



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
ZAGREB**

**FACULTY OF
FORESTRY**

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ZAGREB, 1985.

Foreword

The forests in the Socialist Republic of Croatia have always played a key role in the economic development of the republic and will continue to do so. This is due to the relatively large forested area that covers more than a third of the surface of the Republic. The training of qualified experts and promotion of scientific forestry and wood technology has contributed considerably to this development, backed by a one hundred and twenty five years tradition of forestry expertise.

This is neither a long nor a short tradition, but within the framework of the historical givens of this territory it is certainly not negligible.

Forestry experts have by tradition long been trained to cultivate, maintain and develop high quality forests. Even so, their efforts often went unheeded in the past, since forests were owned by domestic or foreign landowners of large estates, and the most valuable forest product – wood, was taken to other lands. Yugoslavs had very little benefit from this.

At the end of World War II, following the liberation of the country and the socialist revolution, the forests became the property of the people. The most valuable wood began to stay in the country where it was further processed and crafted in the new wood processing facilities. Intensification of wood technology demanded new experts, new expertise and knowledge.

The Faculty of Forestry of Zagreb University has made an unquestionably major contribution to the advancement of these branches of the economy.

Prof. Dr. Božidar Petrić

The history of the Faculty

The core of what is now the Faculty of Forestry was shaped in the tempestuous period of the mid-19th century. Following the social movement in France, the French revolution of 1789, national movements began to emerge in what was then the Austrian Empire, and after 1867 in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, where more than twenty million Slavs were subjects, including the southern Slavic peoples. During the Illyrian Revival, 1835 – 1848, guidelines for the development of culture, politics and the economy were set, and the mood oscillated in response to the reactions of Viennese and Budapest authorities. The move to introduce the native language to schools and public institutions was complemented by moves among those responsible for resources management, especially foresters, to place trained, local people, with the best interests of their country at heart, in managerial positions for natural resources. These inclinations were organizationally brought together and voiced through the Hrvatsko-slavonsko gospodarsko društvo (Croatian and Slavonian Land Management Society) founded in 1841. Forestry literature of that period records the names of famous forestry and other experts such as Franjo Šporer, Dragutin Kos and Ante Tomić. Their efforts led to the founding of a forestry section in the Croatian and Slavonian Land Management Society in Zagreb (Hrvatsko-slavonsko društvo šumarah) in 1846. The foresters of this association provided the initiative, through the Land Management Society, to fund institutions that would improve the level of expertise in forestry, especially in education. F. Šporer proposed the formation of a national forestry department, where local people would have first priority of enrollment, followed by members of the other Slavic peoples. The foresters of Croatia, prior to this suggestion, had been trained in Maria-brunn. Most were foreigners, though in time local people were trained there as well and so could maintain contact with the local people.

A number of factors contributed to the founding of the educational insti-

PUBLISHER: Forestry Faculty of Zagreb University
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Božidar Petrić,
MANAGING EDITORS: Simeun Tomanić, and Želimir Borzan,
AUTHORS OF TEXTS: Zdenko Tomašegović, Ivan Spaić,
Božidar Petrić, Simeun Tomanić,
Mladen Figurić and Ante Krstinić.

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION: Ellen Elias-Bursać
EDITOR FOR
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: Duško Slatković,
TITLE PAGE: Željko Koproščec
COPY EDITING AND
PROOFREADING: Sonia Bičanić
PRINTED BY: Mladost, OOUR Tiskara, Gundulićeva 24
EDITION: 5,000 copies



1985