



BEGINNINGS OF SERBIAN SOKOLISM IN HERZEGOVINA

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SUMMARY

Sokol movement originated in Czech lands in second part of 19th century, and soon after it spread to all Slavic countries, as also to the ones where Slavic people lived. Beginnings of Sokolism in Bosnia and Herzegovina relate to Herzegovina, specifically to Foča and Risto Jeremić, when in 1893 the first initiatives for the establishment of a Serbian soko society in this city were created. It has been more than five years before the establishment of the first „Pobratimstvo“ („Brotherhood“, „Fraternity“), primarily anti-alcoholic, but also a society that had the characteristics of future Serbian soko societies. In 1910 this society was officially re-registered in the “Serbian Soko” in Foča. In the following years started a little more favorable period and other societies in the cities and other places of Herzegovina started to appear, which after a certain time entered also in Herzegovina village, which contributed to the development of the village, literacy of the people, but also many other useful things. These beginnings and the development of Sokolism on the territory of Herzegovina represent the main subject of this paper, with the aim to research and present when and how the first initiatives came to light, when the first societies were founded and who were the most important personalities. In addition, the authors want to show the significance of the Sokolism for the whole of Herzegovina and its population. During writing authors used historical method.

Key words: founding, assembly, parish (union), initiatives, brotherhood, Serbian Soko.

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INTRODUCTION

The ideological creator of the Sokol movement was Miroslav Tyrš, who in 1862, with the founding of *Gymnastics Society of Prague* in the Czech Republic, started a system of physical exercises that would shortly spread at all Slavic countries, as well as those where Slavic people lived, and thus raise the physical but also the spiritual strength of the Slavs in the fight against the occupation. The name Sokolism is derived from Serbian heroic poetry, where this bird (Soko – Falcon) represents the embodiment of everything that a member of a Sokol Society or a Sokol movement should have, namely: fearlessness, strength, nobility and ultimately freedom.

As already mentioned, this movement of physical exercise, which according to certain authors, in addition to Swedish, German and others, belongs to ethnocentric approaches to physical exercise "... which occurred in the turbulent times of the 18th century, when international conflicts dominated the Europe, and Napoleon's wars represented at the same time a conflict between old and new. The nations grew stronger, and a period of professional armies passed. In such a situation, there is a growing need for bodily exercise of citizens, who are now new soldiers, when needed."¹ It spread to all Slavic countries, and therefore also to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first Serbian Soko Society on the territory under Austro-Hungarian administration was founded on the initiative of dr Laza Popović in 1904 (the Founding Assembly of the Society was held on January 19th and the Rules were approved by the Austro-Hungarian government on March 24th 1904) in Sremski Karlovci. Some of the first initiatives for the establishment of such a society in the territory of Herzegovina appear a little earlier, which will be discussed more in the following text.

SUBJECT AND GOAL

The subject of this paper is Serbian Sokolism in the territory of Herzegovina, and the goal is to research and present when and how the first initiatives appeared, when the first societies were founded and who were the most important personalities. In addition, the authors want to show the significance of the Sokolism for the whole of Herzegovina and its population.

¹ Ненад Живановић, Небојша Ранђеловић, Верољуб Станковић и Петар Павловић, *Теорија физичке културе*, Факултет спорта и физичког васпитања универзитета у Нишу и Паноптикум, Ниш, 2010, p. 24.

METHOD

During writing authors used historical method. All available primary and secondary sources were reviewed and critically analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

First attempts for founding of Serbian Soko society in Herzegovina

According to some authors, the first initiative to establish a Serbian Soko society in Herzegovina came from a group of Serbs led by a student Risto Jeremić in Foča in 1893, but the first official and accessible document about this Society was addressed to February 4th, 1894.

“High State government!

The signatories want to establish an association for physical education for the purpose of nurturing and developing health under the name: *Serbian gymnastic troupe `Foča's Soko`* with headquarters in Foča. By enclosing the rules in five copies, the undersigned most explicitly ask the High Government to mercifully approve them.

Hoping for benevolence we consider it an honor to thank the High Government.

Humble: Jovo Jeremić, Vasilije Kujundžić, Djordjo Hadži Vuković, Nikola Mazić, Mihajlo Jeremić, Milan H. Hadži Vuković, Vasilije Kovačević.”²

However, the Austro-Hungarian authorities did not allow the establishment of such a society with a Serbian pre-sign. Afterwards, the same initiators filed a request for the establishment of the *Sobriety Society Pobratimstvo (Brotherhood)*, which in its work dealt with the fight against alcoholism, but the emphasis was actually on physical and spiritual strengthening of its members. It took five years for the State Government to finally on June 23rd 1899 officially confirm and

² Cited in: Зечевић Љубиша, Утицај друштвено-политичке и економске констелације за вријеме Аустроугарске владавине у Босни и Херцеговини на развој физичке културе (The influence of socio-political and economic constellation during the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the development of physical culture), Doctoral dissertation, Факултет физичке културе, Универзитет у Београду, 1988, p. 116.

approve the existence and operation of the aforementioned society.³ Eleven years later, this society was re-registered in "Serbian Soko" in Foča, and on May 22nd 1911 it held a regular Assembly at which they elected the Administrative Board: Todo Kočović - Senior, Miloš Tomašević - Deputy Senior and members: Todo Jeremić, Simo Jovčić, Nikola Kočović, Milan Popadić, Todo Tomašević, Josif Tošović, Niko Tošović and Manojlo Hadži Vuković.⁴

In addition to regular and everyday activities performed by Sokols in the courtyard of the Orthodox Church, in the Society existed several sections, they organized excursions, camping, mountaineering, participated in various parish and federal soko Slets (gatherings). Already in 1910, members of the "Serbian Soko" in Foča participated in the *Bulgarian Hero's Slet* in Sofia, and in 1912 in Prague at the *All-Sokol Slet*.

Serbian Soko society in Mostar

At the beginning of 20th century was more favorable period for the establishment of cultural and other organizations in Mostar, among which was also a Serbian gymnastics society. A group of intelligent Serbs, led by Jovan Dučić, Svetozar Ćorović and Aleksa Šantić, at the end of 19th century published articles in *Bosanska Vila* periodical and after the founding of "Prosvjeta" in Sarajevo in 1902, its subcommittee, led by Aleksa Šantić, was founded in Mostar.⁵

Hajrudin Ćurić regarding the establishment of the Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić" in Mostar says that it was established in 1903, and that the Rules were approved by the State Government on April 14th 1904. "The Serbian Gymnastics Society 'Obilić' in Mostar was established in 1903, during the struggle for church-school autonomy led by prominent representatives of the Serbian bourgeoisie against the Austro-Hungarian occupying regime in Bosnia and Herzegovina."⁶

³ Петар Д. Павловић, Физичка култура српског народа у Босни и Херцеговини до 1918. године (Physical Culture of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1918), Факултет физичке културе Универзитета у Источном Сарајеву, Источно Сарајево, 1998.

⁴ Петар Д. Павловић, Физичка култура српског народа у Босни и Херцеговини до 1918. године (Physical Culture of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1918), Факултет физичке културе Универзитета у Источном Сарајеву, Источно Сарајево, 1998.

⁵ Петар Д. Павловић, Физичка култура српског народа у Босни и Херцеговини до 1918. године (Physical Culture of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1918), Факултет физичке културе Универзитета у Источном Сарајеву, Источно Сарајево, 1998.

⁶ Hajrudin Ćurić: Pravila Srpskog gimnastičkog društva „Obilić“ u Mostaru, Prilozi za istoriju fizičke kulture u Bosni i Hercegovini, vol. 11, no. 12, Sarajevo, 1978, p. 11.

Bogdan Maksimović wrote that the Serbian Gymnastic Society "Obilić" in Mostar was established in 1903. "In 1903 in Mostar was established Serbian Gymnastics Society 'Obilić'."⁷

Šefik Pašić also wrote that the Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić" in Mostar was founded in 1903. "Even before the founding of the Serbian Gymnastics Society 'Obilić' in 1903 in Mostar there was a section or society 'Pobratimstvo'."⁸

Ljubiša Zečević in his Doctoral Dissertation *The influence of socio-political and economic constellation during the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the development of physical culture* stated that in 1903 an initiative for the establishment of the Serbian Gymnastics Society was initiated, that on November 27th 1903 the request for founding the Society was handed over to the City Council in Mostar (rg.no. 12840), that in the second half of February 1904 the request was sent to the State Government in Sarajevo, which was received on February 23rd of the same year, that the State Government submitted the request to the Community Ministry of Finance in Vienna, that Isidor Benka signed the approval of the Statute of the Serbian Gymnastics Society in Mostar on April 14th 1904, and that day is taken as the date of the foundation of the Society.⁹

Petar D. Pavlović, in his book *Physical Culture of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1918*, states the same date for the establishment of the Society in Mostar as Ljubiša Zečević.

Therefore, the claims of Bogdan Maksimović, Hajrudin Ćurić, Šefik Pašić and others that the *Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić"* from Mostar was founded in 1903 are incorrect.

Stevan Žakula, who worked as a professor at the Mostar Gymnasium, was one of the main initiators of the establishment of the *Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić"* in Mostar, and the signatories of the request for the founding of the Society were: dr Pero Ivanović, Đorđo Perin and Atanasije Šola. Interestingly, among the signatories there is Stevan Žakula's name, although he was one of the initiators of its founding. The reason for this is most likely the fact that as a high

⁷ Bogdan Maksimović: Sokolski slet u Trebinju 1911. godine, Prilozi za istoriju fizičke kulture u Bosni i Hercegovini, vol. 2, no. 2, Sarajevo, 1969, p. 25.

⁸ Šefik Pašić: Fizička kultura, klubovi, društva i organizacije u Hercegovini do 1914. godine, Prilozi za istoriju fizičke kulture u Bosni i Hercegovini, vol. 6, no. 6, Sarajevo, 1973, p. 77.

⁹ Љубиша Зечевић, *Утицај друштвено-политичке и економске констелације за вријеме Аустроугарске владавине у Босни и Херцеговини на развој физичке културе (The influence of socio-political and economic constellation during the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the development of physical culture)*, Doctoral dissertation, Факултет физичке културе, Универзитет у Београду, 1988.

school teacher he did not want to over-emphasize in public so as not to imperil his further work.

The first assembly of the newly formed Society in Mostar, attended by 25 Serbs, was held on June 12th, 1904 in Mostar, in the premises of the Orthodox Church. Pero Ivanović was elected as the first Senior of the SGS "Obilić", Ilija Ivanišević as his Deputy Chief officer, Stevan Žakula as the Leader, Ljubo Oborina as Treasurer, and as members of the Board: Milan Vuković, Čedomir Milić, Djordjo Perin, Atanasije Šola and others.

They exercised in the premises of the *Serbian Singing Society "Gusle"*. They educated the youth in the national spirit. They participated in all public celebrations, parties, trips and other events, not only in Herzegovina and Bosnia, but also at events in other countries: Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, etc. They cooperated with all Soko and other societies, not only from Herzegovina and Bosnia, but also with societies from other countries and were one of the most active societies from the *Serbian Soko Parish of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

Since there was not enough qualified and educated staff to work in Soko societies, some of them brought experts from other places or other countries. In 1908, the Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić" in Mostar got "... a new teacher, brother Jozef *Brauner*, a member of the Sokol from Mlada Boleslava in the Czech Republic. Brother teacher is a highly trained gymnast and very enthusiastic and zeal fellow. With such a teacher, members received even greater will, and are now diligently preparing for a great public exercise on the second day of Easter, April 14th (27th) t.y."¹⁰

At the end of 1905, Administration of SGS "Obilić" in Mostar consisted of: Senior - Milan Ćuković, Deputy Senior - Svetozar Ćorović, Secretary Kosta Kostić, troop leader - Djordjo Perin, Treasurer Milan Mojić and cashier Jovo Zagorac. At that time, there were 75 members in the Society: 35 executive, 23 supporters, 15 founders and two benefactors.¹¹

After the establishment of the *Serbian Soko Parish of Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the approval of its work by the State Government on February 26th 1910, all former Serbian gymnastic societies, called by various names,

¹⁰ Српско гимнастичко друштво „Обилић“ у Мостару, Српски Соко, лист за соколске ствари, vol. 2, no. 6, Карловци, 13(26) март 1908, pp. 95 – 96.

¹¹ Српско гимнастичко друштво „Обилић“ у Мостару, Српски Соко, лист за соколске ствари, vol. 1, no. 1, Сремски Карловци, јануар 1906.

changed the name to “Serbian Soko“. Thus, the Serbian Gymnastics Society “Obilić“ in Mostar changed its name to “Serbian Soko“ in Mostar.

On January 28th 1911, the Serbian Soko Society from Mostar held its regular General Assembly, on which the new Administration of the Society was elected, consisting of: Đorđo Perin, Senior; Atanasije Šola, Deputy Senior; Milan Jelačić, Secretary; Čedomir Milić, Leader; Lazo Peško, Treasurer; Dusan Glogovac, Economist; Trifko Dudić, Dimitrije Zec and Savo Lazetić, councilors.¹²

At the session of the Second General Assembly of the *Serbian Soko Parish of Bosnia and Herzegovina* held on February 20th (March 5th) 1911 in Sarajevo, as members of the Parish Committee, from Herzegovina were elected Čedomir Milić as a Supervisor of the Mostar District, and Đorđo Perin as Parish Deputy Senior.¹³

Serbian Soko from Mostar, Čedomir Milić, won the second place in a *free competition* at the *All-Slavic Sokol Slet of the Bulgarian “Hero“* held on 10, 11 and 12th of July 1910 in Sofia.¹⁴

Many Serbian Soko societies (SSS) in Herzegovina did not have their own training spaces, so they were forced to use the appropriate premises of schools, singing and other societies. To use these spaces, they had to have the approval of the State Government. Even when obtaining licenses for working in the premises of other societies, Serbian Sokols were not in an equal position with other societies, because foreign companies had the privilege of obtaining permits for using exercise rooms in schools. The SGS “Obilić“ members started practicing in the premises of the Mostar Gymnasium, but the authorities forbade the use of that area. The SGS “Obilić“ (after 1910, “Serbian Soko“ in Mostar) had good cooperation with the Serbian Singing Society „Gusle“ from Mostar, and they performed exercises in the premises of this Society.

Serbian Soko Society in Trebinje

The initiative for the establishment of the Serbian Soko Society (SSS) in Trebinje originated from a group of Serbs from Trebinje in 1909, when they drafted the Rules for the Work of the Society and applied for approval to the State Government. The rules were approved on January 9th 1910 (No. 232622), from

¹² „Обилић“ у Мостару, Српски Соко, лист за соколске ствари, vol. 5, no. 3, Карловци, 14. (27.) фебруар 1911.

¹³ Српска Сок. Жупа Босанско-херцеговачка, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 5, Карловци, 27. март (9. април) 1911.

¹⁴ Свесоколски слет у Софији, Српски Соко, лист за соколске ствари, vol. 4, no. 12, Карловци, 1(14) октобра 1910, pp. 231 – 236.

when the Society officially began its work. The company's Administration was elected on March 8th, 1910. At the beginning of work, 43 members enrolled: 4 benefactors, 10 founders, 25 executive and 4 supporters. As the year passed 17 more members were enrolled: 1 benefactor, 14 executive and 2 supporters, and at the end of 1910 there were 60 in total. It was recorded that this increase in the number of members was "... the best proof that the need and benefit of this society is well understood among all of us, and especially among those that Soko is intended for, to take them under its umbrella in order of both physically and brotherly strengthen them, and social revives."¹⁵

Executives practiced, starting from April 1910, divided in two groups. The beginning of exercising was not easy, "... but the young sokols immediately overcome all difficulties, and during the whole summer in the open air and heat, what could be only here, and the greatest efforts like the soldiers with the will and enthusiasm were able to overcome."¹⁶ First they practiced basic exercises, and after that, they started practicing exercises for the 5th Serbian Soko Slet in Ravanica.

In addition to practicing and other activities, the sokols were happy to go on excursions around Trebinje, where certain exercises were performed in the open and fresh air. They took one of these excursions to Lastva, a village east of Trebinje, 13 kilometers away, where sokols spent three more hours after walking in exercising, "... and the rest of the time in the game, singing and joy for returning home."¹⁷

In September 1910 they acquired the most basic gymnastic equipment. After enrollment of new members, executive members were classified into three groups, which carried out the exercises on a daily basis according to a certain schedule. Every Saturday they held gathering of Soko members, where they learned to sing, play and dance. On Sundays they usually performed excursions to the surroundings of Trebinje.

In addition to numerous activities, Sokols participated in public exercises of other Soko societies. They attended the public exercise of "Dušan Silni" ("Dušan the Great") in Dubrovnik on July 11th 1910 and the first public exercise of the Croatian Sokol Society in Trebinje on August 26th the same year. For this good work of the Society, the greatest merits belong to the Administration of the Society, especially to the soko Veselin Sekulović, the troop leader, "... who with his devoted

¹⁵ Српски Соко у Требињу, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 4, Карловци, 10. (23.) март 1911, p. 60.

¹⁶ Српски Соко у Требињу, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 4, Карловци, 10. (23.) март 1911, p. 60.

¹⁷ Српски Соко у Требињу, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 4, Карловци, 10. (23.) март 1911, p. 60.

work, diligence and rigor, and besides this with his own preparation brought the society to the height on which he stands today.”¹⁸

At the General Assembly of the Society, held on January 23rd 1911 in Trebinje, a new Administrative Board was elected in the following composition: Ilija Čabrinović, Senior; Jevto Dučić, Deputy Senior; Vasilije Stojanović, Secretary; Veselin Sekulović, troop leader; Stevo Grković, treasurer; Risto Vidačić, economist; Vuk Vrčević, Vladimir Sušić and Djordje Tupanjanin, councilors; Mićo Babić, Ljubo Djikov, Risto Ivanković and Milan Jakanović, councilors deputies. Todor Perović, Luka Stijačić and Todor Škerović were elected to the Supervisory Board.

The second Serbian Herzegovinian Sokol Slet was held in Trebinje on 19th and 20th of August 1911. In addition to the Sokols from Herzegovina, the following participants took part in the program: Serbian sokols from Serbia, Serbian sokols from the *Serbian Soko Parish of Fruška Gora*, Serbian male and female sokols from Sarajevo, Serbian male and female sokols from Serbian Soko Society „Dušan Silni“ from Dubrovnik.

Serbian Sokol Society in Višegrad

The rules and work of the Serbian Soko Society Višegrad were officially approved by the State Government on June 25th 1910 (No. 242865).

During 1911, the Administrative Board of the Society was comprised of: Matej Petrović, Senior; Sreten Bogdanović, Deputy Senior; Čedo Krsmanović, leader; Vojislav Kostić, Secretary; Jovo Miletić, treasurer; Todor Milovanović, economist and priest Milan Božić, councilor.

Until the election of the Society's Administration they worked almost nothing. However, after the election they got new teacher Jaroslav Rubringer, the Czechoslovakian soko instructor, hoped that they would "... advance, and with the willingness and perseverance of the executive members (of whom there are 17) reach the level that corresponds to the Serbian Soko “.¹⁹

Serbian Soko Society in Nevesinje

The rules and work of the Serbian Soko Society in Nevesinje were officially approved by the State Government on June 28th 1910 (No. 97027).

¹⁸ Српски Соко у Требињу, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 4, Карловци, 10. (23.) март 1911, p. 61.

¹⁹ М.П.: Српски Соко у Вишеграду, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 8, Карловци, 12. (25.) јуна 1911, p. 134.

At the General Assembly of the Serbian Soko Society in Nevesinje, held on January 8th 1912 in Nevesinje, the new Administration Board was elected: Senior, Veljko Simović; Deputy Senior, Ilija Radoičić; leader, Milan Milušić; Secretary, Jovan Orlušić; economist, Savo Burlica; councilors: Ragib Muslibegović, first councilor; Obren Petkovic, second councilor; Milan Gavrić, third councilor.²⁰

On August 28th 1911, the Serbian Sokols from Nevesinje held a public exercise at the church in Kruševljani²¹ and on June 15th (28th) 1911 in Nevesinje a festive soko party in order to develop Sokolism in favor of social needs.²² On June 3rd 1912 in Nevesinje, Serbian Soko Society in Nevesinje held its public class. This class was held to raise funds for the trip to Slet in Prague.²³

Serbian sokols from: Gacko, Mostar and Nevesinje, on August 2nd 1910 in Nevesinje, held *First Serbian Sokol Slet of Upper-Herzegovina*. The Slet program consisted of 7 points, which were performed in the following order: simple exercises, exercises on horizontal bar and parallel bars for a higher level, exercises on parallel bars for a lower level, exercises on a vault, spear exercises; jumps [from an ordinary bridge in height and length, from a place and from a race, from a springboard (reflection bridge) to a height, a fish jump] and a pyramids.²⁴

Serbian Soko Society in Gacko

The rules of the Serbian Soko Society in Gacko were approved by the State Government in 1910 under the registration number: 173804. Immediately after the founding of the Society, 26 members enrolled: 15 executives, 10 supporters and one founder (priest Jovan Popović). Getting started was tough. They did not have gymnastic equipment, but they only practiced some exercises without props. The equipment was acquired in 1911 in a value of 700 kronor. That year the number of members increased, and at that time there were a total of 57 members: 25 executives, 30 helpers and 2 founders. During the first year of work 18 members of the Society took part in the Serbian Soko Slet in Nevesinje, organized by sokols from Nevesinje together with Serbian sokols from Mostar.

²⁰ Српски Соко у Невесињу, Српска Ријеч, vol. 8, no. 16, Сарајево, понедељак 23. јануар (5. фебруар) 1912, p. 3.

²¹ Милан Милушић: Српски Соко у Невесињу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 11 – 12, Карловци, 1911, p. 195.

²² Српски Соко у Невесињу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 9 – 10, Карловци, 15. (28.) јули 1911, pp. 167 – 168.

²³ Невесиње, *Српски Соколски Гласник*, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 7, Београд, јули 1912, p. 95.

²⁴ Срп. Соколски слет Горње Херцеговине, *Српски Соко*, vol. 4, no. 8, Карловци, август 1910.

In Gacko, eight years back since 1911, there was a Serbian reading room and a Library. After the founding of SSS members of the Reading room and the Soko were mostly the same members, that is why at the assembly of SSS in Gacko, held on February 15th 1911, was decided that the Reading room and the Library should be transferred to the ownership of SSS. The Rules were prepared and sent to the State Government for approval. This unification was soon approved by the Government. Thus, the Gacko sokols got a reading room and a library containing a lot of books worth about 1500 kronor and had premises for the education of their members. In addition, the Reading room also had its own Tamburitza choir with eight members, and was soon renamed into the *Soko Tamburitza Choir*.

They practiced in the hall (workout place) of the Gacko Serbian Orthodox Church-school municipality (16 m in length, 7 m in width and 5 m in height), which "... was immediately after foundation voluntarily ceded" ²⁵ to SSS from Gacko.

At the General Assembly of the SSS held in Gacko on January 27th 1911, the Administration Board of the society was elected, consisted of: Uroš Š. Kovacevic, Senior; Ćamil Sarić, Deputy Senior; Anto B. Košutić, Secretary; Lazar J. Pičeta, leader; Aleksa S. Popovic, treasurer; Boriša B. Starović, guardian; Mehmed Duraković, Risto A. Samardžić and Milan S. Srdić, councilors.

Serbian Sokols from Gacko, on May 6th 1911, organized a festive party on Đurđevdan's day for the benefit of their treasury. ²⁶

In Trebinje, on 6th (19th) and 7th (20th) of August 1911, the Second Serbian Herzegovinian Soko Slet was held where also participated sokols from Gacko. Sokols from Gacko were very seriously preparing for this Slet so they would not be left behind by other sokols. They practiced three times a week in the evening, from 8 to 9.30 p.m., and from March 25th of the current year they practiced in the early morning, from 4.30 to 6.30 a.m. in fresh and clean air. In addition, every Sunday they went on foot to excursions to the Gacko area, crossing a distance of 10 to 15 kilometers.

Serbian Soko Society in Herceg Novi

This Serbian Soko Society was founded probably at the end of 1910. Significant contribution to the establishment of Serbian Soko Society in this place was given by the sokols from Dubrovnik who stayed in Herceg Novi that year.

²⁵ Српски Соко у Гацку, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 6, Карловци, 19. април (02. мај) 1911, p. 96.

²⁶ Српски Соко у Гацку, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 7, Карловци, 8. (21.) мај 1911.

About it in the periodical "Serbian Soko" was written: "But recently we were visited by 'Dušan Silni' from the feverish Dubrovnik, sneaks us from the slumber, and now Serbian Soko is arranged with us. The response is nice and we are getting ready for work. We ordered equipment and then we will go forward with the strength of the soko."²⁷

After the approval of the Rules of the Society, the Constitutive assembly was held, at which the Society's Administration was elected: Mirko Komnenović, Senior; Jovo Sekulović, Deputy Senior; Mirko Bakočević, Secretary; Luka Ćeranić, treasurer and Risto Rundo, leader. At that time, there were more than a hundred members in the society. The Assembly concluded, among other things, "... to build a new modern soko hall as soon as possible, and we hope that by the autumn it will be finished, and then we will go even further."²⁸

On February 18th 1911, a Serbian Soko Society from Herceg Novi organized an academy with a dance in Boka Kotorska. The members performed a simple exercise and a pyramids, two sokols recited poems "To Sokol idea" by St. Bošević Petrov and "Hi!" From Bioslava. The society's Senior, Mirko Komnenović, spoke about the importance of Sokolism.²⁹

Serbian Soko Society in Stolac

After the first Upper-Herzegovinian Slet on August 2nd 1910 in Nevesinje, where the locals from Stolac were present as observers, they got a wish to establish SSS also in their place. The consequence was a meeting of the group of Serbs who held the Founding assembly on August 15th 1910 and founded the SSS in Stolac.³⁰ The State Government officially approved its work on May 16th 1911 (No. 109000).³¹

²⁷ Српски Соко у Херцеговоме, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 1, Карловци, 1.(14.) децембар 1910, p. 18

²⁸ Српски Соко у Херцеговоме, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 4, Карловци, 10.(23.) март 1911, p. 59.

²⁹ Српски Соко у Херцеговоме, Српски Соко, vol. 5, no. 3, Карловци, 14.(27.) фебруар 1911.

³⁰ Српски Соко у Стоцу, *Српски Соколски Гласник*, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 5 и 6, Београд, мај-јуни 1912, p. 73.

³¹ Љубиша Зечевић, *Утицај друштвено-политичке и економске констелације за вријеме Аустроугарске владавине у Босни и Херцеговини на развој физичке културе (The influence of socio-political and economic constellation during the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the development of physical culture)*, Doctoral dissertation, Факултет физичке културе, Универзитет у Београду, 1988.; & Петар Д. Павловић, *Физичка култура српског народа у Босни и Херцеговини до 1918. године (Physical Culture of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1918)*, Факултет физичке културе Универзитета у Источном Сарајеву, Источно Сарајево, 1998.

After approval by the Austro-Hungarian authorities the interest for Sokolism began to grow. Opportunities for Sokolism "... began to evolve more favorably: everything that was advanced both old and young was delighted with Sokolism and in a short time, a troop of 25 sokols could be seen in constant progress and exercise even when weak and small and unhealthy."³²

During 1911, male and female sokols, in addition to practicing, performed several morning trips to the surroundings of Stolac. On Žegulja, 9 kilometers from Stolac, they met with sokols from Ljubinje and held a joint excursion. They took the second excursion to the village of Poplati and there they woke up the desire of the villagers for Sokolism. At that time, 12 rural youngsters became members of the SSS Stolac. More experienced members of SSS Stolac came to the village every Sunday and taught young people how to practice Sokolism.

On the Second Serbian Sokol Slet on August 19th and 20th 1911 in Trebinje, where 18 members from SSS Stolac attended and performed: exercises with spear, free exercises, Serbian bat exercises and exercises on horizontal bar. After Slet the interest in Sokolism increased even more, the number of members increased and at the end of December 1911 there were 59 members over 18 years of age, out of which 47 were active exercisers.³³

At the Societie's Assembly, on April 29th 1911, the Administrative Board was elected in the following composition: Visarion Petrović, Senior; Dušan Pecelj, Deputy Senior; Mirko J. Kurilić, Secretary; Filip Miholjević, troop leader; Vaso Milićević, treasurer; Pero Kovačević, guard; Petar Želud, Marko Jugović and Jefto Hamović, councilors. Members of the Supervisory Board were Mićo Govedarica, Milan Kovačević and Milan Kurilić.³⁴

Serbian Sokol Society in Ljubuški

On 14th of August 1911, with the initiative of the local man Jovo Vukojević, a group of Serbs from Ljubuški gathered with the intention to establish Serbian Soko Society. A Temporary Committee was formed. They prepared the Rules of the Society and submitted the request to the State Government for their approval. The State Government approved the work of SSS Ljubuški on July 25th 1911 (No. 160944).

³² Српски Соко у Стоцу, *Српски Соколски Гласник*, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 5 и 6, Београд, мај-јуни 1912, р. 73.

³³ Српски Соко у Стоцу, *Српски Соколски Гласник*, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 5 и 6, Београд, мај-јуни 1912, р. 73.

³⁴ Српски Соко у Стоцу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 8, Карловци, јуни 1911.

Right after the establishment of the Temporary Committee, its members began to work on the unification of the newly formed SSS and Serbian reading room in that place. "When you take a small and poor number of Serbs in this sea of foreigners, what could have been different and more advanced, but merge the reading room with Sokol, thus reinforcing it with fresh power, and strengthen all together in the wider field."³⁵

At the end of 1911, SSS Ljubuški had 30 members, out of which 15 were practitioners and 2 youngsters.

Serbian Soko Society in Ljubinje

The initiative for the establishment of the Serbian Soko Society in Ljubinje originated from a group of Serbs gathered around the Serbian teacher Dušan Savić. On February 27th 1911, he gathered Serbian youth from Ljubinje to establish SSS. He held a lecture for the gathered people on the Sokolism and its meaning for the Serbian people, which ended with the words: "Brothers, let's establish Serbian Soko also in Ljubinje, because Serbian Soko is strong and famous."³⁶

At that meeting, the Interim Board of three members was elected: Trifko Krunić, Dušan Savić and Danilo Ćorović, whose task was to draft the Rules for the society, to write and submit a request to the authorities for the approval of work, preparation of the constitutive assembly, etc.

In the journal "Serbian Soko", this initiative is warmly welcomed with the words: "We are warmly welcoming this young Serbian Soko in our brotherly flock with the desire to never loosen its young wings, but be glorious and powerful as his other older brothers. Regards!"³⁷

At the Constitutive Assembly held on April 9th 1911 in Ljubinje, the Society's Administration was elected, composed of: S. Šarenac, Senior; Jovo Bjelobrk, Deputy Senior; Danilo Ćorović, Secretary, Trifko Krunić, treasurer; Dušan Savić, leader; Dušan Batinić, guardian; B. Mičić, B. Novokmet B. Nožica, councilors.³⁸

³⁵ Српски Соко у Љубушком, *Српски Соколски Гласник*, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 5 & 6, Београд, мај и јуни 1912, p. 74.

³⁶ Српски Соко у Љубињу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 5, Карловци, 27. март (9. април) 1911, p. 80.

³⁷ Српски Соко у Љубињу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 5, Карловци, 27. март (9. април) 1911, p. 80.

³⁸ Српски Соко у Љубињу, *Српски Соко*, vol. 5, no. 6, Карловци, 19. април (2. мај) 1911.

Rules and work of SSS Ljubinje were officially approved by the State Government on July 31st 1911 (No. 166381).

Serbian Soko Society in Čapljina

The initiator of the establishment of the Serbian Soko Society in Čapljina was Stojan Pudar, who held a meeting with his counterpart on August 29th 1910 in Čapljina, on which the SSS was established. Immediately after its establishment, 16 falcons enrolled the Society. After that, they submitted a request and the Rules to the State Government for approval, and the Government approved their work one year later, on October 6th 1911 (No. 218 883).³⁹

Regarding Sokolism Pudar interested not only the local inhabitants of Čapljina, but also the ones in the surrounding villages. Interest in Sokolism was especially expressed in the village of Tasovčići, which was located on the other side of river Neretva, and connected with Čapljina by bridge. Twelve young people from Tasovčići enrolled the Sokol ranks. On Sunday and holidays members of SSS Mostar went to Tasovčići and conducted exercises with them. In addition to all the difficulties encountered by sokols from Čapljina, they practiced and prepared for the Slet in Trebinje (on August 19th and 20th 1911). On Slet in Trebinje participated 43 sokols (male and female) from SSS Čapljina (12 exercise workers, 14 uniformed and 17 members).

During 1911, the Administrative Board conducted two excursions to Klepci with their sokols, they organized two festive parties and participated with twelve members at the Soko party of SSS Ljubuski. At the end of December 1911, the Society had 28 members of all categories, out of which there were ten practitioners. During that year, they held 74 exercise classes.⁴⁰

On Sunday, August 13th 1911, Serbian sokols organized a Soko party in Tasovčići (Čapljina) where they performed their first public exercise. In addition to SSS members from Čapljina, the training was attended also by sokols from Mostar, who came with their Senior and Leader, Atanasije Šola and Čedomir Milić.

³⁹ Зечевић Љубиша, *Утицај друштвено-политичке и економске констелације за вријеме Аустроугарске владавине у Босни и Херцеговини на развој физичке културе*, Докторска дисертација, Факултет физичке културе, Универзитет у Београду, 1988.

⁴⁰ Српски Соко у Чапљини, Српски Соколски Гласник, орган Српског Соколства, vol. 1, no. 5 & 6, Београд, мај и јуни 1912, p. 73.

CONCLUSION

Three decades after the formation of Sokolism in the Czech Republic, appeared the first initiatives for the establishment of Serbian Soko societies in the territory of Herzegovina and Bosnia, but the political situation in Austro-Hungary at that time was not beneficial for the establishment of societies with a national pre-sign. The first attempts to establish a Serbian Soko Society happened in 1893 in Foča, but the Austro-Hungarian authorities did not allow this. The first society that had the characteristics of Serbian Soko Societies was established in Foča in 1899 under the name *Sobriety Society Pobratimstvo (Brotherhood)*, which in its work had the fight against alcoholism, but it was actually mostly working on physical and spiritual strengthening of its members. In 1911 it was re-registered to "Serbian Soko" in Foča. In 1904, the first Serbian Gymnastics Society "Obilić" was established in Mostar, originated from "Prosvjeta's" subcommittee headed by Aleksa Šantić. This Society gathered many intelligent Serbs in its membership who, in addition to the physical strengthening of members, with their membership contributed to the spiritual rise of the Serbian people. In 1910 officially started to work Serbian Soko Societies in: Gacko, Herceg Novi, Nevesinje, Trebinje and Višegrad. In the following 1911 started to work societies in: Ljubuški, Ljubinje, Stolac and Čapljina. After the establishment of the *Serbian Soko Parish of Bosnia and Herzegovina* in 1910, all the societies that existed until then, as well as those that were created after that, were given the unique name "Serbian Soko". According to reviewed and available sources, we can conclude that Herzegovina, more precisely Foča and Mostar, was a cradle of Sokolism in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to Foča and Mostar, many other Serbian Soko Societies have been established and worked in Herzegovina, which have greatly helped in the development of Sokolism as well as physical, cultural and spiritual rise of the Serbian and other people in that area.

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ПОЧЕЦИ СРПСКОГ СОКОЛСТВА У ХЕРЦЕГОВИНИ

САЖЕТАК

Соколски покрет је настао у Чешкој у другој половини 19. века, након чега се проширио на све Славенске земље, као и оне у којима су живели Славенски народи. Први почеци соколства у Босни и Херцеговини вежу се за Херцеговину, тачније Фочу и Ристу Јеремића, када су 1893. године настале прве иницијативе за оснивање српског соколског друштва у овом месту. Прошло је више од пет година до оснивања првог „Побратимства“, првенствено антиалкохоличарског, али и друштва које је имало карактеристике будућих српских соколских друштава. Године 1910. ово друштво је и званично пререгистровано у „Српски Соко“ у Фочи. У наредном периоду наступило је мало повољније време и почела су да се оснивају и друга друштва у градовима и осталим местима Херцеговине, која су након одређеног времена ушла и у херцеговачка села, што је допринело развоју села, описмењавању народа али и многим другим корисним стварима. Управо ти почеци и развој соколства на простору Херцеговине представљају главни предмет овог рада са циљем да се истражи и прикаже када и како су се јавиле прве иницијативе, када су основана прва друштва и ко су у томе биле најзначајније личности.

Поред тога, аутори желе приказати и значај соколства за целокупну Херцеговину и њено становништво. Током писања рада аутори су користили историјски метод.

Кључне речи: оснивање, скупштина, жупа (савез), иницијативе, побратимство, српски соко.

НАЧАЛО СЕРБСКОГО СОКОЛИЗМА В ГЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ

АННОТАЦИЯ

Сокольское движение зародилось в Чехии во второй половине 19 столетия и вскоре распространилось во всех славянских странах, а также в тех странах, где жили славяне. Начало Соколизма в Боснии и Герцеговине было положено в Герцеговине, основателем считается Ристо Джеремич из города Фоча, который в 1893 первым инициировал создание Сербского Сокольского общества в этом городе. Это было более чем за 5 лет до создания первого общества «Побратимство» («Братство»), первоначально анти-алкогольного, но, в то же время, общества, имеющего характеристики будущих Сербских Сокольских обществ. В 1910 это общество было официально перерегистрировано в общество «Сербские соколы» в Фоче. В последующие годы начался благоприятный период и различные общества начали появляться в других городах, которые позже вошли в состав Герцеговины, что положительно повлияло на развитие Герцеговины в целом, на грамотность населения и другие аспекты. Эти начинания и развитие Сокольского движения на территории Герцеговины отражены в содержании этой статьи; цель статьи выявить и представить, когда и как появились первые инициативы, когда появились первые общества и кто были наиболее значимые деятели. В заключении авторы хотели показать значение Соколизма для Герцеговины и ее населения. Авторами использован исторический метод.

Ключевые слова: основание, ассамблея, союз, инициативы, братство, Сербские Соколы.

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