

Za Hrvatsku kao zmaj

FOR CROATIA AS A DRAGON

Sve što je Družba učinila za hrvatski narod i njegovu baštinu i sve što će učiniti u nadolazećim vremenima čini pod svojim značajnim geslom "Za oltare i ognjišta Božjom milošću", koje je od davnine sačuvala i na latinskome jeziku "Pro aris et focus Deo propitio"

Everything that the Society has done for the Croatian people and its heritage and all that it will continue to do is done under its significant slogan "For altars and hearths with God's mercy" which has persisted from ancient times also in Latin "Pro aris et focus Deo propitio"

Piše/By Tomislav Đurić



U Hrvatskome glazbenom zavodu u Zagrebu Družba "Braća Hrvatskoga Zmaja" obilježila je 16. studenoga 2005. stoljetnicu svoga postojanja i rodoljubnog djelovanja. To tradicionalno hrvatsko bratstvo utemeljili su 1905. znameniti hrvatski povjesničari i književnici Emilije Laszowsky i dr. Velimir Deželić na zasadama "Zmajске družbe" iz 1408. Želja je osnivača bila da se utemelji kulturna družba na osnovi poštenog hrvatskog prijateljstva i bratstva, potpuno slobodno od svake političke stranke, a da ipak bude izrazito hrvatska i domoljubna.

Zadaća je bila oživljavati uspomene na slavne činjenice hrvatske povijesti i na zaslužne Hrvate. Utemeljitelji su Družbi prvo htjeli dati ime "Braća zmaja ognjenoga", da bi se ipak odlučili za naziv "Braća Hrvatskoga Zmaja" i to na zasadama staroga "Zmajskog društva", odnosno "Reda" (Ordo) iz godine 1408. Kralj Sigismund utemeljio je 12. prosinca 1408. "Red zmajskih vitezova", sastavljen od hrvatskih, ali i ugarskih i čeških plemića, koji su kao družba za svoje vanjsko obilježje uzeli zmaja ovijena repa oko glave, zaštitnika i "čuvara blaga".

Sjedište novoutemeljene Družbe bilo je u Zagrebu, u kuli nad Kamenitim vratima. U vrijeme NDH ondašnje su je vlasti pokušale preustrojiti u "Viteški red Hrvatskoga zmaja", kao aristokratsku organizaciju, no članstvo Družbe nije tu zamisao prihvatilo pa je Zakonskom odredbom od 19. studenoga 1941. Družba ukinuta. Nastankom komunističke Jugoslavije 1945. Družba je ponovo uspostavljena u starom svojstvu i s izvornim imenom, ali ne zadugo. Unatoč tome što Družba nije djelovala u vrijeme NDH, novi, antihrvatski režim ubrzo ju je neopravdano zabranio. Odlukom Ministarstva unutrašnjih poslova NRH od 4. ožujka 1946. Družba je raspuštena i zabranjena. Ali zmajski duh Družbe nije bio uništen te je ona odmah nakon demokratskih izbora obnovljena 23. lipnja 1990. u ozračju stvaranja samostalne države Hrvatske, pod okriljem zaštitnika i mučenika sv. Jurja.

Što se tiče samog imena, ono je pomalo čudno i egzotično i ikonografski zanimljivo. Zmaj znači nešto snažno, on je čuvar blaga i ulaza u grad. Članovi Družbe žele čuvati hrvatsku kulturnu baštinu odlučno i hrabro poput zmajeva. Zato je družbeni znak zmaj, ali zmaj zelenih krila, zeleni zmaj. Zbog toga je bespredmetno svako poistovjećivanje toga zmaja s crvenim zmajem, simbolom zla i mržnje, kojega ubija sv. Juraj.

U razdoblju svoga kontinuiranog djelovanja od 1905. do ukinuća 1946. "zmajevi" su ostvarili upravo nemjerljive koristi i rezultate u kulturnom životu Hrvata. Družba je bila pokretač, a često i nositelj, izrazito važnih nacionalnih akcija u očuvanju baštine ili u osnivanju važnih kulturnih i drugih ustanova. Tako, na primjer, Družba je bila osnivačem Gradske knjižnice i čitaonice u Zagrebu, Muzeja grada Zagreba, pa čak i Hitne pomoći u Zagrebu; osnovala je Gradski arhiv u



Zagrebu, postavila znameniti spomenik "Lijepoj našoj" u Zelenjaku (1935), zatim mogilu "Hrvatska gruda" sa sokolom u Maksimiru (što je dovršeno tek 1996. godine). Družba je u raznim mjestima Hrvatske postavila gotovo 300 spomen-ploča i drugih obilježja poznatim i zaslužnim Hrvatima ili uz obljetnice poznatih događaja iz hrvatske povijesti.

Posebno se gajio kult Zrinskih i Frankopana, pa je 1919. organiziran prijenos kostiju Petra Zrinskog i Frana Krste Frankopana iz Bečkoga Novog Mjesta u zagrebačku katedralu. U povodu 1300. obljetnice prvih veza Hrvata sa Svetom Stolicom (na spomen 641. godine) postavljen je 17. rujna 1944. u zagrebačkoj prvostolnici spomenik s glagoljskim natpisom "Zmajevi su spasili i Kamenita vrata od rušenja" (1905). Puno je učinjeno i nakon obnove 1990. U prigodi obilježavanja 900. obljetnice zagrebačke biskupije 1994., Družba je na trg podno Kamenitih vrata postavila prelijepi kip sv. Jurja, simbola Družbe, rad kipara Andrije Kampatschera i Artura Winderera, a taj je prostor dobio i ime **Trg Braće Hrvatskoga Zmaja**.

Kroz proteklih stotinu godina zmajskoj su braći pripadali i brojni hrvatski velikani, kao što su književnici Đuro i Velimir Deželić, August Harambašić, Ljubo Babić (Ksaver Šandor Gjalski), povjesničari Emil Laszowsky, Vjekoslav Klaić, Bartol barun Zmajčić. Družba se može podičiti i istaknutim glazbenicima (Ivan pl. Zajc, Đuro Prejac), umjetnicima poput Jose Bužana, Roberta Frangeša, Ive Kerdića. Tu su bili i političari Mile Starčević, dr. Ante Trumbić, a od crkvenih dostojanstvenika kardinal bl. Alojzije Stepinac, te brojni zagrebački gradonačelnici i članovi obitelji hrvatskoga plemstva. Nakon obnove Družbe 1990. ona ima i svoje počasne članove: prvoga hrvatskog predsjednika dr. Franju Tuđmana, kardinala Franju Kuharića, književnike Vinka Nikolića, Dragutina Tadijanovića.

Na čelu Družbe je Veliki Meštar, "prvi među jednakima" od 14 članova Meštarskog zbora, koji uprav-

Stjepan Širola, dr. Velimir Deželić, Emilij Laszowsky (Joso Bužan, 1923.)



Dr. Antun Bauer



Emilij Laszowsky (1905)



Dr. Velimir Deželić i Emilij Laszowsky (1906)

lja Družbom. Prema Pravilima Družbe (“Ordo Draconicus”) koja su prihvaćena na obnoviteljskoj skupštini 16. studenoga 1990. Družba se sastoji od zmajske matice u Zagrebu (koja može brojiti najviše 150 članova) i ogranaka – zmajskih stolova (najviše 11 članova) po županijama. Oni čine osnovu članstva kao redovita braća, a uz njih još postoje članovi utemeljitelji, dobrotvori, prinosnici, počasni članovi i pripravnici. Svi oni djeluju pod svojim posebnim “zmajskim imenom” kojeg dobivaju ulaskom u Družbu. Zmajska matica u Zagrebu ima i sedam svojih kulturnih zborova (sekcija) na čijem su čelu Meštri, koji su s Velikim Mešтром odgovorni za cjelokupan rad Družbe. Dužnost Velikog Meštra nakon obnove Družbe 1990. obnašao je dr. Antun Bauer, zaslužan za njenu obnovu, a zatim su se na tom časnom mjestu nalazili dr. Đuro Deželić, dr. Juraj Kolarić, a od godine 2001. arhitekt Matija Salaj koji je i danas na njenom čelu. Po prastaraj tradiciji iz 1905. društveni život odvija se u Zmajskoj kuli nad Kamenitim vratima u kojoj se posebno ističe “Viteška dvorana”, uređena 1938. prema projektu prof. ing. arh. Jurja Denzlera.

Izvan Domovine Družba ima članove utemeljitelje među kojima se ističe Hrvatska bratska zajednica (SAD), a počasni je član Baldo Prokurica, član čileanskog parlamenta. Za rad i članstvo u Družbi sve je veće zanimanje kod hrvatskog iseljništva.

Sve ono što je Družba do sada učinila za hrvatski narod i njegovu baštinu i sve ono što će učiniti u nadolazećim vremenima čini pod svojim značajnim geslom “Za oltare i ognjišta Božjom milošću”, koje je od davnine sačuvala i na latinskome jeziku: “Pro aris et focus Deo propitio”.



On November 16, 2005, the Society “Brotherhood of the Croatian Dragon” celebrated, at the Croatian Musical Institute in Zagreb, the first century of its existence and patriotic activities. Remarkable Croatian historians and writers Emilije Laszowsky and dr. Velimir Deželić had established this traditional Croatian brotherhood in 1905, on the basis of the former “Dragon’s Society” dating from 1408. Their intention was to float a cultural Society based on the fair Croatian friendship and fraternity, completely uninfluenced by any political party, but at the same time distinctly Croatian and patriotic.

Their mission was to actuate memories on the famed facts of Croatian history and merited Croats. The founders initially wanted to name the Society “Brotherhood of the flaming dragon” but then finally decided to name it “Brotherhood of the Croatian Dragon” because their society was based on the principles of the old “Dragon’s society” and “Order” (Ordo) from 1408. On December 12, 1408 King Sigismund had founded the “Order of dragon knights” whose members were Croatian noblemen but also comprised of Hungarians and Czechs. As their emblem, they took a

dragon with a tail wrapped around its head, as patron and “treasury guardian”.

The centre of the newly founded Society was in Zagreb, inside the tower situated over the Stone Gate. During the rule of NDH, its government tried to reform it to “Order of knights of Croatian dragon” and to make of it an aristocratic organization. However, its members did not accept the proposal and this Society was suppressed in accordance with a decree of November 19, 1941. In 1945, after the establishment of the communist Yugoslavia, it was renewed under the same name but not for a long time. Nevertheless, the Society was not active during the NDH; neither the

Želja je osnivača bila da se utemelji kulturna družba na osnovi poštenog hrvatskog prijateljstva i bratstva, potpuno slobodno od svake političke stranke, a da ipak bude izrazito hrvatska i domoljubna

Their intention was to float a cultural Society based on the fair Croatian friendship and fraternity, completely uninfluenced by any political party, but at the same time distinctly Croatian and patriotic

new anti-Croatian régime did allow its regular work. With the decree of the NRH Ministry of internal affairs, from March 4, 1946, the Society was forbidden. However, they could not destroy dragon’s spirit, for the Society was renewed once again, after the democratic elections in June 23, 1990 during establishment of independent Republic of Croatia and under the protection of St. George, patron and martyr.

The name of this Society, we could say, is a little strange, exotic and of iconographical interest. The dragon represents something that is strong; he is the guardian of a treasury and the city’s entrance. Likewise, members of this Society ought to preserve Croatian cultural heritage in such a brave way, as the dragons do. Therefore, their symbol is dragon, but dragon with green wings, a green dragon. Thus, it is needles to identify it with the red dragon, which symbolizes evil and hatred, slayed by St. George.

In its continuous activities from 1905 until its dissolution in 1946, the Society of “dragons” has achieved immeasurable results in Croatian cultural life. Very often, the Society was the initiator and the supporter of very important national actions of preserving the heritage, or establishing important cultural and other institutions. For example, the Society founded the Municipal Library and Reading-club in Zagreb, the Museum of the Town of Zagreb and even the Emergency Ambulance in Zagreb; the City archive in Zagreb. In 1935, the Society erected the famous monument “Lijepa naša” in Zelenjak and funeral mound “Croatian

A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE "BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROATIAN DRAGON" SOCIETY

land" with falcon in Maksimir (which was not finished until 1996).

All around Croatia, this Society has raised almost 300 memorial tablets and other emblems dedicated to the famous and meritorious Croats or to the anniversaries of the celebrated events from Croatian history.

Cult of the families Zrinski and Frankopan was particularly promoted and in 1919 for they have organized a transport of Petar Zrinski and Fran Krsto Frankopan's bones from Bečko Novo Mjesto to the Zagreb's cathedral.

On the 1300th anniversary of the first connections of Croats and the Holy See (as a remembrance of the year 641) on September 17, 1944, a monument with Glagolitic superscription was put inside the Zagreb's cathedral. Dragons have also saved Stone Gate from crumbling (1905). After their restoration in 1990 they have renewed their activities. In 1994, for the 900th Anniversary of the Zagreb's diocese, Society has put their symbol on the square below the Stone Gate, a beautiful statue of St. George, masterpiece of sculptors Andrija Kampatschera and Artur Winder. Later, this square got a name "Square of the Brothers of the Croatian Dragon".

During the last hundred years, numerous great Croatians such as writers Đuro and Velimir Deželić, August Harambašić, Ljubo Babić (Ksaver Šandor Gjalski), historians Emil Laszowsky, Vjekoslav Klaić, Bartol barun Zmajčić, were members of the dragon's brotherhood. This Society can be also proud of prominent musicians (Ivan pl. Zajc, Đuro Prejac...), artists like Jose Bužan, Robert Frangeš and Ive Kerdić. Then politicians Mile Starčević and dr. Ante Trumbić; prelate cardinal St. Alojzije Stepinac; numerous mayors of the City of Zagreb and members of Croatian noble families. After the renewal of this Society on 1990, their honorary members were: first Croatian president dr.



Franjo Tuđman, cardinal Franjo Kuharić, writers Vinko Nikolić, Dragutin Tadijanović...

At the head of the Society is a Grand Master, "the first among the equal". He is one of the 14 members of the Master's board that administers the Society.

In accordance with the Society Rules ("Ordo Draconicus") that were accepted on the renewal assembly on the November 16, 1990, Society is comprised of Dragon's head-quarter situated in Zagreb (with no more than 150 members) and branches – Dragon's board (no more than 11 members) situated in other counties.

These are regular members of the brotherhood. Apart from them, there are also founders, benefactors, contributors, honorary members and trainees. Every member of the society has its "dragon's name".

Dragon's head-quarter situated in Zagreb has its seven cultural chores (sections) with Masters on its head. They are, together with the Grand Master, responsible for the whole work of the Society.

After the Society renewal on 1990, role of the Grand Master was taken by dr. Antun Bauer, the most meritorious for its renewal. After him, this respectable position was taken by dr. Đuro Deželić, dr. Georg Kolaric, and from 2001. architect Matija Salaj.

According to the ancient tradition dating from 1905, social life takes place in Dragon's tower over the Stone Gates, and notably in the "Hall of Knights" that was designed by prof. ing. Arch. Juraj Denzler in 1938.

The Society also has its members – founders outside the Homeland. One of the eminent is the Croatian Fraternal Union (USA) with Mr. Baldo Prokurica as its honorary member (also a member of the Parliament of Chile). The Society is attracting more and more Croatian emigrants.

Everything that this Society has done for Croatian people and its heritage and all that it will continue to do is done under its significant slogan "For altars and hearths with God's mercy" which has persisted from ancient times also in Latin: "Pro aris et focus Deo propitio". ©



Obilježavanje 100. obljetnice Družbe "Braća Hrvatskoga Zmaja" u Hrvatskom glazbenom zavodu u Zagrebu (gore)

Matija Salaj, d.i.a. današnji Veliki meštar Družbe

