

## DEVELOPMENT OF GYMNASTICS IN CROATIA UP TO 1903

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### **Abstract**

*This manuscript aimed to show the development of gymnastics in Croatia up until 1903. This article provided a chronological description of the growth of gymnastics in Croatia from 1859 to 1903. In Osijek, Croatia's first gymnastics society was founded in 1865. Gymnastics were introduced into schools in the middle of the 19th century as a result of increased interest in physical education based on by the stronger development of civil society. 1874. was founded Croatian Sokol in Zagreb and gymnastics also became a part of a high school program. In Croatia, numerous gymnastics societies started to be established, including the Varaždin Sokol Gymnastic Society in 1878 and the Zadar Gymnastic Society in 1876. In Dalmatia, central Croatia, and Slavonia, new gymnastics societies have been founded. For example, the Croatian Sokol was founded in Bjelovar in 1884 and Makarska in 1894. Additionally, the gymnastics society took part in open workouts in Prague and Pariz. Women's gymnastics started on in 1891 in Croatian Sokol in Zagreb where exercises were conducted in three divisions, including simple exercises and those on the apparatus.*

**Keywords** artistic gymnastics, Croatia, history, "Sokol".

### **ORIGINS OF GYMNASTICS IN CROATIA**

Organized gymnastics appeared somewhat later in areas inhabited by Croats, than in other areas, inhabited by other European nations. Gymnastics and physical exercise, started appearing very early, as a form of gymnastics conducted by German and Austrian officers during their stay in the barracks. In the Military Frontier it was modelled from German Turner associations on one side, while gymnastics had a connection with firefighter tasks, which was also the case in some other countries (Iveljić, 2012: 10-15).

Time elapsed from the beginnings of organized gymnastics activities, to the

foundation of the first association, has made its beginnings almost completely forgotten.

Beginnings of organized physical activity in Zagreb are tied to the year 1859. and Miroslav Friedrich Singer (1821. - 1876.) Institute for Physical Exercise. Although Singer educated a number of significant people in gymnastics, it took a long time to establish the first gymnastic society (*Gimnastika*, 1891: 11: 166).

First gymnastic society in Croatia was established in Osijek in 1865. Information that *Pervo društvo gombalach* will conduct the first gymnastic exercise in the pub "Danč", which shall also be a founding celebration, was published on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of

July in the year 1865 in the paper *Esseker Lokalblatt und Landbote*, (Figure 1), which was a local paper at the time. (*Esseker Lokalblatt und Landbote*, 1865: 58). The society was founded on the proposition of J. Wawerke, editor of the paper, under the name *Pervo društvo gombalacah* [*The first gymnastics club*] in Osijek. The announced exercise was conducted on September the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the foundations for organized physical activity in the city of Osijek were

placed. A request for approval of societies rules and regulations was prepared and submitted on September the 9<sup>th</sup>. Board of the society was elected on the first general meeting with Ladislav Molnar as the principal, Karlo Lehman as vice principal, Eduard Gal as leader (gymnastics teacher), Mato Danč as treasurer and J. F. Waverka as secretary (Firinger, 1974: 19: 1699).

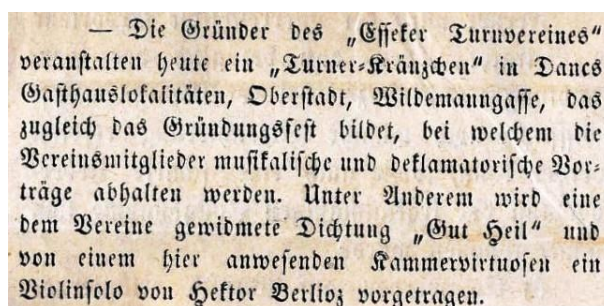


Figure 1. Osijek, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1865., publication in the paper *Esseker Lokalblatt und Landbote* about the new society

The most important reason why other gymnastic societies could not develop properly, was a lack of gymnastic teachers, gymnastic apparatus, halls and playgrounds, lack of material funds in associations, and because of political disputes (Iveljić, 2014: 9).

A stronger development of civil society has initiated a higher interest in physical education, leading to incorporation of gymnastics in schools in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. A new attitude towards human body can be discerned through incorporation of gymnastics as an obligatory class in public schools, on the basis of a law from the year 1874. Gymnastics also became a part of a high school program. Special attention was given towards construction of gymnasiums, leading to their development in most major settlements. A large number of exercises were performed with and on apparatus in sports halls, and during spring and summer, in open spaces. A new instruction has been

issued for swedish system gymnastics, with a detailed list of elements of exercise.

An important gymnastic society was founded in Zagreb during the year 1862, Croatian singing association *Kolo*. Members of *Južni Sokol* [*South Sokol*] from Ljubljana visited the singing society *Kolo* during the ceremonial celebration of heroic death of governor Nikola Šubić Zrinski, which was held during 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of November in 1866. Around 60 Slovenian Sokol members with their flag in Sokol uniform arrived in Zagreb, and were greeted heartily from Zagreb crowd. An idea of creation of a gymnastic society in Zagreb was proposed (Zeininger, 1892: 30).

The society has filed requests and amendments for the foundation of gymnastic section within the society, on numerous occasions, which the government rejected (Radan, 1973: 16: 1482).

## CROATIAN SOKOL IN ZAGREB

The first agreement for the foundation of the society was in the city hall, on the incentive of Josip Fon (1846. - 1899.), with the mayor of Zagreb, Ivan Vončina. On the meeting held on July the 5<sup>th</sup> in 1874, creation of regulations was trusted to the committee. Temporary committee with priest Josip Torbar (1824. - 1900.) at the head, who became the first temporary president, undertakes an action to create the

society. The committee consisted of representatives (founders) Friedrich Miroslav Singer, Franjo Pečak (1841. - 1934.), Oto Jokuš and Đuro Kontak, and secretary Mirko Mikulčić (Bučar, 1925: 6). Appeal for registration of Society for Physical Exercise *Hrvatski Sokol* [*Croatian Sokol*] (Statuten des Agramer Turnvereines „Hrvatski Sokol“), along with regulations, was submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> of July. Society regulations were written bilingually, on Croatian and German languages (Pravila, 1874).



Figure 2. Membership application form of a member of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb, registered on November the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1874., under the number 58. (National University library in Zagreb).

Number of registered members soon reached 185 members, consisting of 19 founders, 66 executive members who partake in physical exercise and 100 backing members, who do not exercise, but support the association through membership fees (Bučar, 1925: 7).

First general meeting was held on December the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1874., in the pub “K

Caru Austrijskom” in Zagreb. Ivan Vončina became principal, Josip Fon vice principal, Levin Rojčević secretary, Ivan Stožir account liquidator, Milan Lenuci apparatus guardian, Antun Stiasni treasurer, Đuro Kontak, Franjo Pečak and Friedrich Miroslav Singer became representatives, with Singer also being the leadern (Figure 3), (Hajdenak and Bučar, 1878: 1: 6).



Figure 3. Founders of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb. (Đuro Janči).

The society began training in Singer school of gymnastics located at former Strossmayer promenade in the upper Town. Gymnastic apparatus located there consisted of: wooden horizontal bar, still rings, parallel bars, pommel horse, vault horse, two training mats, stands with strip for horizontal jumps and a springboard, and a few smaller kettle bells (Bučar, 1925: 8).

It was decided that members clothes were similar as of those in Sokol from Prague: baggy pants, short coat made from Russian linen, red shirt, small hat with a plume and a monogram and black shoes. For some time, a wide collar with a white tie was worn. After some time it was replaced by a tight army collar without a tie. (Bučar, 1925: 12; Primorac, 1875: 2).

Croatian Sokol in Zagreb began operating in January 1875. Gombanje, or strengthening, was conducted in accordance to a German method of Adolf Spies, in a building on Strossmayer promenade. City authorities allowed utilization of apparatus (Bučar, 1924: 3: 49).

Soon, more than a hundred members were exercising, with the first frontmen: Josip Fon (Figure 4), Wingerl, Vukišević, Žiga Stagl, Rudolf pl. Bekh, Gjuro Križ, Robert Weiss, Ivan Hörer, Božidar and Ivo Mallin. Through the year, the association organised a couple of excursions and designed an official flag. (Bučar, 1925: 11).

As there was no Croatian gymnastic terminology, Andrija Hajdenak wrote the first book about physical exercise on Croatian language. The book *Tjelovježba u pučkoj školi* [*Physical exercise in the public school*] written as instructions for teachers, „kako metodično mogu poučavati u prostih vježbah, u koliko se one u školi izvesti dadu“ [“how methodically teach simple exercises, so they can be performed at school“] (Hajdenak, 1875: 2).

## ACTIVENESS OF OTHER GYMNASTICS SOCIETIES

Italian **Zadar Gymnastic Society** (*L'Associazione Zavratina di Ginnastica*) was

founded on January the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1876 in Zadar. In the society regulations, care of gymnastics was on the first place. With good organisation, the members exercised in the amphitheatre of Guiseppe Manzini on Nova Obala, where they made good progress (Marić - Meštrović, 2013: 70).

The year also commenced with exercises of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb, in a small gymnasium on Strossmayer walkway, on the South promenade. The association decided to hold a first sokol dance on February the 4<sup>th</sup> in 1876. First dance in costumes of Croatian Sokol was held on the premises of city shooting range in Zagreb. Name change was conducted by the beginning of April, and was approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> of that month with the name changed into **Zagreb Gymnastic Society Hrvatski sokol** (Bučar, 1925: 13; Radan, 1973: 16: 1455).

After the death of Singer, Prague Sokol recommended Čeh Franjo (František) Hochman for the positions of teacher and headmaster of the society, who was elected on March the 8<sup>th</sup> in 1876. He began to use Croatian language when teaching, and incorporated exercising by Tyršev sokol model. His effort has shown successful and the association began to visibly improve. (Bučar, 1925: 11).

First public gymnastics exercise with Croatian Sokol competition was held in Zagreb on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July in 1876, in the garden of civil shooting range. 30 members of the association demonstrated exercises on horizontal bar, parallel bars, jumping over vault horse, exercises in formations, and group exercises with sticks. This demonstration displayed to the public what gymnastics consists of. Hochman, Weiss, Kosirnik, Malin and Lenuci stood out in these exercises (Bučar, 1925: 19).

During consecration ceremony of the flag of singing society *Vila* in Varaždin on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May in 1877, visiting members of Zagreb Sokol society initiated an idea to start a new society. Along with members from Zagreb, students of Varaždin high-schools also participated in exercising,

while wearing a special gymnastics suit and led by gymnastics teacher Nilius. The Initiative board prepared rules and regulations for the foundation of Varaždinski Sokol on May the 27<sup>th</sup>. A temporary board was elected during October, with Slavoljub pl. Pump being the head of the board (*Sokol*, 1878: 2: 14; Bučar, 1925: 18).

First number of *Sokol* was published on January the 15<sup>th</sup> in 1878, under editorial

work of Andrija Hajdenak and Franjo Hochman. With the creation of first journal of gymnastics, Hajdenak and Hochman highlighted that physical exercises, mentally guided, should primarily be implemented in public schools, through them to the whole nation, as they developed and domiciliated in other, more developed nations. In addition, they wished the creation of gymnastic societies, throughout all of Croatia.

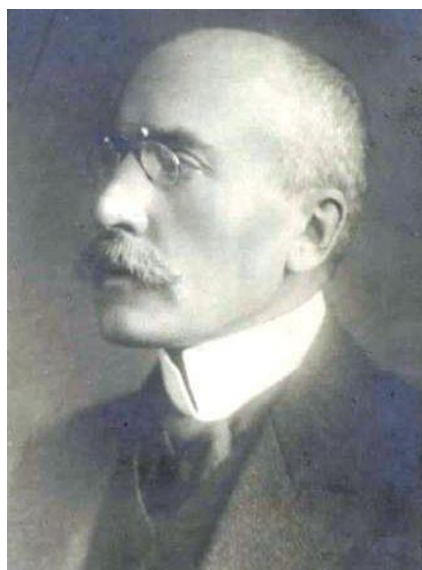


Figure 4. Frontman of Zagreb association Josip Fon.

After the foundation of gymnastic societies in Osijek and Zagreb, **Gymnastic Society Varaždin Sokol** was formed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in 1878, in Varaždin. On the first general meeting, Slavoljub pl. Pump was elected as principal, Stjepan Sekovanić as vice principal, Josip Polanec as treasurer and Josip Plantić as secretary. In the beginnings, the society had approximately sixty executive and backing members (Svoboda, 1923: 16; Bučar, 1925: 18).

### FIRST INTERURBAN GYMNASTIC COMPETITION

First interurban public exercise, coupled with a competition was held on 29<sup>th</sup> of June in 1878, in Zagreb. Three divisions and frontmen of Zagreb Sokol demonstrated exercises on horizontal bar,

parallel bars and on the vault. Three members from Varaždin, eight from Ljubljana and thirty from Zagreb performed (*Sokol*, 1878: 7: 49).

Competition was held in disciplines of vault and horizontal bar. Prizes were given for success in both disciplines combined and for each individually. 16 competitors were registered for the vault. Length and aesthetics of the jump were graded. After two jumps, the winners were Širer from Zagreb and Gunther from Ljubljana (*Sokol*, 1878: 7: 50).

Ten competitors performed on the horizontal bar. Kališnik and Gunther from Ljubljana and Kepach from Zagreb were the most successful. Judges were Ivan Kosirnik, F. Mulaček and T. Wickerhauser. With the total score from both disciplines combined (Table 1), Gunther from



Ljubljana was first, Birnbaum from Zagreb second and Kališnik from Ljubljana third. At the end of the competition, prizes were given for both disciplines. Frontmen of

Zagreb Sokol did not compete, because they acted as judges (*Sokol*, 1878: 7: 51).

Table 1

*Results of the interurban competition in vault and horizontal bar.*

| Name                 | country   | Vault | Horizontal bar |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| 1. Josip Gunther     | Ljubljana | 19,5  | 17             |
| 2. Birnbaum          | Zagreb    | 17,5  | 14             |
| 3. Josip Kališnik    | Ljubljana |       | 19             |
| 4. Širer             | Zagreb    | 19,5  |                |
| 5. Kiebach           | Zagreb    |       | 17             |
| 6. Majcen            | Zagreb    | 17,5  |                |
| 7. Hojnig            | Zagreb    |       | 15             |
| 8. Stjepan Sekanović | Varaždin  | 15,5  |                |

## AN ATTEMPT IN CREATING SOKOL ASSOCIATION

Zagreb Croatian Sokol was connected with other Croatian societies: volunteer firefighters in Zagreb, Osijek, Karlovac and Sisak, singing societies Kolo from Zagreb, Danica from Sisak, Zora from Karlovac, Jeka Samobor and Vila from Varaždin. Principal of Croatian Sokol Josip Fon wanted to unite Sokol and firefighter societies into an association. For that purpose, a meeting in Zagreb was arranged on the second day of the competition (Bučar, 1925: 24).

Both Croatian and Slovenian Sokol societies participated in the attempt of creation of Sokol association. Representatives of Varaždin Sokol: Stjepan Sekovanić, Josip Polanec and Dragutin Nilius, Ljubljana Sokol: Josip Gunther, Miroslav Hubmayer and Rudolf Rebolj, Firefighter society in Sisak: Nikola Matković and Antun Eibel, Zagreb Sokol: dr. Josip Fon, Ivan Kosirnik, dr. Šime Mazzura, Franjo Hochman and Mladen Živojnović (*Sokol*, 1878: 7: 51).

A special committee was created, and had the task of creating the rules and organising a general meeting. Fon was elected as president, and Živojnović as secretary. Regulation propositions were created by Hochman, and societies had two months to decide if they will join the association (*Sokol*, 1878: 7: 52).

In an extraordinary general meeting of Strengthening Society Croatian Sokol, regulations propositions were accepted unanimously. Nine representative members were elected. Because of the pressure of government on Ljubljana Sokol, the association did not form (*Sokol*, 1878: 8: 57).

Zagreb Croatian Sokol was exceptionally active in conducting exercises and Sokol celebrations. On the first ball, which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> of January in 1879 in the spaces of Zagreb shooting range, music was played by the military regiment of archduke Salvatore, and in the same location, the first masquerade ball was held on 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Masquerade was accompanied by military music and organ. Czech Beseda was performed for the first

time, with 12 pairs, who were trained by Hochman. (Bučar, 1925: 26).

*Zadar Official Gazette* published a notification: *A gymnastic society has been formed between youth*. At the start of summer, the society has performed a first public performance in the theatre Manzin, for humanitarian purposes. The exercises were led by Borelli, and the audience greeted the performance with excitement. Members conducted exercises with staves, sabres, on parallel bars and horizontal bar (Marić - Meštrović, 2013: 70).

In 1880, the society had conducted multiple visits to societies in other places, with the most significant being on 27<sup>th</sup> of June in Ljubljana. Members from Zagreb were greeted by singers of Slovenian Sokol and Čitalnica. After the banquet, which was held in the saloon of Čitalnica, a public exercise of Croatian and Slovenian Sokol was held in the Kozler garden. The exercise started with a simple circle dance, which was performed by 20 members from Zagreb and 20 members from Ljubljana. Afterwards, the hosts conducted simple exercises with bats and on a gymnastic horse, while members from Zagreb exercised on parallel bars with one exchange with members from Ljubljana performing on the table. Afterwards, all exercisers conducted freestyle exercises on parallel bars (Bučar, 1925:31-32).

A great earthquake happened in Zagreb on 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Several aftershocks of lesser intensity followed. 185 tremors were measured after those events. Work done by members of Croatian Sokol was significantly slowed (Bučar, 1925: 33).

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of July in 1881, society in Zadar was renamed into **Gymnastics and Fencing Society (Società di Ginnastica e Scherma)**, where youth gathered regardless of nationality. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, governorship approved societies regulations. Exercises were performed in arena Manzin (Marić - Meštrović, 2013: 70).

Croatian Sokol was drawing increasing attention on activities it conducted. During

the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of singing society *Kolo*, which was held on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May in 1882, Croatian Sokol accommodated Ljubljana Sokol, and together they performed a public exercise. Representatives of Gymnastics singing society "*Savinski Sokol*" from Mozirje and Gymnastics society "*Sokol*" from Ljubljana were guests of *Kolo*. (Zeininger, 1892: 81).

Members of Zagreb and Ljubljana societies performed a public exercise on a hillside in Maksimir. Members from Ljubljana performed a circle dance, pommel horse exercises and exercises on horizontal bar. Members from Zagreb performed simple exercises, exercises with staves, and on rings (Bučar, 1925: 43).

### **ZAGREB REPRESENTATIVES ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CZECH PUBLIC EXERCISE IN PRAGUE**

In honor of twentieth anniversary of Prague Sokol, first Czech International Sokol exercise. Guests from USA, Vienna, Ljubljana and Zagreb participated in the procession. Almost 700 exercisers performed in simple exercises on the public exercise. Afterwards, 40 divisions performed in exercises on apparatus along with 74 frontmen in six divisions (Bučar, 1925: 46).

A 7 member delegation of Croatian Sokol, under the leadership of Franjo Hochman attended the celebration. It consisted of: principal Josip Fon, leader Franjo Hochman, standard bearer Žiga Štagl and council representatives Milan Lenuci, Vaclav (Viet) Anton, Levin (Luj) Schloosser-Klekovski and Jul. Supanek (Bučar, 1925: 45).

During the year of 1882, Varaždin Sokol was reorganized. On a special general meeting, which was held on 28<sup>th</sup> of August, society is constituted again, by electing: Pump as president, Stjepan Sekovanić as vice president, Josip Polanc as treasurer, Gjuro Horvat as recording secretary, Škender Blašković as secretary, Albert Polc, Lj. Koroskeny and Antun Goger as

councillors. One of the more significant manifestations was a public exercise conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> of September in Graberje, where eight exercisers performed on the

horizontal bar and pommel horse. By the end of the year, society had 80 regular and 45 backing members, along with 9 elected councillors (Svoboda, 1923: 16-17).

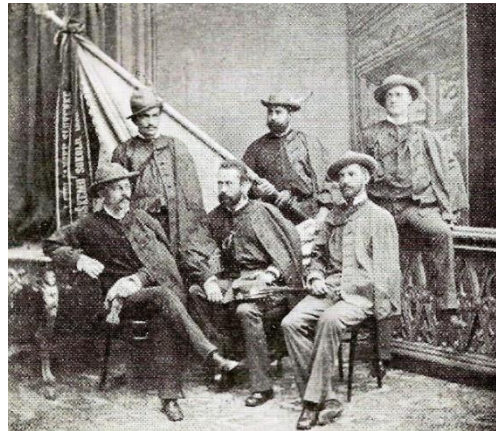


Figure 5. Representatives of Croatian Sokol on celebration of twentieth anniversary of Prague Sokol in Prague in 1882. From top left: Levin Schloosser-Klekovski, Žiga Štagl, Vaclav Anton; sitting: Franjo Hochman, Josip Fon i Milan Lenuci. (*Croatian sports museum*).

The *Official Gazette* holds an information of an existence of Croatian Sokol society in Trieste, with Đuro Vučković as president. There was a general yearly meeting in 1883, with Andrija Longino, Matija Trinajstić, Franjo Kevesić, Franjo Sakser, Franjo Cokelj, Ivan Inamo, Martin Krže i Hinko Paternost being elected as board members. The society had 100 members (NN, 1883: 14).

### SOKOL BUILDING IN ZAGREB

Zagreb Croatian Sokol held a 9<sup>th</sup> regular general meeting, with 83 members present, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April in 1883. Changes in regulations were the main theme of the meeting, as a result of construction of a new building, more precisely, the loan needed for the construction. As a quarter of needed members was not present, a decision was made that needed majority of the members accept the decision subsequently, with their signatures. According to the new regulations, administrative board was elected on the period of three years (Car, 1904: 2: 20).

With the acquired loans and contributions from respected members of the society, Croatian Sokol started with construction of the Sokol building. Preparational work which was led by Fordo Sejskal, began on 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, with the foundation stone laid on 10<sup>th</sup> of June. It was commemorated by Zagreb societies *Kolo*, *Sloga* and *Lira*, along with firefighter volunteers from Zagreb and fanfare (Car, 1904: 3: 36).

Central part of the building was finished on 24<sup>th</sup> of November, in only six and a half months of time. It was constructed according to the project of Aleksander Seć and Ferdinand Kondrat. Construction was supervised by Ferdo Stejskal. Multiple contractors took part in the construction: carpenters, locksmiths and foreign contractors. Stone blocks were acquired by Hermann Ehrlich, bricks by Franjo Kondrat. At that time, the Sokol building was the largest gymnasium in Zagreb (Car, 1904: 3: 36).





Figure 6. Croatian Sokol building in 1883

On 9<sup>th</sup> of March in 1884, executive members organised a first public exercise in the Croatian Sokol building in Zagreb. Accompanied by orchestral music, exercises performed various dancing figures, circle dancing, cartwheels and other rhythmic-dance elements. They were followed by exercises on gymnastic horse, rings, pole climbing, vault, parallel bars and pommel horse, all of them executed with high skill. Final exercises were performed on the table and horizontal bar, executed by the best exercisers: Hanuš, Hoinik, Milec, Mašek Jr., Reich, Roje Jr. And Šoštarić (Bučar, 1925: 57-58).

Governing board of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb decided to implement a type of exercise *lady and the mister* on 6<sup>th</sup> of June in 1884. It was conducted by Franjo Hochman, with Josip Hanuš as a substitute. During the female classes, entrance was forbidden for men. Over the year, 880 members participated in exercises, led by frontmen: František Hochman, Josip Hanuš, Herman Hojnig, Koloman Milec, Hrnčić and Dragutin Šoštarić, and substitutes Sertić, Mosković and Derkos (Car, 1904: 3: 37).

## FOUNDATION OF NEW SOCIETIES

New gymnastic societies have been initiated in Dalmatia, middle Croatia and Slavonia. Excursions and exercises were organised by members from Zagreb,

followed by creation of gymnastic societies in various places. With initiative of M. Rajs and M. Alušić, a new gymnastic society was formed in Bjelovar. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of October of 1884, Croatian Sokol in Bjelovar submitted a plea, an annex of regulations on 26<sup>th</sup> of November, being approved on 11<sup>th</sup> of December (Radan, 1973: 16: 1455).

Board of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb decided to give five of the apparatus to society in Bjelovar for half of regular price: parallel bars, gymnastic horse, table, vault and rings (Bučar, 1925: 61).

On 24<sup>th</sup> of August in 1884, Italian minority started the **Gymnastic and Fencing society in Split (Società di ginnastica e scherma)**. The society was formed on the initiative of youth, after the authorities approved the legislature and regulations of the society, which anticipated more sections, but the activities were mostly limited to gymnastics. First administrative board consisted of: president Dujam Savo, vice president Stjepan Foretić, treasurer Jakov Bemporath and supervisors: Josip Gabrijević, Antun Invernizzi, Henrik Pedezzoli and Dino de Rosignoli, while the duty of gymnastics teacher was conducted by Artur Bonavia (Marović, 1990: 46).

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April in 1885, **Gymnastic Sokol Society** was formed in Zadar. After the Dalmatian government in Zadar verified regulations of the society, first general meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Hubert Borelli Vranski was elected as

president, and Petar (Pero) Klaić, Vicko Danilo, Dragutin Kopani, Niko Večeralo, as board members. Manfred Hugo, Alfons, Gagliuffi, Babić and Ante Ströll were actively involved in activities of the society (Klanac, 1995: 104: 16).

On initiative of youth, a temporary board for creation of a new gymnastic society was formed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, in Karlovac. President of the temporary board, Ljudevit Harazin assembled a first general meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July (*Svjetlo*, 1885: 51).

Although faced with problems, Karlovac Sokol started to develop. As social opportunities were not idle, various problems occurred, and many members of the board resigned. New administrative board was constituted, and new members were elected: Ljudevit Harazin as president, Vjekoslav Gvozdanović as vice president, Pavo Pavešić as secretary, Simeon Sladojević as treasurer, and Aleksandar Bahorić as technical manager (Bučar, 1928: 2: 59).

## CROATIAN SOKOL IN LJUBLJANA

Gymnastic societies in cities other than Zagreb had a problem that they were created, operated for some time and faded out of existence. Through consistent work and success, Croatian Sokol in Zagreb motivated other cities in Croatia to partake in creation of gymnastic societies. Governing board sent out a letter to all Sokol societies in Croatia and Slavonia, to support, morally and financially, the newspaper *Sokol* in Prague, which had the ability to publish discussions and reports on Croatian language. A new general meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> of April in 1888, with 32 members present. There was a proposal that the society should organise field trips to smaller cities as much as possible, and interest local citizens to create new gymnastic societies. Gymnastics for

women, which almost discontinued over time because response was not great, was initiated once more (*Sokol*, 1904: 4: 67).

On celebration of the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sokol in Ljubljana, which was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September, a public exercise coupled with a competition was conducted. More than 400 members from 20 Czech, 5 Slovenian and two Croatian societies performed. Croatia was represented by 24 members from Zagreb and 15 members from Karlovac (*Sokol*, 1904: 4: 68).

7 exercisers from Czech, 6 from Slovenia, 6 from Karlovac and 4 from Zagreb competed in disciplines of vault and horizontal bar. Horizontal bar competition consisted of 2 prescribed exercises and a freestyle exercise. Competitors who could not finish the qualification exercise were disqualified from further competition. Franjo Vitauš stood out with his performance and scores. Other competitors from Zagreb were Stevo Popović, Mil. Novak and V. Mosković. Competitors from Karlovac were Ivan Prpić, Ljudevit Nehrony, Ivan Abzac, N. Bahorić, S. Cvetušić and Nikola Winterhalter (Murnik, 1973: 14: 1273-1278).

## PERFORMANCE OF CROATIAN SOKOL IN PARIZ

In the beginning of 1889, Croatian Sokol in Zagreb had 255 members. Frontmen division was led by: leader Franjo Hochman, substitute leader Josip Hanuš, secretary Hinko Mašek Bosnodolski, treasurer M. Pilar, Herman Hojnig, Mosković, Milec, Milan Novak, Dragutin Hinterhuber, Srećko Bošnjaković, Žepić and Zeininger. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, a public exercise with a competition for a scholarship for a trip to Paris was organised. 34 executive members competed, with the best being Milec and Novak (*Sokol*, 1904: 4: 68).



Figure 7. Representatives of Croatian Sokol on the celebration of anniversary of Gymnastic Federation of France in 1889. From top left: Novak, Franjo Hochman, Koloman Milec, Hinko Mašek Bosnodolski and Martin Pilar on the floor. (Croatian Sports Museum).

Croatian Sokol deputation from Zagreb, consisting of Hochman, Mašek, Pilar, Milec and Novak, (Figure 7) attended the anniversary celebration of Gymnastic Federation of France in Paris on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June. They represented Croatian Sokol on a great public exercise, in which all French gymnastic societies participated, as did those from other countries (*Sokol*, 1904: 4: 68).

After preparations in Gospić, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, gymnastic society Lika Sokol was formed, with society regulations approved on 31<sup>st</sup> of December. M. Ferković was elected as a temporary president (Radan, 1973: 16: 1455).

Antun Gavazzi was elected as the first president, F. Grospić as vice president, Krsto Pavletić as secretary, L. Vukelić as

treasurer, and N. Pavelić as leader. In the beginnings, the society had 44 members who exercised in a gymnasium loaned from the city, and had acquired all of the basic apparatus (*Gimnastika*, 1894: 2: 28).

A society for promotion of gymnastics in Senj was formed, called **Senj Sokol**, and the regulations of the society were confirmed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June in 1890. Constitutive general meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Dragutin Accurti was elected as president, Zvonimir Tkalec as vice president and leader, Drago Vlahović as secretary, Papić as treasurer, Rudolf Bach and Kosta Harambašić as frontmen. Society had 24 members and leased space on Stara Cesta (*Gimnastika*, 1894: 2: 28).





Figure 8. Srijem Sokol in “Najpar garden” in Vukovar in 1889. First row from the left: Virgila Krajčović, Stjepan Ružička, Ivan Peheim; second row: Stjepan Sedeli, Hinko Streim, Ksaver Sterl, Karl Koch; third row: Skulteti, Felix Bier, Braun, Polak, Ivo Paleček, Nikola Andrić, Ivanić; last row: Gottfried and Tišov. (Gradski muzej Vukovar).

### CROATIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CZECH PUBLIC EXERCISE IN PRAGUE

On the competition held on the second Sokol meeting, which was organised on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of June in 1891 in Prague, Croatian Sokol was represented by two societies and 34 members in total. Zagreb Croatian Sokol, Karlovac Sokol and Senj Sokol were represented by leaders Franjo Hochman, Franjo Bučar and frontman Franjo Stipetić. Authorities did not allow foreign Sokol societies to perform on the meeting. 5 600 foreign members in uniforms were attended, with 2 500 exercisers who performed, and 30 000 viewers. Franjo Hochman was a judge on the competitions. Croatians felt the true meaning of being a Sokol on this meeting (HSK, 1907: 108).

Another gymnastic meeting between Croatian and Slovenian Sokol was organised on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September in Zagreb. Slovenian Sokol appeared in large numbers. Sokol society from Ljubljana was led by president Hribar, from Celj by president Vrečko, From Trieste, Novo Mesto and Zagorje by president Medved.

Croatian Sokol was represented by societies from Zagreb, Karlovac, Rijeka and Istria. A procession of over 200 members marched through the city. On the second day, the best exercisers performed their exercises. Zagreb Sokol performed an exercise with a division of four members, and Slovenian with a division of nine members. In the evening, Sokol members met on a celebration in spaces of *Kolo*. On the last day, all Sokol members participated on a ceremonial matinee of all singing societies. Sokol members parted on the train station, followed by sounds of Zagreb and Ljubljana Sokol marching music (*Gimnastika*, 1892: 1: 10-13).

During the year, **Podravski Sokol** was formed in Koprivnica. Most significant members of the board were: president Koloman Matačić, vice president Malančec, leader Sl. Wolf. Malančec and Kralje were frontmen of the society, and led exercises twice a week in the city school (*Gimnastika*, 1891: 2: 28).

Women gymnastics started on 15<sup>th</sup> of October in 1891 in Croatian Sokol in Zagreb. Exercises were conducted in three divisions, including simple exercises and

those on apparatus (*Gimnastika*, 1891: 3: 47).

In 1893, members of administrative board elected a new executive board: Milan Amruš as president, Halper as vice president, Car as secretary, Živojnović as treasurer and Bošnjaković as temporary manager. On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July, the society attended a Sokol celebration in Ljubljana, with 26 representatives in Sokol uniforms. Along with 9 Slovenian competitors, following members from Zagreb participated in the competition: Kosatnik, Mosković, Šenk and Mužević, who won the first place (*Sokol*, 1904: 9: 132).

Gymnastics in Croatia suffered a hard blow on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June in 1893, when Franjo Hochman, founder of gymnastics in Croatia and leader of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb died in his 43<sup>rd</sup> year of life, after suffering from an illness. (*Gimnastika*, 1893: 7: 97-100).

Zagreb gymnastics came to a stop after his death. Isidor Kršnjavi used the event as an alibi to separate schools from the influence of Sokol organisation. By the order of government, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, gymnastic exercises were halted in Zagreb high schools, and the sum of 2000 forints which Croatian Sokol in Zagreb received as a reparation for the use of gymnasium and

apparatus, lighting, heating and teachers who conducted classes, was cancelled. It was a hard blow to the society which was a carrier of Sokol ideology in whole Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia (*Sokol*, 1904: 9: 131).

## NEW GYMNASTIC SOCIETIES

Although the creation of Sokol in Split started significantly earlier, due to efforts of Ivan Mangjer, a constitutional general meeting was finally held. Secretary of the founding board, Josip Smodlak, managed a record of the general meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January in 1893 in the places of singing society Zvonimir. 47 executive members, 8 founding members and 53 regular members were present. Gymnastic society Croatian Sokol in Split was finally founded. (Kučić, 1994: 101: 36).

Management was elected, led by president Vice Katalinić and board members: regent Eduard Grgić, perfect Mate Jankov, secretary Josip Smodlaka and treasurer Ante Trumbić. The society resided in leased spaces in the basement of Diocletian's Palace. Gymnastic apparatus was procured from a factory in Gradac (*Gimnastika*, 1893: 3: 37).



Figure 9. Exercisers of Sokol in Split on summer training grounds in 1893. (Robert Kučić)

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January in 1894, Croatian Sokol in Makarska was created. 43 founding members were registered, and

seed capital was collected. First president was Josip rančić (Hrستیć, 2011: 84). Seven days later, regulations were composed and



submitted to the regency for acknowledgment. Regulations approval, signed by the regent, arrived on 8<sup>th</sup> of April (Pravila, 1894).

Founding general meeting of Sokol in Brod was held on 30<sup>th</sup> of March in 1894. Otto Popović was elected president and Franjo Strgar as secretary. Board consisted of S. Matiević, Drag. Radosavljević and nine more members. Amendment of regulations was requested on 29<sup>th</sup> of April (Radan, 1973: 16: 1456).

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, Croatian Sokol in Krapina was founded. Rudolf Seissel was elected as president, Franjo Bedenko as secretary and Josip Krsnik as treasurer. On 10<sup>th</sup> of October, amendment of regulations was requested (Radan, 1973: 16: 1456).

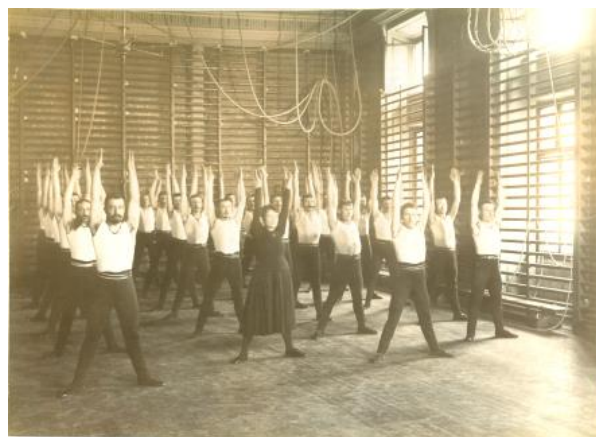
Under the chairmanship of the new president of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb Julio Halper, 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting was held, with 32 members present. As the number of members was only 793 at the time, it was agreed that the member count should be increased. On 5<sup>th</sup> of August, 34 members of the society attended a celebration in

Postojna, along with Czech and Slovenian Sokol members. After the event, Hyanek, a new teacher was employed. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, an emergency general meeting was called for. A repayment of loan of 34 000 forints through 37 years was agreed (Car, 1904: 9: 174).

During the year, Gymnastics Union (Torna-egylet) was formed in Čakovec. Gymnastic teacher and leader of union was Imre Gaál (Gal), and left the position shortly. Elemér Nagy became the union leader. Mihály Dékány became the new gymnastic teacher (Zrinyi, 2005: 272).

### IMPLEMENTATION OF GYMNASTICS TEACHER COURSE

Gymnastics teacher course, (Figure 10) for implementation of the Swedish gymnastic system and modern sports, under the leadership of Franjo Bučar, was held from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October in 1894, to 1<sup>st</sup> of April in 1896 in Zagreb (Bučar, 1896: 6).



*Figure 10.* Warm up exercises for attendants of the course in a gymnasium. (Sl. Vaso Margetić, (Croatian School Museum Zagreb, Mf 121).

Lectures consisted of 16 classes which were significant for gymnastics: gymnastics, gymnastics history, gymnastics seminars, practical exercises in gymnastics for high school students, lessons in military gymnastics, anatomy, physiology, various winter sports, school hygiene, first aid,

firefighting, swimming and dancing. Key lecturers were: Franjo Bučar, Dragutin Mašek, Hinko pl. Hranilović, August Piazza, Mirko Kolarić, Ferdo Huterer and Pietro Coronelli (Bučar, 1896: 6-7).

### PERFORMANCE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PUBLIC EXERCISE IN PRAGUE

From 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June in 1885, Croatian Sokol in Zagreb attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sokol public exercise in Prague, with 36 representatives. Zagreb Sokol was led by Franjo bučar and Anton Hyanek. On the

competition of lower division, competitors from Zagreb won tenth place, with six competitors being awarded diplomas: Hyánek, Trstenjak, Jambrišek, Šulce, Kasvalder and Fezerinac. On the competition of higher division, Radoslav Mužević won a diploma (*Gimnastika*, 1895: 9: 144).

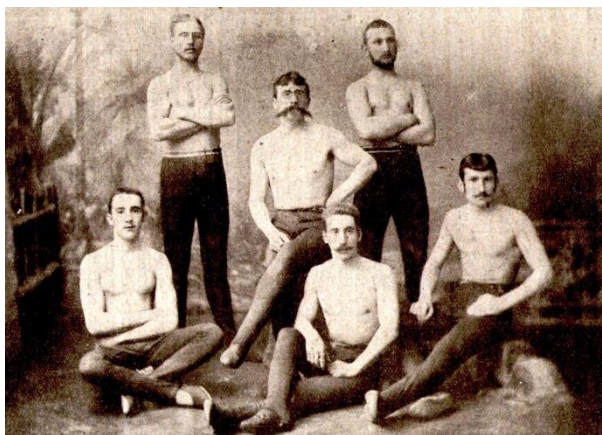


Figure 11. Frontmen of Croatian Sokol in Prague. From forward left: Fezerinac, Kasswalder, Šulce. Back row: Trstenjak, Hyanek i Jambrišak

First Croatian Sokol in Chicago was founded on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January in 1896 in USA. On the first general meeting Matrin Polić (son of Nikola Polić, editor of *Chicago*, first croatian newspaper in the city) was elected as president, Marko Kazić as vice president, George K. Maljevac as secretary, Petar Mrakužić as treasurer. Members of the board were: Jovo Relić, Marijan Santić and Leopold Morgan. From the starting 15 members, the count grew to 50 members. There were attempts to create Croatian Sokol societies in other cities, sadly, they did not subsist, because of a lack of Sokol frontmen and insufficient knowledge of the idea of Sokol movement (*Gimnastika*, 1896: 3: 48).

On a general meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> of December in 1896, Osijek Croatian Sokol in the Upper city was founded. First temporary board consisted of: president Ante Pinterović, vice president Josip Kostjal pl. Živanović, secretary Rudolf Bach, treasurer Franjo Vrbljančević, apparatus custodian Mijat Klas, leader

Ljudevit Sorlini and board members: Hugo Spitzer, Vladimir Virag, Dragutin Franić, K. F. Nuber, Kajetan Šeper and Markus Berger. In the beginnings, the society focused on swedish style gymnastics, rather than Sokol gymnastics (*Gimnastika*, 1897: 1: 13).

### CROATIAN SOKOL MEMBERS IN BELGRADE

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March in 1897, a Gymnastic-sports club was founded in Nova Gradiška in Slavonia, led by: president Stefan Myohl, vice president Drag. Schneider, secretary F. Neterović, treasurer I. Malius, club inventory supervisor J. Aladrović, leader Fran Galić and multiple board members. A woman division was also created. There were exercises twice a week in a private gymnasium (*Gimnastika*, 1897: 7: 111).

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, Đuro Gavrilović called interested citizens to attend a meeting in the city hall in Zemun, to initiate Zemun

Sokol. On the initiative general meeting a board was elected: president Marković and members M. Zdelar, M. Steinlechner, A. Mariček and Đuro Gavrilović. The society began exercising in a dance hall of the hotel "Central". The board held two general meetings, prepared regulations, and then held another general meeting, where the new regulations were adopted (*Gimnastika*, 1897: 8: 124-125).

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, Croatian Sokol from Zagreb attended an event in Belgrade. Led by vice president Stjepan Mlinarić, 22

members attended the event. On the second day, a public competition was held in the Upper city in the fortress. Members from Zagreb that competed were: Haynek, Šenk, Trstenjak, Fezerinac, Nehroni and Kos. A division of eight members performed exercises on the pommel horse, parallel bars, horizontal bar and vault. A public exercise was held on the evening of the last day, with king, queen and members of Serbian government in the audience (Car, 1904: 12: 37-38).



Figure 12. Croatian Sokol in Zagreb on the consecration of the flag of gymnastic society *Dušan Silni* in Belegrade in 1897.

Franjo Bučar was invited on an Olympic congress, which was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> of July to 2<sup>nd</sup> of August in Le Havre. Bučar could not attend the congress, because of the poor financial situation. Croatian Sokol in Zagreb and Croatian Cycling Federation authorised Jiří Guthom from Prague to represent them on the Olympic congress (Jajčević, 2007: 14-15).

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September in 1897, 30 patriots met in Čitaonica in Pula, and founded First Istrian Sokol in Pula (Naša sloga, 1898: 2). After small adjustments in regulations, they were confirmed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, from high regency in Trieste. First regular general meeting was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Elected temporary board gave a notice that the biggest and most beautiful gymnasium in Pula, "Stadt Pola" was acquired for the

purpose of conducting exercises. President Lacko Križ, vice president Ante Mezulić, secretary Stijepo Gjivić and treasurer Al. Kanduđer were elected into the first board (Naša sloga, 1905: 14).

Influence of other gymnastic societies led to creation of a new society in Šibenik. It was founded on 6<sup>th</sup> of August in 1889, under the name Sokol in Šibenik. The board consisted of: president Filip Smolčić, vice president Mate Živković, secretary Ivan Marković and treasurer Vladimir Kulić. Marko Stojić became the leader, Niko Blažević and Josip Tambača frontmen. A count of 66 members was achieved (*Gimnastika*, 1899: 12: 143).

At the start of 20<sup>th</sup> century, majority of gymnastic societies are working with lesser intensity. Majority of the societies are

dormant except in Zagreb and in lesser extent in Dalmatia.

### **CROATIANS ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC EXERCISE IN PRAGUE**

From 28<sup>th</sup> of June to 1<sup>st</sup> of July in 1901, 4<sup>th</sup> Czech Sokol public exercise in Prague was held. Czech and other Slavic Sokol attended, along with French and Danish exercisers. 571 society, counting 11 000 members participated in the event. 860 women and 1988 youth members participated. 40 Croatian members participated in the event. Croatian Sokol members from Zagreb, along with one member from Senj were led by Lazar Car (Sokol, 1903: 10: 122-123).

Competition was held in disciplines of horizontal bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, rings and vault. Members from Zagreb competed in 2<sup>nd</sup> division, and with 202,5 points, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. For the Zagreb division, following members competed: division leader Dragutin Šulce, Ferdo Fezerinac, Ivan Dončević, Stjepan Kravnik, Vladimir Maček, Dragutin Retl and substitute Mirko Kos. As individuals, following members competed: Šulce who won the first prize and Fezerinac who won the third prize (Sokol, 1903: 10: 124-125).

Osijek started to become a major center of gymnastic activities in eastern Croatia. On 26<sup>th</sup> of May in 1901, representatives of the 1<sup>st</sup> Istrian Sokol from Pula, under the leadership of Lacko Križ, of the Croatian Sokol from Split, led by Rikard Katalinić-Jeretov, of the Croatian Sokol from Zagreb, led by Juraj Vrabanić, and a representative

of Croatian Sokol from Zadar, arrived in Osijek. They attended the ceremonial consecration of the flag of singing society *Lipa* from Osijek. On the public celebration in the City gardens, 40 members from Osijek and Zagreb performed simple exercises, followed by exercisers on apparatus. A great ball was held in the evening, for all Sokol members. On the second day, on the morning matinee, Sokol members from Split performed *Moreška* (Bučar, 1929: 12: 545).

On the initiative of patriots from Drniš, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, a cultural-sports society Croatian Sokol in Drniš, was created. Majority of founding members were musicians. For some time, the exercises were conducted in the yard and magazine of a trader Mićo Nakić – Vojnović (Sokol, 1903: 12: 146).

Sokol for Opatija and Volosko was also founded during the year. Members of the society prepared special events and exercises during celebrations and holidays, and frequently held public exercises on Sundays.

A first temporary board of citizens of Sisak was organised, with a purpose of founding of a new society in Sisak. On 23<sup>rd</sup> of February in 1902, a founding general meeting of Croatian Sokol in Sisak was held. The society played a major role in the social life of Sisak. President Benjamin Šuperina, vice president Matija Sigur, treasurer Ferdo Gurski, secretary and leader M. Latković were elected. Regulations of the society were confirmed on 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Soon, the society had fifteen members exercising (Sokol, 1903: 11: 141-142).





Figure 13. Frontmen of Croatian Sokol in Zagreb in 1902. (Croatian Sports Museum).

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June in 1902, Croatians in Mostar founded a society under the name Herzegovian Gymnastic Sokol in Mostar. An administrative board was elected: president Dragutin Kohler, vice president Janko Ašperger, secretary Cesar Vlajo, treasurer Marko Glavina and gymnastic president Toma Pališa (Sokol, 1903: 5: 56).

Sokol and gymnastic ideas have been well understood and over the year an increasing number of societies developed their work throughout middle Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Istria. Sokol societies have expanded and existed in: Zagreb, Osijek, Varaždin, Sisak, Karlovac, Gospić, Senj, Vukovar, Zadar, Split, Šibenik,

Sarajevo, Mostar, Volosko and Pula (Sokol, 1903: 1: 8).

A specialised magazine was created for easier access to news and new exercises of Croatian Sokol societies. *Sokol*, a magazine of Croatian and Slovenian Sokol movement, started being published on 15<sup>th</sup> of January in 1903, with the main editor being Franjo Bučar. Front page of the magazine depicts unity of Croatian and Slovenian Sokol societies. Croatian and Slovenian crests are positioned in the middle, with crests of Slavonia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Istria to the left, and crests of Štajerska, Koruška, Gorica and Trieste to the right (Sokol, 1903: 1: 1).



Figure 14. Administration of the First Istrian Sokol in Pula in 1903. (Historical and Nautical Museum of Istria, PPMI-37970).

Delegations of Croatian Sokol societies organised a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> of June in 1903 in Zagreb, for an agreement

about major common issues of joint performances, collaboration and possible merger. Hanuš, Švarc, Hirt, Bučar, Car and



Vrbanić from Zagreb, Skarpa from Senj, Zima from Varaždin and Fezerinac from Pula, were present at the meeting. Car represented Drniš, Vrbanić represented Makarska, while societies from Split, Sisak and Karlovac apologised for being unable to participate in the meeting (Sokol, 1903: 7: 87).

There was a discussion about regulations, methods of organization, manners of publishing the magazine Sokol, courses for Sokol frontmen and teachers, lectures based on the Sokol idea, manner of work in each society, various sports activities in societies, Sokol division, discipline in public exercises, records of statistics of members, means of field trip organization, flag design and various other details (Sokol, 1903: 7: 88-89).

In the Polish city Lavov, from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of June, a Polish Sokol public exercise was organised. Zagreb Sokol was represented by Franjo Bučar, secretary Lazar Car and teacher Šulc with six exercisers. Pula Sokol was represented by Fezerinac, and Senj Sokol was represented by Scarpa. Sokol from Karlovac was represented by: president Božo Vinković, vice president Janko Modrušan, secretary Ivo Badovinac and total of 11 members (Sokol, 1903: 8: 77). Croatian division, comprised of members from Zagreb and one member from Pula competed on the competition along with 25 Polish and 28 Czech division. Croats displayed a good practice in exercises on pommel horse, horizontal bar and parallel bars, and were rewarded (Sokol, 1903: 9: 105).



*Figure 15.* Croatian Sokol from Makarska in Metković, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July in 1903. (Makarska City Museum, GMM, F-1759c).

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, Croatian Sokol in Drniš prepared a major public exercises, which involved other Croatian societies from that region. Along with the hosts, members of Sokol societies from Split, Makarska, Šibenik and Zadar were present. Procession counted 76 members from Šibenik, 40 from Makarska, 100 from Split, 58 from Drniš. There was a meeting, led by Smodlaka. It was decided that a board will be created, consisting of all leaders and presidents of Dalmatian societies (Sokol, 1903: 12: 145).

On 27<sup>th</sup> of August, Josip Linić from Trsat proposed that old regulations from the former society should be amended, and that it should be reorganized into Sokol in Šušak, which was accepted on 27<sup>th</sup> of September in 1903, on a general meeting.

By the end of 1903, there was 16 societies, with 15 honorary, 203 founding, 1160 backing and 1622 executive members, from which more than one third exercised regularly. From all the gymnastic societies in Croatia, Zagreb Sokol was the only society that had a personal gymnasium,

while the majority of the societies practiced in school gymnasiums, and four societies owned personal summer training ground. All societies owned almost all of the apparatus, or at least the basic ones. Some of the societies conducted exercises for women (Sokol, 1904: 11: 166-168).

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