

THE CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

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History

The first half of the nineteenth century saw the emergency of the Croatian National Revival, whose ideas challenged the existing imperial absolutism and feudal order of the Austrian Empire. Its leaders soon conceived the idea of founding "a learned society whose aim would be to promote culture in the national language". In the 1836 the Croatian Parliament immediately endorsed the idea and incorporated it into a parliamentary conclusion. Since the conclusion was not confirmed by the Austrian emperor, Ferdinand I, the Parliament repeated its proposal in 1843, 1845, and 1847. However, due to the Revolution of 1848, the restoration of absolutism in the ten years that followed, the abolition of the constitution, and the dissolution of the Parliament, all further activities were postponed for 13 years.

Then, Josip Juraj Strossmayer, bishop of Đakovo and Srijem, took action to found a South Slavic Academy in Zagreb - *Academia Scientiarum et Artium Slavorum Meridionalium*.

Bishop Strossmayer officially raised the Academy issue at a session of the Croatian Parliament on 29 April 1861. Following the bishop's proposal, the Parliament immediately elected a committee to draw up a statute for the Academy, and define its aims and organization. It was only five years later, on 4 March 1866, that the rules of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, in a considerably changed form, were finally confirmed by Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary.

When the Academy was finally constituted, both actually and legally, bishop Strossmayer was elected patron of the Academy and Franjo Rački, a distinguished Croatian historian, its first president. Under Strossmayer and Rački, the Academy became an eminent institution of learning, which collaborated with well-established European academies. Strossmayer called the Academy Yugoslav (meaning "Southern Slav") because he wanted to promote the development of sciences and culture of all the South Slavic nations, including the Bulgarians. The Academy in Zagreb, however, has always been Croatian in its membership and its activities. Besides, soon after the foundation of the Zagreb Academy, the Serbian and Bulgarian Academies were established, so that the idea that the Academy in Zagreb was an institution which could bring together all the South Slavic nations became impracticable. All the publishing activities of Zagreb's Academy have been primarily and permanently focused on the study of Croatian history, culture, language, and natural heritage.

Franjo Rački, the first President of the Academy, initiated and edited a number of Academy's editions and publications. The first issue of the scholarly periodical *Rad (Monographs)* was published already in 1867. The first volume of *Ljetopis (Annals)* was published in 1887, and it soon became one of the regular annual publications of the Academy.

The name remained unchanged (with the exception during the World War II) until the establishment of independent Republic of Croatia. After the breakup of Yugoslavia, Croatia has become an independent and internationally recognized country, and the Croatian Parliament made a decision to change the name of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts into the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The new Croatian Academy Act was passed by the Croatian Parliament on 26 June 1991, confirming the importance of all the activities of the highest institution of sciences and arts in the Republic of Croatia.

Organization and membership

The main bodies of the Academy are:

- (a) the Assembly, which includes all full members of the Academy,
 - (b) the Presidency, the executive organ of the Assembly, which consists of the Executive Board, secretaries of the departments, and five full members of the Academy who are elected by the Assembly.
- The Academy consists of full, honorary, corresponding, and associate members. The Academy initiated its activities in 1866 with 16 full members, and this number has steadily grown to its current level of 160 today. Full members reserve the right to bear the title of Fellow of the Croatian Academy (F.C.A.), and they are part of the permanent working structure of the Academy. The Croatian Academy may elect as honorary members persons who are especially deserving for the development and progress of sciences and arts.

Distinguished scientists and artists from abroad who collaborate with the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts may be elected as corresponding members. The maximum number of corresponding members is 160.

Distinguished younger scientists or artists from the Republic of Croatia may be chosen as associate members. This group may include a maximum of 100 members.

The Academy's tasks are carried out through its departments. The working structure of the departments is made up of full members, while corresponding and associate members belong to their broader structure.

Today the Academy consists of the following departments:

- I. The Department of Social Sciences
- II. The Department of Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences
- III. The Department of Natural Sciences
- IV. The Department of Medical Sciences
- V. The Department of Philological Sciences

- VI. The Department of Literature
- VII. The Department of Fine Arts
- VIII. The Department of Music and Musicology
- IX. The Department of Technical Sciences.

The departments are run by their secretaries, and decisions are made at departmental sessions. The Academy has a number of scientific research and artistic units in Zagreb and other Croatian towns – Vukovar, Vinkovci, Osijek, Varaždin, Bjelovar, Rijeka, Zadar, Šibenik, Split and Dubrovnik. They are within the competence of their respective departments, and their directors are nominated by the Presidency of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts upon the recommendation of the departments.

Councils and Committees of the Croatian Academy

Today there are 15 different scientific councils and 16 committees are active within the frames of the Academy. These bodies consist of Croatian scientists from different fields, not only members of the Academy. The role of these councils and committees is advisory and they cover all areas of science.

Foundation

The Foundation of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts is founded in 1993. The aim of the Foundation is to finance those activities of promotion of culture, the arts, sciences and education that are essential for the intellectual, economic and political progress of the Republic of Croatia.

Main tasks of the Academy

The main tasks of the Academy have been defined in Article 3 of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Act as follows:

1. The Academy promotes and organizes scientific research and encourages the application of the findings of this research, develops artistic and cultural activities, and is concerned with Croatian cultural heritage and its affirmation throughout the world;
2. It publishes the results of scientific research and artistic creation;
3. It makes proposals and gives its opinion on the promotion of sciences and arts in the fields, which are of special importance to the Republic of Croatia.

The main scientific and artistic activities of the the Croatian Academy are carried out through its nine departments, as well as through its scientific councils and committees, and scientific and research units (institutes). The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts collaborates with universities, scientific institutions, state bodies, cultural and other institutions, as well as with individual scholars and artists from Croatia and abroad.

Croatian Academy research units

A great deal of the Academy's activities is carried out in its research units (institutes, divisions, cabinets and centers) spread all over Croatia, such as the Institute of Historical and Social Sciences, the Linguistic Research Institute, the Adriatic Institute, the Institute for the Paleontology and Geology of the Quaternary Period, the Institute of Ornithology, the Institute for the History of Croatian Literature, Theatre and Music. There are altogether 16 different research units, mostly covering social sciences and humanities.

Within the structure of the Academy are active:

- (1) The Archives
- (2) The Oriental Collection
- (3) The Library, and
- (4) The Trsteno Arboretum.

The Academy is the owner and takes care of the following museums and galleries:

- (1) The Glyptothèque
- (2) The Croatian Museum of Architecture
- (3) The Cabinet of Graphics
- (4) The Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters, and
- (5) The Memorial Collection of Maksimilijan Vanka, Korčula.

Publishing Activities

The Croatian Academy has a vivid publication activity. Only in 2008 the Academy published 93 publications. The complete list of publications can be found on the following web site: <http://knjiznica.hazu.hr/web/start01.htm>.

Some of the Academy's publications have a long history. Among these are: *Monumenta spectantia historiam Slavorum meridionalium* (the first volume came out in 1868), *Starine* (Antiquities), *Monumenta Ragusina*, *Spomenici Hrvatske krajine* (Documents of the Croatian Frontier-zone), *Scriptores*, *Monumenta historico-iuridica*, *Zbornik za narodni život i običaje južnih Slavena* (Collection on the Folk and Customs of the Southern Slavs). Other important publications are: *Građa za povijest književnosti hrvatske* (Documents for the History of the Croatian Literature), *Diplomatički zbornik Kraljevine Hrvatske, Dalmacije i Slavonije* (Diplomatic Codex of the Kingdom of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia), *Hrvatski latinisti* (Croatian Latinists), *Prirodoslovna istraživanja* (Natural History Studies), *Problemi sjevernog Jadrana* (The Northern Adriatic Issues), but the most important current publication is *Hrvatska*

i Europa: kultura, znanost i umjetnost (Croatia and Europe: Culture, Sciences and Arts), which has been until now published in Croatian, English and French.

As a part of Open Access Initiative, ten Croatian Academy scientific journals are regularly uploaded on Hrčak, a central portal of the Croatian scientific journal. These journals are: Filologija, Folia onomastica Croatica, Anali Zavoda za povijesne znanosti Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti u Dubrovniku (Dubrovnik Historical Annals), Anali Zavoda za znanstveni i umjetnički rad u Osijeku (Annals of the Institute of the Scientific and Art Research in Osijek), Poredbeno pomorsko pravo (Comparative Maritime Law), Radovi Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti: medicinske znanosti (Rad: Medical sciences), Radovi Zavod za povijesne znanosti u Zadru, Radovi Zavoda za znanstveni rad u Varaždinu, Zbornik Odsjeka za povijesne znanosti Zavoda za povijesne i društvene znanosti Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti. The list of all journals can be found on: <http://hrcak.srce.hr>

International Cooperation

The Croatian Academy has established international cooperation with numerous academies from Europe. The cooperation was established with the following academies: Albanian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities, The British Academy, The Bulgarian Academy, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, The French Academy of Sciences, The Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Chinese Academy of Engineering, The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, The Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, The Polish Academy of Sciences, The Royal Society, The Russian Academy of Sciences, The Slovak Academy of Sciences, The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, The Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Swedish Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

The Academy is a member of the following international organizations: The European Science Foundation (ESF), The Inter-Academy Panel (IAP), The Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP), All European Academies (ALLEA), The International Council for Science (ICSU), The International Union of Academies (IUA) and the Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN). From the end of 2007, the Academy acts as a coordinator for the HERA JRP (Humanities in the European Research Area Joint Research Programme).