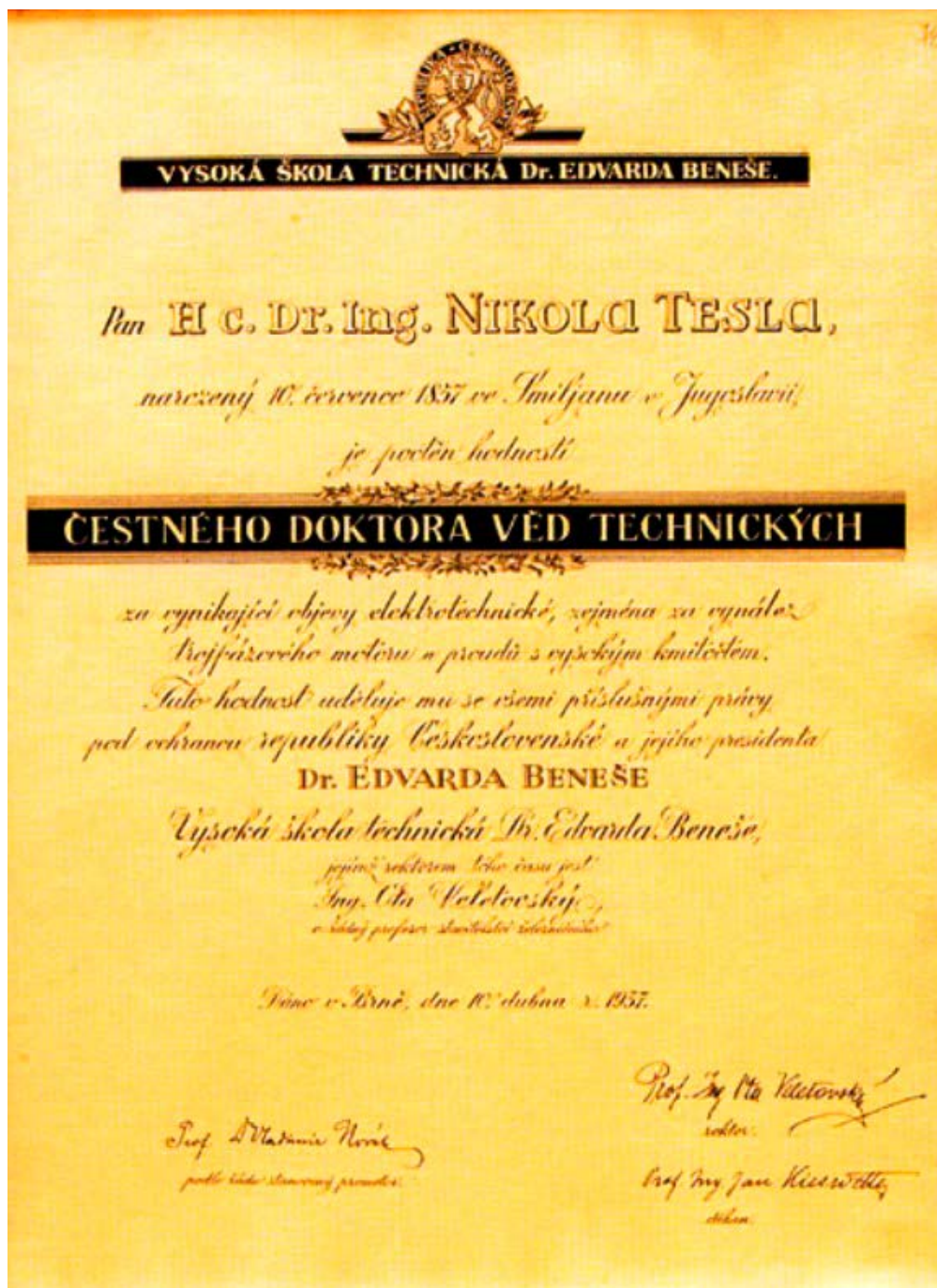
Slika 13. Doktorat Sveučilišta Poitiers u Francuskoj, dodijeljen 6. siječnja 1937.

Figure 13. Doctorate from the University of Poitiers in France awarded on January 6, 1937

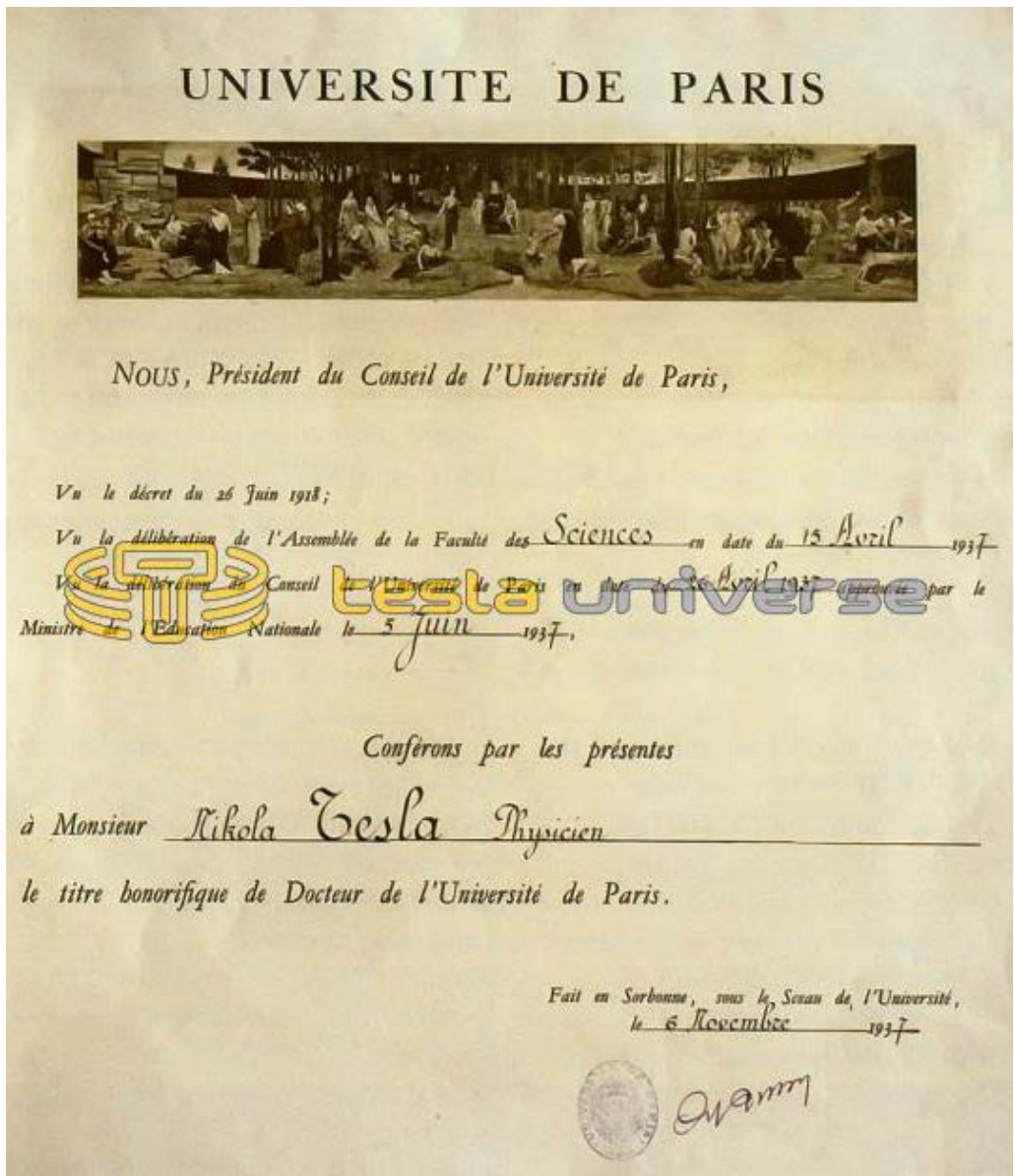
lopédie t. 30 (Paris) donosi: Tesla, ...madžarski fizičar...; u Encyclopedia Americana 16 (New-York-Chicago 1926) stoji, da je T. učio tehniku u Grazu, glavnom gradu Hrvatske; sličan je podatak u Encyclopedia Britannica, 14. iz. Vol 21/1929); Poggendorff's Handwörterbuch (1904) piše, da se mjesto

Der Grosse Herder, 4th ed., vol. 11 (1931). [17,18]

When it comes to online sources, while they indicate that Tesla was awarded between 13 to 15 honorary doctorates, these online sources do not provide details and lack precision. [19-22]

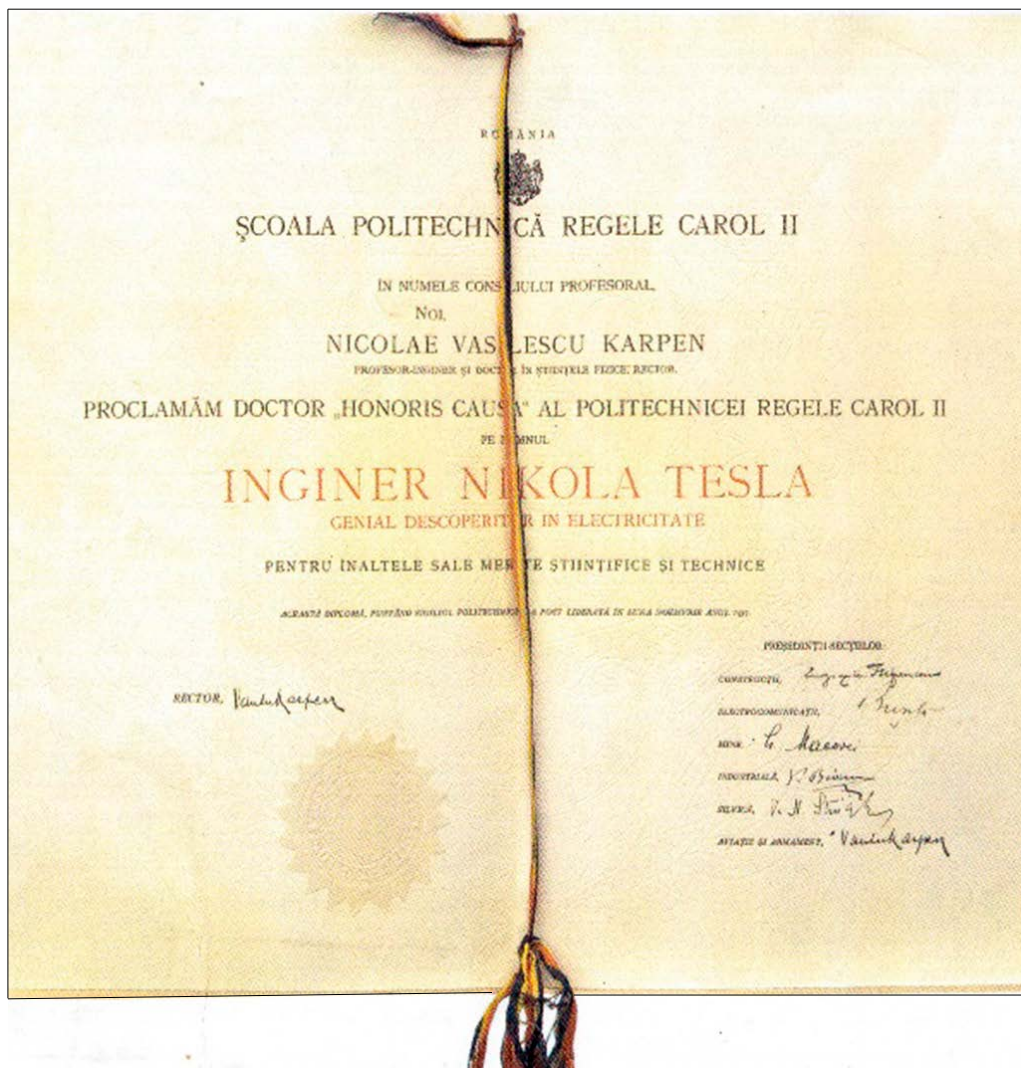


Slika 14. Doktorat Tehničke visoke škole u Brnu, dodijeljen 10. travnja 1937.
Figure 14. Doctorate from the Technical College in Brno awarded on April 10, 1937



Slika 15. Doktorat Sveučilišta Sorbona u Parizu, dodijeljen 6. studenoga 1937.

Figure 15. Doctorate from the Sorbonne University in Paris awarded on November 6, 1937



Slika 16. Doktorat Politehničke škole u Bukureštu, dodijeljen u studenom 1937.

Preslika diplome kojom je inženjer Nikola Tesla dobio titulu počasnog doktora (*Doctor Honoris Causa*) od strane Politehnike kralja Charlesa II. (1937.), dobivena je ljubaznošću Kabineta rektora Nacionalnog sveučilišta za znanost i tehnologiju POLITEHNICA Bukurešt, na zahtjev gospođe Carmen Florea iz Veleposlanstva Rumunjske u Republici Hrvatskoj.

Figure 16. Doctorate from the Polytechnic School in Bucharest awarded in November 1937

A copy of the diploma with which engineer Nikola Tesla was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the King Charles II Polytechnic (1937) was obtained courtesy of the Office of the Rector of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, at the request of Mrs. Carmen Florea from the Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Croatia.

T e s l i n a rođenja nalazi u Srbiji. Ispravni su podatci o T e s l i u leksikonu Der Grosse Herder, 4. izd., sv. 11 (1931)“. [17,18]

Kada je riječ o mrežnim izvorima, navodi se da je Tesla dodijeljeno od 13 pa do čak 15 doktorata, bez opširnijih i preciznijih pojedinosti. [19-22]

ZAKLJUČAK

S obzirom na iznesenu potpunost nameće se nužni zaključak da su znameniti znanstvenici, inženjeri i sveučilišni profesori, osobito hrvatski, visoko cijenili Teslin mukotrpan i plodonosan rad, istraživanja i doprinose iz elektrotehnike ali i fizike. Stoga je posve razumljivo da je Tesla višestruko nagrađen visokom čašću – dodjelom počasnih doktorata kao i postavljanjem portreta na 14. pločicu rektorskog lanca.

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CONCLUSIONS

Based on the presented evidence, it can be concluded that famous scientists, engineers and university professors, especially Croatian, highly valued Tesla's painstaking and fruitful work, research and contributions in electrical engineering as well as in physics. Therefore, it is completely understandable that Tesla was repeatedly honored with a high honor – the awarding of honorary doctorates by universities around the world, as well as the placement of his portrait on the 14th plaque of the University of Zagreb rector's chain.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

This paper has not been published in the same form nor offered for publication in any other periodical or non-periodical publication. The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

IZJAVA O SUKOBU INTERESA

Ovaj rad u istom obliku nije objavljen niti ponuđen za objavljivanje nekoj drugoj periodičnoj ili neperiodičnoj publikaciji. Autor izjavljuje da nije u sukobu interesa.

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