



SERBIAN SOKOL IN GARY (INDIANA)

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SUMMARY

Serbs in America (SAD) started to accept the idea of Slavic and Serbian Sokolism at the beginning of 1909, when also started first ideas for formation of Serbian Sokol societies. During the second half of the same year two societies were formed, and during years to follow societies were formed in all other places of America (USA) inhabited with Serbs. During 1910 five societies were formed, among them also Serbian Sokol society in Gary (Indiana).

Goal of this paper is to research the work of Society and all his activities from its formation until end of June 1914. During writing authors used historical method.

Key words: Sokolism, America (USA), society, activities, founding.

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INTRODUCTION

Sokol movement, as a new way of spiritual and body exercise, originated at the beginning of 1862 in Czech lands, and soon after it spread to all Slavic and other countries inhabited with Slavic people. That is how Sokolism came among Serbs who lived in the territory of America (USA). At the beginning of 1909 they started to accept Sokol ideas and to think about forming of first Serbian Sokol Societies (s.s.s.). Those ideas started to realize in second mid of that year when two societies were formed, first one in Cincinnati (Ohio) and second one in Detroit (Michigan). During the years to follow continued the formation of new societies in

almost all places of America (USA) where Serbs lived. In 1910 five societies started with their work: Gary and Indiana Harbor (Indiana), Barberton and Akron (Ohio) and Chicago (Illinois). By the end of June 1914 forty-eight (48) Serbian Sokol Societies were formed and fully functional.

SUBJECT AND GOAL

Subject of this paper is development of Serbian Sokolism in America (USA). Goal is to research forming of Serbian Sokol society in Gary, all its activities by the end of June 1914, as also its contribution to development of Serbian Sokolism in America (USA).

METHOD

During writing authors used historical method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forming of Serbian Sokol society and its work until end of 1911

According to writing of Sasa Nedeljkovic, Serbian Sokol society in Gary was formed during 1910, without specifying the exact month.¹ In reviewed and available sources we could not find more data regarding this matter, so for now it remains unknown who were the first initiators of society's formation, when it happened, who were the first members, first Administration, where and what they exercised, where they held their sessions, what were their activities, as also the work of the Society until beginning of October 1911. This task is set for future researchers of history of Sokolism in America (USA) to try to highlight these unsolved questions.

First data about work of this society we found in first edition of Journal of Serbian Sokols in U.S. of America from November 1st, 1911.

By the beginning of October 1911 eight Serbian Sokol societies in America (USA) were formed and fully functional. At that time also started first initiatives

¹ Саша Недељковић: Српски соко у Америци пре Првог светског рата, Књижевне новине, год. LVIII, бр. 1127, Београд, март 2006, стр. 20.

for representatives of those societies to meet and agree about further common work in favor of achieving set Sokol goals.

Among others, initiators of that meeting were also sokols from Serbian Sokol society in Gary.

The mentioned meeting was held on October 1-3, 1911 in Gary. Representatives of seven Serbian Sokol societies in America (USA) as also representative of Serbian charity and cultural fond from New York attended the meeting. Ljubomir Simic was representative of Serbian Sokol society from Gary.

On Sunday, October 1st, Serbian sokols from Gary organized dinner for Sokol representatives, Serbs and other Slavic people from Gary and other places. Gym where dinner was set was "[...] decorated lovely and was full with both guests and members of Serbian Sokol from Gary, in."² The Head of the Serbian Sokol society from Gary, Luka Grkovic, addressed the attendees with kind and chosen words, welcomed them and named Milan Glisic from Cincinnati as host of the dinner.

On Monday, October 2nd representatives gathered at 9 a.m. and started with their work. President and leader of the meeting was Ljubomir Simic from Gary. Serbian Sokol Union of America (SSUA) was formed at that time, with seven Serbian Sokol societies as members. Among them was Serbian Sokol society from Gary, counting 116 members at that moment – 46 regular³ and 70 helping members (helpers)⁴.

After that a board of four members was elected to prepare the *Rules for Serbian Sokol societies*. Among board members was also Luka Grkovic from Gary. At the end of the meeting Administration of SSUA was also elected, with participating members from Gary: Head of SSUA, Luka Grkovic; Secretary, Milan Muslin; treasurer, Mato Cuk; member of Supervising Board, Risto Baltic; Deputy Secretary, Risto A. Kovacevic and SSUA's Deputy Leader, Milan Rebraca.⁵

² Први састанак Српских Сокола у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, стр. 7.

³ Regular members were those ones accepted by Administration and those ones who regularly pay monthly fee determined by the society's assembly, and their rights were: "1. after they get 18 (eighteen) they can elect and be elected as members of Government when they get 21 (twenty one); and 2. to wear society's uniform and badges." (Права и дужности чланова, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. јануар 1912, стр. 8.)

⁴ Helping members (helpers) "[...] are those members who pay annual fee according to local situation, all at once or in monthly payment. They have all rights as regular members." (Ibid)

⁵ Српска Соколска Жупа у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, стр. 11.

According to the *Rules of SSUA* adopted at the mentioned session, was prescribed that all Serbian Sokol societies in America (USA) use the common name "Serbian Sokol".



Picture: *First Serbian Sokol meeting in America (USA), Soko, no. 1, 1911, p. 9. & 16.*

First row, from left to right: fourth Ljubomir Simic, representative at the First meeting of Serbian Sokols in America (USA).

Second row, from left to right: first Tanasije Nastic, Deputy Head of Serbian sokols from Gary; second Milan Muslin, Secretary of SSUA and Secretary of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary; third Mato Cuk, treasurer of SSUA; fourth, Luka Grkovic, Head of SSUA and Head of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary; fifth Jovo Krstovic, benefactor of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary; and sixth Milan Rebraca, Deputy Leader of SSUA and Leader of Serbian sokols from Gary.⁶

First session of SSUA was held on Sunday, October 15th, 1911 in Gary, as also all other sessions during the period of Luka Grkovic being a Head of the Union.⁷ During this first session, among other things, was also elected special

⁶ Први Српски Соколски Састанак у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, стр. 9 и 16.

⁷ Прва седница Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, стр. 11 – 12.

Board for finding the exact location for First Serbian Sokol Slet in America (USA) in 1912 in Chicago. One out of four members was Head of SSUA, Luka Grkovic from Gary.

During its existence Society from Gary held meetings and sessions of Administration, Annual Assemblies, performed public classes and exercises, staged shows, parties, picnics, participated at Sokol slets and sessions of SSUA, organized mutual manifestations with other societies, participated at manifestations of not only Serbian, but also other Slavic societies, wrote articles for Sokol journal, etc. Some of those activities will be reconstructed in the following text.

"Serbian Sokol" from Gary had a special *Board for: widening of journal "Soko", finding ads for publishing in journal, as also collecting of subscription*, consisting of: Luka R. Grkovic, Mihailo M. Ducic and Jovo T. Maric. Board functioned very well, and was often set as example for other member societies of SSUA. On Union's session on December 15th 1911 in Gary was suggested to form same Boards in all other Societies.⁸

At the end of 1911 Society from Gary counted 75 members: 30 regular, 37 helpers, 6 female members and 2 beneficiaries.

Regular members were: Radovan Andjelic, Risto Baltic, Krsto Bratic, Tomo Vukovic, Bozo Grkovic, Petar Grubar, Stevo Grubar, Risto A. Kovacevic, Mihajlo Kovac, Todor Komnenovic, Jovo Krstovic, Pero Krstovic, Risto Krstovic, Jovo Meamdzija, Milan Meamdzija, Milan Muslin, Mihailo Nastic, Radovan Papic, Milan Paskas, Jovo Popovic, Nikola Providzalo, Simo Providzalo, Milan Rebraca, Gliso Repajic, Tripo Spasojevic, Mihailo Tarana, Nikola Terzic, Jovo Covic, Tomo Dzelatovic and Marko Sarvalica.

Helping members (helpers): Panto Vukelic, Djoko Vukovic, Jefto Vuletic, Mile Vuletic, Krsto Gerunovic, Luka R. Grkovic, Joco Divjak, Milos Dragisic, Mihailo M. Ducic, Sofrenija Zorica, Jovica Jelic, Nikola Jelic, Manojlo Jovanovic, Nikola Kokotovic, Pero Krstovic, Stevo Lazic, B. Mamula, Mico Mandic, Ilija Maravic, Jovo Maric, Nikola Matijevic, Tanasije Nastic, Djordje Nestorovic, Stevo Nikolic, Stevo Orlic, Savo Pajic, Jovo Prtqaga, Savo Puletic, Stevo Rasevic, Simo Roncevic, Djuro Rudan, Jovo Sekerez, Ljubomir Simic, Stevo Stankovic, Mihailo Tabakovic, Djordje Celovic I Mato Cuk.

Beneficiaries: Jovo Krstovic and Ivo R. Palandacic.

⁸ Записник сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. јануар 1912, стр. 9 – 10.

Female members: Ljuba Grkovic, Mara Grkovic, Jelena Gurovic, Anka Dragisic, Katica Koster and Olga Trbovic.⁹

Postal address of the Society was: Српски Соко, P.O. Box 618, Gary, Ind.

On Annual Assembly held in December 1911, sokols elected new Administration of the Society for year 1912. Elected members of Administrative Board were: Head, Mihailo M. Ducic; Deputy Head, Simo Providzalo (who will perform duties of economist); Secretary, Joco Divjak; treasurer, Jovo T. Maric; accountant, Milan Muslin and Leader, Milan Rebraca. Djordjo Celovic was elected as President of Supervising Board, and as members: Risto Baltic, Tanasije Nastic and Stevo Orlic. Tomo Dzelatovic was elected for flag-bearer, and Marko Sarvalica for his Deputy. Luka R. Grkovic, former Head of Serbian sokols from Gary, and active Head of SSUA, was not elected as a member of Administrative Board due to his obligations towards working in SSUA.¹⁰

Work of the Society from beginning of 1912 until end of June 1914

During these years, Serbian sokols from Gary continue their work. Through journal "Soko" no. 1 from January 1st 1912 they announced that on Sunday, January 14th that year they will stage their second exercise with party at Sokol hall. The program will include: "Part I: 1. Opening ceremony. 2. Dance. 3. Dinner. Part II: 1. Performance and picturesque march. 2. Simple exercise. 3. Picturesque march. 4. Exercise with maces. 5. Apparatus Exercises 6. Live picture: 'Slavery'. Part III: Dancing till dawn."¹¹

At the end of announcement they politely called: "[...] all Serbian, Croatian and other Slavic Sokol, educational and charity societies, both from that place and all others, brothers Slavs, to as much of them as possible attend this manifestation of Sokol thought, with which we want to prove that us Serbs, as youngest branch of mighty Slavic Sokolism, follow unselfishly work of Sokol idea and Slavic reciprocity."¹² That day they want to once more prove and consolidate "[...] the bonds of Slavic Sokol brotherhood, which will one day raise high Sokol flag – flag of independence and freedom – where will be written: 'Equality for

⁹ Српски Соко у Гери, Инд., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. јануар 1912, стр. 14.

¹⁰ Српски Соко у Гери, Индијана, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1912, стр. 31.

¹¹ М.: Српски Соко у Гери, Инд., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. јануар 1912, стр. 11.

¹² Ibid.

everybody, privileges for nobody!' We stay with hope that our Slavic brothers will visit us as many as possible, and we salute them: 'Hello, and welcome!'"¹³

Second public exercise with party, announced in journal "Soko", was held by planned and announced program on January 14th 1912 in Sokol hall in Gary. Exercise was a complete success, and with the fact that besides Serbs, the party attended lots of other Slavic people, we can state that it was truly an All-Slavic party and exercise. Regarding this successfully performed exercise in journal "Soko" was stated that Serbs in Gary "[...] with their societies, especially Serbian Sokol, lead before many colonies, even Slavic work, because there no one asks: what is your religion, only if you are Slav – you are brother."¹⁴

On session of SSUA, held on February 15th 1912, amongst was elected new leader of the Union. As on this session Petar N. Kumanovac, former leader of SSUA was excluded from "Serbian Sokol", and by that from SSUA, the Head of the Union Luka R. Grkovic suggested to elect new leader on that session. More candidates was proposed, and Milan Meandzija (or Mehandzija) from "Serbian Sokol" from Gary won most votes.¹⁵

Tomo Dzelatovic, Herzegovinian born in Bileca, regular member and flag-bearer of Serbian sokols from Gary, died on January 22nd 1912 in factory where he worked, and was buried in Chicago on January 28th. Administration of SSUA attended the funeral and laid a wreath on grave of deceased Serbian soko.¹⁶

Two out of eight members of Special Administration of First Serbian Sokol slet in America were sokols from Gary, Mihailo M. Ducic and Jovo T. Maric.¹⁷

At the end of March 1912 they elected Mihailo M. Ducic for representative to attend Serbian Sokol assembly on June 24-25, 1912 in Chicago and participate in its work. They wrote and informed the SSUA about their election on session held on April 15th the same year.¹⁸

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Српски Соко у Гери, Индијана, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1912, стр. 31.

¹⁵ Записник сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 3, Њујорк, 1. март 1912, стр. 39 – 40.

¹⁶ Читуља, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 3, Њујорк, 1. март 1912, стр. 48.

¹⁷ Записник сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 5, Њујорк, 1. мај 1912, стр. 75 - 77.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Society contacted with not only Serbian and Slavic sokols in America (USA), but also with Sokol societies from Serbia, Herzegovina, Bosnia, Montenegro and other countries.

Head of the Sokol society "Dusan Silni" from Podgorica, Lazar I. Brkic, and Secretary Petar Nikezic on March 24th 1912 addressed a letter from Podgorica to brotherly "Serbian Sokol" in Gary. In that letter they wrote to saw how happy they are to be able to inform them that they formed gymnastic society in Podgorica named: Sokol society "Dusan Silni", as written "[...] first of its kind in Montenegro."¹⁹ Furthermore they wrote that they formed the society on assembly from February 12th 1912, what are the goals of the Society, elected Administration, current number of members (120), and at the end they ask them to start to send them journal of SSUA "Soko" and to their society to all Serbs in America (USA), and especially to those with origins in Montenegro, because the success of that society "[...] as first one in Montenegro, will determine the progress or failure of sokol idea in Montenegro."²⁰ At the end they greeted them with words: "With faith in success of sokol idea we, our dear brothers, most sincerely salute you with brotherly Sokol salut: Goodbye Mighty!"²¹

Male and female sokols from Gary participated in public exercises, parties and other manifestations staged by other Serbian and Slavic societies. Therefore, amongst, they participated on second public exercise of Serbian sokols from Chicago on May 5th 1912, and performed their exercise.²²

During the first half of May that year, regarding the First Serbian Sokol slet in Chicago, they received 114 slet pins and instruction for their use from Administration of SSUA.²³

Milan Meandzija, leader of SSUA, on Union's session on May 20th 1912 with the letter informed the Administration of the Union that he cannot longer perform his duty because of his trip back to fatherland, and he thanked them for the honor given to him. His letter says:

¹⁹ Лазар И. Бркић и Петар Никезић: Братском Српском Соколу, Гери, Инд., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, стр. 88.

²⁰ Ibid, p. 89.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Српски Соко у Чикагу, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, стр. 93 – 94.

²³ Записник сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, стр. 90 – 92.

“Due to my family circumstances I have to leave you my honorable Sokols, and to travel to old fatherland. I am so sorry to leave you all just now, right before our first slet, but the circumstances we live in are like that. Brothers Sokols, I wish you all great success with the Slet – for Serbian and Sokol Vidovdan! Sokol goodbye!”²⁴

Petar N. Kumanovac, who was in the meantime returned back to membership of “Serbian Sokol”, was at this session elected for the place of leader of SSUA.

During First Serbian Sokol slet, on June 22 – 23, 1912 in Chicago, amongst many other participants were also sokols from Gary: Head of SSUA, Luka Grkovic; Secretary of SSUA, Milan Muslin; treasurer of SSUA. Mato Cuk; member of Administrative board of Slet, Jovo T. Maric; Head of Serbian sokols from Gary and member of Administrative board of Slet, Mihailo M. Ducic; Leader of Serbian sokols from Gary and Deputy Leader of SSUA, Milan Rebraca and performers: Stevo Grubar, Petar Krstovic, Radovan Papic, Milan Paskac(s), R. Tunzelic and Marko Sarvalica.²⁵

On the first day of the slet, sokols-performers from Gary performed 5 exercises: exercises with maces, exercises with spears, simple exercises, exercises with cannonballs and apparatus exercises. They won two first places for exercises with spears and apparatus exercises, and received wreath with golden inscription.

On second day of slet, sokols from Gary performed exercises with spears and with maces, and Milan Rebraca competed in long-jump and won second place and received prize of 20 dollars in gold.

During session of Main assembly of Serbian sokols in America (SAD) on June 24th and 25th 1912 in Chicago, amongst was elected new Administration of Union. Elected Head was Dusan B. Popovic, and from “Serbian Sokol” from Gary elected were: Mihajlo M. Ducic as member of Supervising board; Milan Rebraca as

²⁴ Милан Меанџија: Српским Соколима у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, стр. 95.

²⁵ Први српски соколски слет у Чикагу, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912, стр. 105 – 110.

Deputy Leader of SSUA and Uros R. Ducic and Mato Cuk as councilors. Headquarters of Union were relocated to Chicago.²⁶

On Sunday, September 22nd 1912 Serbian sokols from Chicago held their third public exercise on which, amongst, participated male and female sokols from Gary.

Serbian sokols from Gary did not pay SSUA membership fee for last three months, although they were warned, so they had to be warned again on session of SSUA on October 4th 1912, when they were additionally given a deadline – October 18th to pay their dues. In contrary they will be erased from SSUA's membership.²⁷

Administration of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary followed the deadline and sent to Union's Administration a cheque for 28.90 dollars for the membership and registration fee. Cheque was received on SSUA's session on October 16th 1912.²⁸

From November 1st 1911, when first edition of journal of Serbian sokols in America "Soko" appeared, up until end of 1912, associates of the journal were also sokols from Gary Luka R. Grkovic and Milan Muslin.²⁹ Their texts about activities of Serbian sokols from Gary were published in almost every edition published in mentioned period.

Member of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary, Petar S. Krstovic on April 1913 addressed a letter to Editor of journal "Soko" Petar O. Stijacic published in number 6 of journal from June 1913. In letter, among other things, he wrote that all sokols still didn't completely understand the real Sokol idea. Many people, youngsters especially, think that as soon as they became members of Sokol society and put Sokol pins on their chests "[...] at that moment they became true Sokols and by that fulfilled their duty."³⁰ Others, again, think that sokol societies were formed for

²⁶ Нова управа С.С. Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912, стр. 114, и Извјештај и записник Главне Скупштине С. Сокола у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912, стр. 114.

²⁷ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник пете сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржане 4. октобра 1912. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 12, Њујорк, 1. децембар 1912, стр. 179 – 181.

²⁸ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник шесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржане 16. октобра 1912. у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 1 и 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1913, стр. 25 – 26.

²⁹ Сарадници Сокола у 1911. и 1912. години, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 1 и 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1913, стр. 32.

³⁰ Петар С. Крстовић: Гери, Инд., април 1913. Брате уредниче, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 6, Њујорк, јуни 1913, стр. 118.

fun, “[...] so they can amuse themselves with exercise and adorn with Sokol suit, so they can raise the vividness of the charade.”³¹

According to Krstovic Sokol societies in America (USA) still lack order and discipline, and most of the societies work by their own rules thinking that they are the ones who fulfill “[...] their real Sokol duty.”³² To exceed that and to understand Sokolism better he suggests paying more attention to reading books, newspapers and studying of Sokol science, “[...] and when we do our work soberly and consciously in Sokol field, we will wake up the correct senses for Sokol idea among our people.”³³

Furthermore he suggests to fight for larger number of sokols and that they accept the noble Sokol idea consciously, because in that way they will make good and useful deed for them, their people and their country, because only “[...] physically strong and mentally conscious nation is able to fearlessly and successfully fight for their progress and freedom.”³⁴ At the end of the letter he gives his view of sokols: “Sokol must not ever languish in a fight for progress of his nation, nor recede before various difficulties set for him; in every form of work only persistent, brave and diligent Sokol can be useful to his homeland and his nation.”³⁵

Sokols from Gary cooperated with all Serbian societies. Amongst they had good cooperation with “National defense” in America (USA) which had its committee in Gary. During meeting on May 29th 1913 in Gary new Administration of “National defense” from Gary was elected. As part of “National defense” Administration four different sections were formed: *Sokol*, *Educational*, *Financial* and *Section for communication with fatherland and other nations*, and fourteen sokols from Gary were elected and set as follows: Mihajlo M. Ducic as President; Mato Cuk as Vice-President; Luka R. Grkovic as Treasurer; Tanasije Nastic as member of Main board. In *Sokol section*: Luka R. Grkovic, Petar Krstovic and Jovo Popovic. In *Educational section*: Stevo Orlic; *Financial section*: Nikola Jelic, Jovo Krstovic, Jovo T. Maric and Milan Muslin; and *Section for communication with fatherland and other nations* Risto Baltic and Jovica Jelic.³⁶

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid, pp. 118 – 119.

³⁵ Ibid, p. 119.

³⁶ Божо Мартиновић: Народна одбрана у Америци, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 7, Њујорк, јули 1913, стр. 134 – 138.

In annual report of SSUA for period June 25th 1912 – June 25th 1913 stands that “Serbian Sokol” from Gary on day of June 25th 1912 had 39, and on June 25th 1913 47 members (8 more than the year before).³⁷

During assembly of Union of joined Serbs (UJS) “Sloga” on June 13th 1913 in New York they spoke about Serbian Sokolism and its work in America (USA). Beside Mihajlo I. Pupin, president of UJS “Sloga” and Honorable Head of SSUA who gave an introductory speech and welcomed the participants, Petar O. Stijacic editor of journal “Soko” who spoke right after Pupin and some other speakers, Luka R. Grkovic and Jovo T. Maric, Serbian sokols from Gary, also addressed the attendees. Speaking about work of Serbian sokols, among other things, Grkovic also said: “Serbian Sokolism in America does not ask for any help for itself, because that help is a help for Serbian people by just doing this: Every Serbian man, woman and child, with Serbian heart beating in their chest, should be Serbian Sokol”³⁸. His words were welcomed with strong applause.

On SSUA session on august 24th 1913 in Chicago, amongst was decided to delegate writing of exercises for slet in Cleveland (Ohio) planned for Vidovdan 1914 to six sokols, among which were two from Gary, Jovo Krstovic and Mihailo Rebraca.³⁹

In November 1913 sokol from Gary, Petar Krstovic, was elected as alderman for Administration of SSUA,⁴⁰ and during session of SSUA on December 1st 1913 in Chicago this decision was confirmed.⁴¹

During SSUA’s session from November 2nd 1913 in Chicago, Union’s Secretary Milos Jokanovic informed the participants that “Serbian Soko” from Gary has not paid the Union’s membership fee. They decided to give them time

³⁷ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Годишњи Извјештај Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 8, Њујорк, август 1913, стр. 179 – 180.

³⁸ Конвенција Савеза сједињених Срба „Слога“ и Српско соколство у Америци, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 8, Њујорк, август 1913, стр. 187.

³⁹ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник тринаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 24. августа 1913. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 10, Њујорк, октобар 1913, стр. 246 – 248.

⁴⁰ Нови чланови управе Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 12, Њујорк, децембар 1913, стр. 289.

⁴¹ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник петнаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 1. децембра 1913. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 1, Њујорк, јануар 1914, стр. 18 – 19.

until the next session for the payment, and if they do not do as instructed, they will be deleted from its membership.⁴²

During SSUA's session from December 28th 1913 in Chicago, Union's Secretary informed the participants that "Serbian Sokol" from Gary, although warned for few times, still did not pay the due for membership fee to Union. It was unanimously decided to unsubscribe this society from Union's membership.⁴³

After exclusion from SSUA, Administration of "Serbian Sokol" from Gary in January next year paid the dues to Union with 30 dollars, and during SSUA's session on January 24th 1914 asked to be re-admitted to membership. Their proposal was unanimously accepted and Serbian sokols from Gary again became members of the Union.⁴⁴

Sokol Petar Krstovic from Gary, member of Supervising Board of SSUA in February 1914 went to Detroit (Michigan) to try to settle disputes between members of local "Serbian Sokol", but he failed. He informed the authorities of SSUA about this at its session on March 8th, 1914 in Chicago.⁴⁵

Uros Ducic from Gary because of a change of residence could no longer be a member of the Administrative Board of SSUA, and about that he informed the Administration of the Union at its session on 21st of May 1914 in Chicago. His resignation was accepted and position was left vacant until the next General Assembly of Serbian Sokols in America (USA).⁴⁶

⁴² Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник четрнаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 2. новембра 1913. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 3, бр. 12, Њујорк, децембар 1913, стр. 289 – 291.

⁴³ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник шеснаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 28. децембра 1913. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 1, Њујорк, јануар 1914, стр. 19 – 20.

⁴⁴ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник седамнаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 24. јануара 1914. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 2 и 3, Њујорк, фебруар-март 1914, стр. 49 – 50.

⁴⁵ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник осамнаесте сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 8. марта 1914. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 2 и 3, Њујорк, фебруар-март 1914, стр. 50 – 53.

⁴⁶ Душан Б. Поповић и Милош Јокановић: Записник двадесете сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржане 21. маја 1914. године у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 6, Њујорк, јуни 1914, стр. 133 – 135.

Leader of SSUA Jovan Papic, because of working hours, could no longer perform this function, and in his place was appointed Milan Rebrača, sokol from Gary. He took over this function at the end of May 1914.⁴⁷

Journal "Soko", no. 6 from June 1914 announced that Serbian sokols from Gary on Sunday, June 14th the same year will stage their 7th public exercise where, among others, Croatian Sokol from Gary will also participate with special act.⁴⁸ In reviewed and available sources we found no data about mentioned exercise, so it remains unknown if it actually was performed in scheduled time.

Based on the aforementioned we can conclude that Serbian sokols from Gary, from their formation in 1910 up until end of June 1914, successfully worked. Besides physical exercise they organized and performed numerous other activities (public classes, exercises, shows, parties, picnics, etc.), participated in manifestations of not only Serbian, but also manifestations of other nations, mostly Slavic; participated in work of SSUA, as also in work of other Serbian organizations, some sokols were associates of journal of Serbian sokols in America "Serbian Sokol" and spread the Sokol idea through texts and poetry published in the journal. In this way they fully accomplished all set Sokol tasks and goals for benefit of not only Serbian people, but also all others, mostly Slavic nations.

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⁴⁷ Вођа Српске Соколске Жупе, Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 6, Њујорк, јуни 1914, стр. 139.

⁴⁸ Српски Соко у Гери, Инд., Соко, орган Српских Сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвједивање, год. 4, бр. 6, Њујорк, јуни 1914, стр. 140.

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СРПСКИ СОКО У ГЕРИЈУ (ИНДИЈАНА)

САЖЕТАК

Срби у Америци (САД) су почетком 1909. године почели прихватати идеју славенског и српског соколства, када су се почеле јављати и прве идеје за оснивање српских соколских друштава. У другој половини те године основана су два друштва, а у наредним годинама су се почела оснивати друштва по свим местима Америке (САД) где су живели Срби. Током 1910. године основано је пет друштава, међу којима је било и српско соколско друштво у Герију (Индијана).

Циљ рада је да се истражи рад Друштва и све његове активности од оснивања па до краја јуна 1914. године. Током писања коришћен је историјски метод.

Кључне речи: соколство, Америка (САД), друштво, активности, оснивање.

СЕРБСКИЙ СОКОЛ В ГАРИ (ИНДИАНА)

АННОТАЦИЯ

Сербы в Америке (САД) приняли идею Словацкого и Сербского Сокольничества в начале 1909, когда зародилась идея организации Сербского спортивного общества Сокол. Во второй половине того же года было организовано два общества, а затем на протяжении последующих лет были организованы общества для выходцев из Сербии во всех других местах США. В 1910 году было организовано пять обществ, в числе которых и Сербский Сокол в Гари (Индиана).

В статье исследуется деятельность общества от истоков организации до июня 1914 года. Авторами использован исторический метод.

Ключевые слова: Сокольничество, США, общество, деятельность, организация.

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