

**LIFE THAT FLOWS**

**MONOGRAPH ON DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ**

*(Homo oeconomicus, Homo politicus, Homo eticus and Homo habilis)*

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**Prepared by:** Vidoje Vujić

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Vidoje Vujić (Prepared by)

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### AUTORS:

Željko Bartulović, Ervin Dubrović, Dejana Golenko, Mirjana Gulić, Božidar Perharić, Hana Lencovic, Zvonko Lovrek, Irvin Lukežić, Oleg Mandić, Maja Polić, Nikola Sabljar, Tomislav Sabljar, Petar Strčić, Daniel Vranešić i Vidoje Vujić

Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation  
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Rijeka, 2018.

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Within the publication the following parts have been translated in English

- abstracts of the author's works,
- the editor's note,
- the 3. Chapter "Genealogy and biographies of the Ružić family", in full,
- CVs of authors and reviewers,
- afterword.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Life That Flows* - The monograph on the life and work of Dr. Victor Ružić is a special biographical - bibliographic edition with which the Rijeka Rotary Club marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2018. For the occasion, the Rijeka Rotary Club decided to organize an expert - scientific symposium and issue a monograph dedicated to Dr. Viktor Ružić, founder of the Sušak Rotary Club in 1929. The Club worked uninterruptedly until 1941, it belonged to the, then known as, Rotarian District 77, of which Dr. Ružić was Governor twice (Rotarian 1932-1933 and 1940-1941) in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Dr. Ružić left a visible mark on the Croatian history. He was *Ban*<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as provincial governor) of the Sava Banate and Minister of Justice in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. As a well-rounded individual and polyglot, along with a low degree, he engaged in entrepreneurship, publishing, painting, journalism and cultural activities. He was an exceptional and praise worthy person, philanthropist, an ethical and respectable public figure, a businessman and a politically conscious intellectual. His life story takes place in a time of the creation and dissolution of the State of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the appearance of Fascism, Nazism, Italian irredentism, NDH (*Independent State of Croatia*) and tragic events of the Second World War.

In his private life, Viktor Ružić was a family man, a prominent husband and parent, a good friend and colleague, a respected fellow citizen and a friendly neighborhood. In his political, public and humanitarian activities that took place in very unfavorable years shortly before, during and immediately after the Second World War, he was regarded as a role model for generations of his time and those to come. A great pragmatist and philanthropist, luckily for us and himself, he remained at the same time *Homo oeconomicus*, *Homo politicus* and *Homo ethicus*.

The idea to revive the Rotary movement in Rijeka arose with the establishment of the Republic of Croatia. By the end of 1991, a group of enthusiasts started and held a Founding Assembly of the Rijeka Rotary

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<sup>1</sup> Ban /'bɑ:n/ was a noble title used in several states in Central and Southeastern Europe between the 7th century and the 20th century. In English, common term for the province governed by ban is banate and term for the office of ban is *banship*.

Club. After fulfilling certain membership criteria of Rotary International, on 1 May 1993, on the Ceremony of accession to *Rotary International*, the *Rijeka Rotary Club* declared itself successor to the *Sušak Rotary Club*.

There still has not been a unique and comprehensive publication on Dr. Viktor Ružić. Consequently, the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation and Rijeka Rotary Club decided to gather collaborators and researchers to publish new works on his life and work as well as the Ružić family. Still, there are very few publications about Dr. Ružić. Various documents about him are located at numerous addresses.

It should be assumed that all these addresses, especially private ones, are still unknown. Valuable works on the Ružić family were published in the *Sušačka revija* - Jurnal for culture and social events of the Croatian Littoral, Kvarner Islands, Gorski Kotar and in Žumberak's calendars and yearbooks. The archival materials and the collection of documents about Dr. Ružić can be found in many places. In the library of Villa Ružić, located in the Pećine district in Rijeka, there are approximately 25 meters of materials left behind by the Mažuranić, Brlić and Ružić families in the period ranging from 1777 to 2012. This Memorial Library and Collection is privately owned by the Ružić family (<http://www.villaruzic.hr/>).

Approximately 12 meters of material on the Brlić family ranging from 1730 to 2000 are kept in Slavonski Brod, in the Croatian Institute of History, Department of History for Slavonija, Srijem and Baranja. The material is microfilmed and digitized so copies can be viewed in the State Archives in Slavonski Brod and in the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb. Only one register of material regarding Dr. Viktor Ružić can be found in the State Archives of Rijeka under the designation (HR-DARI-431). The register contains letters that he exchanged with his children, various statements about estate hearings and the division of property, as well as documents on the investigation and court proceedings of Dr. Ružić in 1945. Given the testimony of witnesses during the trial and the daily notes of the provincial governor and minister Dr. Ružić himself, it appears that he frequently communicated with the Vatican and the top of the Catholic Church in Croatia, which would certainly be worthy of a special research project.

In this edition, only a part of the available documentation was processed. We are confident that the published papers will assist future researchers of Dr. Viktor Ružić's work as a State official, humanist, deserving public figure and convicted, then amnestied and freed nobleman. The monograph contains not only a rich register of facts but also new findings on the life and work of Dr. Victor Ružić and his son Gjoko (Juraj V. Ružić).



Every work, especially the one that embodies research and writing, requires the help of others. The main contributors to the creation of this edition were the authors and associates listed in the content and the impressum of the monograph. Along with them, Mr. Mladen Urem from the State Archives in Rijeka gave an important contribution in preparing, outlining and scanning the most meaningful documents. Mrs. Martina Deša and Ivona Černigoj helped significantly in communicating, collecting, transcribing and delivering materials and manuscripts. An extraordinary contribution in translating the text into English was provided by colleagues Sarah Fabijanić and Doris Simčić. Of special importance was the help and support from friends of the Rijeka Rotary Club, especially prof. Goran Palčevski Ph. D., Dunja Pavešić, Ljiljana Ivetac, Ivan Funčić, Patrik Šegota, Sandro Viškanić, Ante Domić, Dominik Simčić, Ilija Šmitran, Radivoj Bošnjaković and mr. sc. Tomislav Sabljar.

Rijeka, 24 March 2018



I.

SOME FACTS AND DOCUMENTS ON  
DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ

*(Homo oeconomicus and Homo politicus)*

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## STATE LAW CONTEXT AND GOINGS-ON DURING THE LIFE OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ (1893-1976)

Dr. Viktor Ružić lived in turbulent times and location. The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw new developments on the political scene in Croatia: the arrival of Frano Supilo to Rijeka, issue of the Rijeka Declaration in 1905, which sparked the activity of the Croat-Serb Coalition. It was the end of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in WW1 when new political bodies started to appear - National Councils of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, the work of which Dr. Viktor Ružić took part in. This was followed by a five-year period of the Italian occupation (1918-1923) and the establishment of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which produced different issues, both in Sušak, as well as overall Croatian territory in the new state. The city administration needed to be organized, the former county administration powers needed to be devolved to local administrations, which in return provoked major political conflicts with the regime circles in Beograd. The local elections for different levels of government that took place in the 1920's were also interesting.

Significant changes happened after the introduction of the 6 January Dictatorship by king Alexander I Karađorđević in 1929, based on the policy of integral Yugoslavism and division of the country into *banates* (provinces), where Dr. Ružić was as provincial governor of the Sava Banate and later Minister of Justice in the Government of Dr. Milan Stojadinović. The last significant period took place during WW2 in this territory, from 1941 to 1945, and was affected by the military collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Italian occupation/annexation and internation of Dr. Ružić to Italy, as well as German military authority from 1943 to 1945. After the victory of anti-fascism in 1945 the opponents of the multiparty system and pluralism of thought removed Dr. Ružić from the public life by referring to legislation, but in reality misusing it. His recollections in *Moje uspomene* (My Memories), which he started writing on 22 February 1968, are a humble manuscript that consists of 55 typewritten pages containing personal information, as well as information on the state law goings-on he was a part of, including his evaluations of the current events in Sušak and beyond.

The manuscript can be divided into four units. The first one (pg. 1-9) covers his youth days up to the WW1, when he becomes more actively involved in politics. The second unit, covering the interwar period and his political work, can be subdivided to a section where he mostly describes events linked to Rijeka (pg. 9-20) and his involvement in politics on the national level (pg. 21-36). Unit three (pg. 37-48) contains records of the WW2, his internation in Italy and return to Sušak, whereas unit four describes the events and Viktor's post-war destiny up to his wife's death in 1964. The memories are, except for several details, written chronologically, certain records on state law happenings and people they relate to shall be analysed and explained methodologically.

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## VIKTOR RUŽIĆ AND THE YUGOSLAV ROYAL GOVERNMENT IN LONDON

Within the context of Slavism and Yugoslavism in the Primorje region, my attention was particularly drawn by the emergence of the local Croatian politicians who were inclined to the South Slavonic idea before the WW1, seeing the unification as the only opportunity for Croatian territories to bring national ties with the Austria-Hungary to an end. After the WW2, these same politicians became and remained close with the Yugoslav political establishment for a long time, in which they themselves occasionally held important positions.

These politicians were primarily Ante Mandić from Opatija, Milan Marjanović from Kastav and Viktor Ružić from Sušak. Though life had been taking them down different paths - from London, Saint Petersburg, New York, Washington to Valparaíso - and they met only on rare occasions, with the start of the WW2 they bumped into each other in their homeland. Their common mission was to start resistance against the occupying Italian authorities and connect with the Yugoslav royal government in London.

It is particularly outstanding that, regardless of the scattering country and emergence of various occupying governments, state entities and movements, this small group continued to stay loyal to the government-

in-exile of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which emigrated to London at the beginning of the war, and that it was precisely Viktor Ružić the first to establish a relationship with the Yugoslav embassy in the Vatican, who communicated their reports to the government - Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. His mission would not have been completely illuminated had the activities of the remaining members of this like-minded conspiracy circle not been discovered.

The goal is to show the work of Viktor Ružić within the context of the relationship between the politicians from the Primorje region and royal government-in-exile, as well as to point out his views, which caused him many troubles after the war. Regardless of the starting position of "progressive citizens", all of his comrades expressed a preference to join the People's Liberation Movement and approached the communists - except for Dr. Ružić, who decided to keep distance.

Due to his beliefs, Viktor Ružić was marginalised after the war for good, regardless of his merits and extraordinary moral strength. For Mandić and Marjanović the war brought recognition and reputation. For Ružić, however, it meant prison, loss of civil rights and family fortune, as well as permanent social marginalisation.

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## GJURO RUŽIĆ SENIOR AND ŠIME MAZZURA

I have found a piece of correspondence at the National and University Library in Zagreb exchanged at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century between Gjuro Ružić, manufacturer from Sušak and Rijeka, and Dr. Šime Mazzura, well-known Croatian politician and journalist. The correspondence consists of six letters in total, produced in the period from mid-September 1891 to mid-February 1900, that have been filed under no. R 6491 b as Mazzura's manuscript legacy. Before I present the content of these letters to the readers, it is important to remind ourselves in short of the life and work of Gjuro Ružić Senior and Dr. Šime Mazzura in order to fully understand the circumstances in which these letters were written and evaluate their documentary worth.

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## DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ – PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF THE SAVA BANATE (1936 - 1938)

When thinking about a text that would briefly clarify the time of Dr. Viktor Ružić's work as provincial governor of the Sava Banate, as well as its administrative organisation, for us, archivists, the first thought to come to our minds was the HR-HDA-152 fonds. The Sava Financial Directorate in Zagreb (1929-1940), HR-HDA-148. Banate Administration of the Sava Banate. Technical Department (1929-1939). Of course, when arranging and describing numerous fonds, especially those of the administration, judiciary, notaries and lawyers, we were aware that the archival materials from the fonds HR-DAZG-92. Dr. Ivan Brlić's Lawyer's Office 1927-1943 and HR-DAZG-97. Dr. Želimir Mažuranić's Lawyer's Office 1905-1941 contain an abundant correspondence with members of the Brlić-Mažuranić family, which could include materials referring to the son-in-law, Dr. Viktor Ružić.

While exploring the materials of the above-mentioned fonds we came across certain findings and singled out some documents that illustrate the beginning and end of Dr. Viktor Ružić's duties as provincial governor, as well as those of personal nature. In this work you will find a short summary of Dr. Ružić's work as provincial governor of the Sava Banate. Based on historical sources, we shall primarily present information concerning the work of provincial governor Dr. Viktor Ružić as a representative, as well as his efforts towards the overall development of his native Sušak and Primorje, and the Sava Banate.

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## CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING SEGMENTS OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ'S WORK BASED ON CORRESPONDENCE FROM DR. ANTE MANDIĆ

### INTRODUCTION

Lawyer, politician, journalist, publicist and painter, Viktor Ružić Senior (Sušak, 31 January 1893-Zagreb, 26 June 1976), was an active participant in the public life of Sušak during the second half of the WW2. He was indicted on seven counts in the first post-war days due to his activity. The article brings an explanation of the situation concerning the indictment, based on a correspondence from Dr. Ante Mandić, lawyer and politician from Opatija, otherwise a steward.

Viktor Ružić

## PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS AND MEMORIES

**Manuscript by Dr. Viktor Ružić, transcribed and adapted by Tomislav Sabljar, lawyer and director of the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation**

Instead of listing facts and attitudes, opinions and judgements concerning Dr. Viktor Ružić and the importance of his actions and behaviours, we are hereby publishing excerpts from his autobiographical notes that he had



written toward the end of his life as witness accounts of his time, pointing out that he was doing it for his children and grandchildren.

With the courtesy and permission of Mr. Gjoko Ruzio (Juraj Gjoko Ružić, son of Dr. Viktor Ružić), who delivered his father's manuscript, omitting a minor part which, according to our estimation, is of no broader interest, we are hereby publishing these account notes that Dr. Ružić entitled *Moje uspomene* (My memories). A book with the same title - Dr. Viktor Ružić: *Moje uspomene* by Theodor de Canziani and Matilda Ružić - was issued by the Association of Admirers of Heritage Library and Mažuranić-Brlić-Ružić Collection in 2013 in Rijeka.

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## DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ - CHARGES AND JUDGEMENTS

Dr. Viktor Ružić's manuscript *Moje uspomene* (My Memories), as published in this book under the name *Osobne uspomene i sjećanja* (Personal Memories and Recollections), do not only illustrate the moral habitus of the composer, but "first-hand" accounts of the times he lived in as well. The text describes chronological events of the current society, which is by itself a reason for printing in this monograph dedicated to a jubilee, i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of work and functioning of the Rijeka Rotary Club.

Here we shall explain the criminal proceeding against Dr. Viktor Ružić, which took place several times. The whole trial shall be documented with copies of original documents: a transcript from the hearing of the defendant Dr. Ružić, criminal charge, judgement, speech of the defence, defendant's appeal and other documents that support and supplement the autobiographical notes about the criminal proceeding against Dr. Ružić in the former state and independent Republic of Croatia. The transcript from the hearing of the defendant, led by a regional public prosecutor in the premises of the Department for People's Protection in the former hotel Park in Sušak, includes a testimony about 209 questions that had to be answered, but tell a lot more about the investigator's intentions to compromise the defendant, than to reveal the truth. At the end we shall

include majority of the court file No. K-27/95 from the County Court in Zagreb, which set aside a judgement of the Court for Protection of National Honour for the Hrvatsko primorje region by the decision of 13 July 1995.

Dr. Viktor Ružić did not live long enough to experience exoneration after the judgement of the Court for Protection of National Honour was set aside. He passed away in 1976, aware that the purpose of his trial was to marginalize him from the politics as a civil politician and to confiscate a majority of his property in criminal proceedings. Even though the County Court in Rijeka set aside all judgements in a repeated prosecution, which were delivered at first and/or second instance against Dr. Ružić, including the judgement of property confiscation (which has not yet been returned to his grandchildren in full). The civil procedure for property restitution has due to various reasons now lasted for 22 years - which is only an extension of the injustice that he and his family have been wronged by, despite the fact that three out of six heirs donated the property that has so far been returned, including the property the restitution of which has not yet been completed, to the Dr. Ružić Foundation (the purpose of which is to, as has already been mentioned, help social cases, as well as finance and encourage young talents with the revenue from the restituted property, and that way cherish the memory of the noble figure of Dr. Ružić). But since everything comes to an end, so will the restitution of the property confiscated during the Yugoslav Communist regime hopefully be soon over.

At the end of this introduction we shall add just this one last sentence from Vladimir Dolanski's statement of 24 April 1995 in the procedure for prosecution repetition against Dr. Ružić before the examining magistrate in Case No. Ko-35/95: "My personal opinion is that the late Dr. Ružić was the only true gentleman I have ever met in my life."

## II.

### HUMANITARIAN WORK OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ AND HIS DESCENDANTS

*(Homo ethicus)*

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## DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ - ROTARIAN

Viktor Ružić was a charismatic personality of Sušak's history from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He asserted himself early to the community he grew up in with his civic engagement and was soon noticed elsewhere as well. His qualities of peculiar principle and political moderation brought him to high spheres of the current Kingdom of Yugoslavia (provincial governor, minister, Rotarian, etc.). His family background and integrity, on the other hand, defined and directed him to embrace the Rotary idea that swept over Yugoslavia in the 1930's. My intention is to elaborate on this subject.

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## ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACH TO PHILANTHROPY AND PHILANTHROPIC WORK OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ

The philanthropic work has surely existed since the beginning of mankind, however, during the course of history its meaning has been changing, depending on the dominant societal paradigms. Contemporary societal trends try to identify philanthropic work with the economic doctrine of neoliberal capitalism while pursuing proficiency and maximum efficacy. On the other hand we have an example of life philanthropy of Dr. Viktor Ružić, which has touched many destinies. Since one's philanthropic personality cannot be evaluated using classic scientific methods, ethnographic review of his biography or by interviewing persons that have continued his legacy through a foundation bearing his name, the focus is to provide a contribution to entering the core of the very concept of philanthropy.

This work engages in the phenomenon of philanthropy as inspired by the philanthropic personality of Viktor Ružić. Philanthropy, nowadays frequently mentioned and inspired mostly as an expression and force of the civil society, has been through different phases of its formation and perception. Philanthropy is nowadays more present than ever, especially through different foundations inspired by neoliberal economic models. The work shall initially focus on the historical development and meaning of philanthropy, including its contemporary models and goals. The focus shall afterwards switch to the methodological characteristic of ethnography as a research method of social phenomena that cannot be included scientifically in a standard way. Because how does one objectively measure a person's philanthropic contribution? This subject is therefore, except in theory, approached with a personal testimony of Viktor Ružić as presented in his autobiography *Moje uspomene* (My Memories). Personal conclusions shall be accordingly drawn in order to encourage self-reflection.

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DIGITAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE  
OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ'S BOOK  
COLLECTION AT FACULTY OF LAW,  
UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

The library of the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka, contains a private collection - exceptional donation of legal book titles that belonged to Dr. Viktor Ružić. The richness and value of the collection is reflected in the fact that it brings together a large number of legal titles in one place. It is intended for law scholars and experts interested in the history of the Croatian law, as well as other related areas. The collection has been placed inside glass cabinets and listed, and is therefore not visible or available to a wider circle of users.

Encouraged by the global trend of IT development, the faculty librarians have decided to start a project of collection digitalisation that would systemise that part of the book stock and make it available to a wider

audience. In order to understand the content of the collection, as well as the users' interests, the first step towards creating a digital database was to explore the titles that were included in the Book Collection by Dr. Viktor Ružić using the qualitative method, i.e. content analysis. The results of the research shall be used in the next step of building and creating the digital database.

The digital bibliographic database of Dr. Viktor Ružić would that way contribute to legal research to a much greater extent, whereas new printed media (digital and old) would improve the quality and availability of the world of learning and research work. That would raise the value of neglected knowledge and contribute to the research of the Croatian legal history, especially that of Rijeka and its suburbs, whereas the database would remain a lasting, long-term result of the project and contribute to the promotion of the cultural, scientific and historic significance of Dr. Viktor Ružić's figure and work.

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## SHORT STORY ABOUT THE TIME AND LIFE SPENT WITH THE FAMILY OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ - OUR "ČAKO"

My contribution to this book dedicated to the life and work of Dr. Viktor Ružić is neither "scientific" nor "expert". It is a memory of the time that I lived with him and his family in a house at Pećine, when I met, valued and grew to love that man.

In July 1951 I was appointed an apprentice teacher at the Grammar school of Sušak. After a recommendation from a friend of mine, who had, among many others, already lived at this house, we "moved into" a room that was meant for us, carrying nothing but a suitcase. The next morning we hear a knock: "Good morning! Welcome. My name is Viktor Ružić." He directed our first conversation with so much affability. Although with a welcoming tone of his short introduction, it appears to me that he wanted to evaluate these two people: my wife and me. I believe he came to the conclusion that

we truly were “wel-come”. He invited me into a room opposite ours. It was his library; a big room, the walls of which were completely covered with shelves full of books (except for that one wall with glass door that offered a view of the islands of Krk and Cres, as well as Učka). “Professor Sir”, he hadn’t called me that ever again, “hopefully You will, as a philosophy, psychology and history teacher, find these books useful. Feel free to use this library as Your own.” That’s how it all started - and says it all. It hardly need to be added anything more.

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## ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ FOUNDATION BY RIJEKA ROTARY CLUB

Pursuant to the Trusts and Foundations Act (*Zakon o zakladama i fundacijama*, The Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia *Narodne novine*, No. 36/95, 61/01), the Foundation refers to assets that permanently serve an altruistic or charitable purpose on its own or as a revenue. The Act defines foundations in formal and legal terms, but the focus of every foundation fund lies on the people that join to support altruistic, noble and charitable ideas and goals either with the money they set aside from their own assets or otherwise, or by participating in projects with hard work and effort.

In that regard, the proposal of the Rijeka Rotary Club to establish a foundation called “Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation”, whose main purpose would be to help young and talented people in their education in general, as to promote the artistic, or any other inclination or gift, was first given by Gjoko V. Ruzio, i.e. Juraj V. Ružić, at a club meeting at the end of 1993. Members of the RC Rijeka accepted the idea, whereas the lawyer Tomislav Sabljar, member of the club, engaged in the establishment and management of the foundation, as well as acquisition of assets, and was appointed the first director of the Foundation.

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PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR  
DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ, DESCENDANT  
OF USKOKS FROM THE ŽUMBERAK  
MOUNTAINS AND POLITICIAN  
THAT WAS CLOSE TO HIS PEOPLE

Provincial governor of the Sava Banate and Minister of Justice Dr. Viktor Ružić (born in 1893), son of Jurij and Jelka born Badovinac, belongs to the Žumberčani lineage (the locals from the Žumberak region in Croatia), on his mother's side, a sub-ethnic group of Croats that originates from the times of the glorious Uskoks from the Žumberak, defenders of Croatia and Europe from the Ottomans. Provincial governor himself was extremely proud of the descent on his mother's side. His mother, Jelka, was a sister of a famous Žumberčan and mayor of Zagreb, Nikola noble Badovinac, which thanks to him became a very busy city. Viktor Ružić himself frequently emphasised his Uskok descent and cooperated with Milko Preradović, historian from Žumberak, who visited him at his home in Rijeka. The bond between Dr. Viktor Ružić and his mother's homeland was particularly apparent during his political activity as provincial governor of the Sava Banate.



### III.

## GENEOLOGY AND BIOGRAPHIES OF THE RUŽIĆ FAMILY (*Homo habilis*)

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## RUŽIĆ FAMILY GENEALOGY (male lineage)

The Ružić family's genealogy shows a connection with other prominent families such as Mažuranić, Brlić, Kukuljević, Badovinc, Dworski and Demetri. Viktor's grandfather (on his mother's side), Nikola noble Badovinac from Žumberak, was Bosnia and Herzegovina's Assistant Minister and Head of the City of Zagreb. The father of Dr. Viktor Ružić, Juraj (Đuro), an industrialist born in Hreljin, was associated with a prominent Croatian politician Frano Supilo, whom he assisted generously.

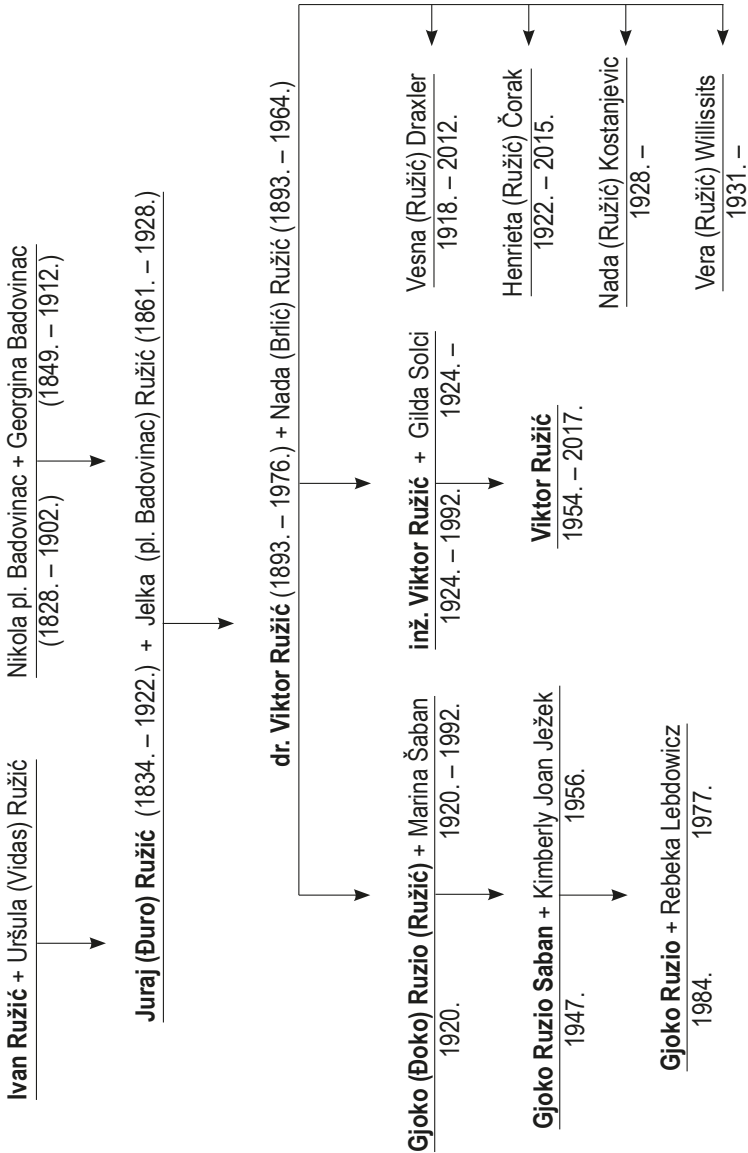


Last gathering of the Ružić family (upper row, from left to right) Viktor Ružić, Boško, Bo Wilistich, Jože Kostanjević, Gjuro Ružić, (bottom row, from left to right) Gilda Ružić, Henrieta Ružić, Vera Wilisitch, Nada Kostanjević, Vesna Draxtler, Nancy Ružić (sitting) Viktor Ružić, Nada Brlić

Taken from the newspaper Dnevnik (1996, June 11), p. 13

All members of the Ružić left a significant mark on the Croatian society, as well as Dr. Viktor Ružić on the Rotary World. The image below shows the descendants of the Ružić family by the male line, the most famous of which were Juraj (Đuro) (who had eleven children - seven from the first and four from the second marriage) and Dr. Viktor Ružić who had six children - two sons and four daughters<sup>2</sup>.

## RUŽIĆ FAMILY TREE (male lineage)



<sup>2</sup> Adapted and created by the Editor of this monograph, Vidoje Vujić, according to data from the Žumberak Calendars in 1966 and 1967.

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## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. VIKTOR RUŽIĆ

With the permission of the Editorial Board of the journal *Sušačka revija*, Journal for culture and social events of the Croatian Littoral, Kvarner Islands, Gorski Kotar a text was used to create a concise biography of Dr. Viktor Ružić based on his testimony before the People's Court in 1945 and his application for employment from 1960. Dr. Ružić was a provincial governor of the Sava Banate from 25 June, 1936 to August 1938, Minister of Justice from 5 February, 1939 to 1940. He was in internment in Italy from 28 September, 1942 to 5 July, 1943. In April 1933 he was elected President of the Sušak Rotary Club at a regular annual Assembly. Two years later, Viktor Ružić became provincial governor of the 77<sup>th</sup> district covering the entire territory of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He was Editor of the Yugoslav Rotary magazine, launched in 1932.

Dr. Viktor Ružić was not a member of any political party, except shortly in his youth. While holding the highest position in Office, he was a non-partisan person. During his youth he contributed to politics by cooperating with National Councils. He was then a member of the Democratic Party for a short time. On the electoral list of Vjekoslav Spinčić as his deputy, he contributed to the creation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. A clear political connotation can be found with his internment period in Italy (1942-1943) and his trial in 1945 when he was, according to the indictment, answering (*the irony!*) for his own humaneness and the Rotarian idea of benefaction as he was Chairman of the Assistance Committee for the poor from September 1943 to April 1944.

Once retired, he visited his children in Switzerland and the US for long periods of time. In his eight decades, he traveled a great deal and came to know famous and interesting places. He died in Zagreb and was buried on 26 June 1976, in the family tomb in Trsat. His life was best described by Katica Tadić in the article "The Rich Life of Dr. Viktor Ružić" published in the journal *Sušačka revija* which we fully include in the edition.<sup>3</sup>

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3 Katica Tadić, *Sušačka revija*, No. 49, 2005., p. (53- 56.) (included with the approval of Mr. Alen Čemeljić editor-in-chief of *Sušačka revija*– Journal for culture and social events of the Croatian Littoral, Kvarner Islands, Gorski Kotar)

## The rich life of Dr. Viktor Ružić

Viktor Ružić was provincial governor of Sava Banate, and as a well-rounded person, he worked, along with being a lawyer, in publishing, painting, journalism, cultural programs...

Dr. Viktor Ružić, out of all the people born in Sušak and active in the public sphere, reached the highest positions in Office. He was, along with the lawyer's profession, the provincial governor of Sava Banate and the minister of justice in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Younger generations, especially those living in Sušak, have little or no knowledge of this significant individual. Therefore, we want to describe his life and works on the occasion of his 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth. Additionally, this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his election as President of the Rotary society in Sušak. Written by Dr. Viktor Ružić himself, in a application for employment (dated 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1960):

"I was born on January 31, 1893 in Sušak, I attended the gymnasium in Sušak and Graz, I studied law in Vienna, Graz and Zagreb where in 1921 I was promoted in honor of as Doctor of Rights. My legal studies were interrupted during the war from 1914 – 1918 as at that time I was running the trading business of my late father. After graduating from legal sciences, I became an advocate trainee in the law firm of Dr. Korlević in Sušak and in 1924 I opened my own practice that I ran until May 1936 when I was appointed provincial governor of Sava Banate. I held the position until August 1938. In February 1939, I took up the position of the minister of justice until August 1939. I spent the first part of the war in Sušak, where I was not allowed by occupant authorities to practice law, and later on I was arrested by the Italian authorities and sent to Italy after 4 months of imprisonment.

### THE OFFICE IN SUŠAK

In the middle of 1943 I returned home, and in 1944 opened my own practice again in Sušak, which I ran until August 1945 when I was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment and confiscation of property by the People's Court of National Honor with the loss of honorary rights for 5 years. After a month I was amnestied and in 1951 I received legal rehabilitation. In 1947 I was appointed librarian in the Scientific Library in Rijeka from where I was transferred to a legal advisor position in the City Supply Company of Rijeka where I stayed for only 3 months. In early 1948 I was given a

position as a translator for the Italian language at the same company in which, by the middle of the same year, I took over the office of secretary and legal clerk. I stayed in the before mentioned position until April 1952 when I opened my own practice in Rijeka. In May 1958 I retired, and so far, I traveled to the United States and Switzerland. As for foreign languages, I speak: German, Italian, English and French.”

Dr. Viktor Ružić himself states his high positions (provincial governor, minister) as mere facts, but that does not represent the full scope of his actions. As provincial governor of Sava Banate, he helped the Croatian people a great deal. For example, the construction of the hydroelectric plant Vinodol, the Adriatic road (Sušak – Novi Vinodolski), the road from Zagreb to Beograd (Zagreb – Dugo Selo), the Mountain hut Dr. Viktor Ružić on Platk, can all be attributed to his dedication.

During his banishment, a high school was built in Karlovac. In Lepoglava, the Banovina School for lacework was founded, and in Zagreb the Faculty of Engineering building was finally completed. This represents only a part of his work for Sava Banate’s progress. As a minister of Justice, although for a short period time, he advocated for a free (autonomous) judiciary system and for the abolition of the death penalty.

## SUPILO IN FUŽINE

He was born into the Ružić family to his father, its founder Juraj (born in Hreljin in 1834) and mother Georgina Jelka Badovinac noble Badovinska, in his father’s second marriage, as the fourth child. He spent a happy childhood in Sušak, partly in Fužine in the villa that his father built in 1898. At that time Juraj Ružić was already a well-known and a successful wholesaler of leather. He lived with his family in a family home in the area known as Piramida. The time spent in Fužine, left the weak and faint young Viktor and Frano Supilo with happy memories. The latter was founder and editor of Novi List. Juraj Ružić, was not active in politics, instead he was of the founders of the Shareholders printing company in Rijeka where the newspaper Novi list was printed. A friendship was born and Supilo came to Fužine almost every Saturday as a guest of the family and had a lot of fun with the kids. One of his favorite activities was to compete in jumping on one leg down the hill from Ružić’s villa all the way to the road.

When the First World War started, Viktor was as a student. The War interrupted his plans to go to Paris and enroll in the University of Sorbonne. He was relieved of the obligation of joining the army because of his physical weakness, but had to take on his father’s affairs as his brother

Zvonimir (from his father's first marriage), who led the business, was urgently drafted. During the War, Viktor Ružić carried out his activities in Rijeka and Sušak, and only occasionally, travelled to Zagreb. He became a member of the Public Library of Rijeka (founded in 1849), which has been caring for the Croatian word and Slavic idea for years. The Library, on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary published a memorial book in which there is a list of members that contains Juraj Ružić's membership since 1874 and that of his son Zvonimir from 1897, Jurjev's brother Ivan, a lawyer, was a member since 1873. In the Public Library Viktor Ružić performs the duties of librarian, and later that of secretary.



Viktor Ružić, in his school years, in front of the Sušak High School. The future provincial governor of Sava Banate, stands in fourth row with a large hat on his head.

## DIVERSE CULTURAL INTERESTS

After Supilo's emigration, his associates continue to issue the Rijeka's *Novi List* until 19<sup>th</sup> December 1915, when, by governmental decision, it ceased to be issued. Rijeka is left without a Croatian newspaper. Viktor Ružić, with a group of like-minded individuals, purchased the Shareholders printing company in Rijeka, moved it to Premora house (Križanić street) and started publishing the *Primorske novine* newspaper that dates back to 1922. As for journalism, Viktor Ružić is one of the initiators for issuing a nationalist (Yugoslav) paper of the Voice of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, in Zagreb at the end of 1917. The paper begins its issue in 1918. Dr. Ružić's obligations



in the public and business spheres were made easier by his own interests. His cultural interests were diverse. For Rijeka's citizens he organized two exceptional manifestations within the activities of the Public Library :

- A concert by our well-known violinist Zlatko Baloković (9<sup>th</sup> December 1916). The profit from the tickets was donated to the Sušak shelter
- An art exhibition of Croatian artists (9<sup>th</sup> June 1916).



Frano Supilo on a donkey and the Ružić brothers; on the left - Jurica, later mayor of Sušak, Zvonimir, later manufacturer, and Viktor, later provincial governor. The picture was taken on the Poklon saddle, Učka Mountain.

To the right, innkeeper Adriani.

Short-term employment in the Scientific Library (then City Library - translation of the name *Biblioteca Civica*) allowed him to protect the library's fund from destruction when OZNA members began devastating books mainly in Italian and other languages, whose value he highly regarded. He himself owned a large library. The minor successor Juraj Ružić (Gjoko, Ružo Ružić, oldest Viktor's son, a businessman living in Switzerland) donated it to the Scientific Library, and all the legal books are now a "legat Ružić" at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka.



As an amateur painter himself, he mostly painted the harsh background of Sušak and its coast. As an art connoisseur, he often bought paintings from Croatian painters. He donated to Strossmayer's gallery a Klović's painting of Judith with Holoferna's head (purchased in London in 1937 for 14,377 dinars). He donated a collection of Croatian folk instruments to the National Museum in Ashington (Jutarnji list, Zagreb, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1938). He released in his own record of Ivan Mažuranićs poems and his brother Matija's "Way to Bosnia" (the first travelogue in Croatian literature). The Rotary Society in Sušak was founded by Viktor Ružić in 1929.



Dr. Viktor Ružić, third from the left, before an audience with the Pope Pius XII. in March 1939., Vatican

## NON-PARTISAN MAN

According to the paper *Primorski list* of 1933 (No. 395-396 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, p. 5), in April of that same year he was elected, at the regular annual Assembly President of the Rotary Society. As the Rotary Society is divided into districts, Viktor Ružić becomes governor of the 77<sup>th</sup> district (Yugoslavia) in 1935. He is editor of the Yugoslav Rotary magazine and changes the place of issue since its first issue in 1932. Dr. Viktor Ružić was not a member of any political party. While performing the highest duties, he was a non-partisan man. In his youth, he was politically active in collaborating with the National Councils in Rijeka and in Zagreb. Only for a short period of time, he was a member of the Democratic Party. On the electoral list of Vjekoslav Spinčić as his deputy he contributed to the creation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Of course, his

political orbit is influenced by the internment in Italy (28<sup>th</sup> September, 1942 – 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1943) and by the trial of 1945, when, according to the indictment, he answered for his humanness and the rotarian idea of benefaction - caritas, as he was, from September 1943 to April 1944, the Chairman of the Assistance Committee for the poor.

He left for his decedents a biography about his life, titled "My Memories".

Likewise, he left them in legacy a Guestbook that he took from his house in Sušak to Banski dvori, and finally to his home - villa Ružić in Pećine no.5, that he built for his family and where they started living in 1938. The villa was not seized in confiscation of 1945 when he was deprived of his other properties. He lived until 26<sup>th</sup> June 1976.

Once retired, he visited his children in Switzerland and the US for long periods of time. In his eight decades, he traveled a great deal and came to know famous and interesting places. Aldo he died in Zagreb, he is buried in the family tomb in Trsat, alongside his beloved Nada that died 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1964. Today, swimmers and people passing by, descending to the coast in the Pećine area, near No. 5, do not know about the museum, archival and library treasures that the villa holds. Alongside his memories, a hemeroteque about the provincial governor of Sušak can be found in the family house, where these valuables are carefully safeguard by the airs.

Katica Tadić



Provincial governor of Sava Banate, Dr. Viktor Ružić with the Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac in 1938, Zagreb

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## BIOGRAPHY OF GJOKO RUZIO (ĐOKO RUŽIĆ)

Born on February 22, 1920 in Zagreb, he was the oldest son of Nada Brlić and Dr. Viktor Ružić, the first grandson of the Ružić (1834-1922) and Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić (1874-1938) family. For a short time he lived in Sušak, in the area locally known as Piramida, in the Ružić Palace, known today as Josip Juraj Strossmayer Street. The 26<sup>th</sup> President of the Government of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia Dr. Milan Stojadinović appointed Dr. Viktor Ružić provincial governor of the Sava Banate on April 26, 1936. After that, the Ružić family moved to Zagreb, in Banska Dvora.

He finished primary and secondary school in Sušak. He attended the first year of secondary school in Austria. He graduated in Zagreb at the *Realna gimnazija* (secondary school with the emphasis on the practical) in 1938. Privately, he studied German, French and English. Before becoming provincial governor, his father completed the construction of the villa, located in what was then Sušak, which the family occupied on July 18, 1938. That same year Gjoko left to pursue his studies in Law at the University of Bologna where he stayed for a year. Then, he enrolled in Economics at the University of Switzerland and completed his studies in 1944, financially assisted by Rotary Club members in Louisiana. That same year, he started working in one of the Zürich banks. At the beginning of 1948 he assumed the duties of General Manager in a Geneva-based company specialized in fiber trading for Europe. During his business career he affirmed himself as a successful and respected businessman.

He spent most of his career in Switzerland, engaging in successful trading activities. In the business sphere he was regarded as a fair and honest businessman. Even though he was living and working abroad, he kept in touch not only with the members of his family - Ružić, Mažuranić, Brlić and Kukuljević, but also with people from Croatia and the whole of the former Yugoslav States with whom he cooperated and selflessly assisted. This applies particularly to immigrants, after the Second World War, and our economic emigrants afterwards.

Alongside his third wife, Sonja Hlebš Ruzio, a well-known actress, he remained connected to his homeland with individuals in the cultural sector and artists, helping them perform in Switzerland. During the Croatian War of Independence he cooperated with Dr. Vladimir Prašek and organized several hospital wagons with medicines and other supplies to be sent from Switzerland and Austria to the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For his humanitarian act, the President of the Republic of Croatia, Stjepan Mesić, honored him in 2010 with the Order of Danica hrvatska with the representation of the image of Katarina Zrinska.

Like his father, Gjoko Ruzio (Đoko Ružić) is a polyglot; he speaks seven languages and lives in Rieden, east of the Cisse Lake in Switzerland. With his first wife, Marina Šaban (1920-1992) he has two children - a son, Gjoko Ruzio Saban (1947), who lives in America and daughter Sinda (1950), who lives in Auckland, New Zealand. He has grandchildren as well, (son of Gjoko) Gjoko Ruzio (1984) and Tina (1982) living in Switzerland. He did not have children with his second wife, Nancy Habel and his third wife Sonja Hlebš.

He is an honorary member of the Rijeka Rotary Club and one of the founders of the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation. In a conversation with Lea Kinkela in 1999, he showed an amazing ability to speak the local dialect known as Čakavština, a good sense of humor and a strong emotional connection to his family's roots, and to his parents and brother buried in the family tomb in Trsat.

# IV.

## ABOUT AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF REVIEWERS

## **Goran Crnković**

Historian and publisher, born on March 13, 1954 in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He attended elementary and high school in Opatija. At the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb he earned a degree in History and Archeology in 1980.

He was employed in the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula, and for a short time in Rijeka's Novi list. Since 1985 he has been working at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Rijeka, first as an assistant researcher, then as an expert associate. From 1996 he has been the director of the State Archives of Rijeka. He has been publishing his professional works since the late 70's, and the results of archival and scientific research since 1985. He has published more than sixty papers in scientific journals, worksheets and in special publications (catalogs).

He mainly explores the recent history of the Kvarner region, especially the Istrian Liburnian area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He has participated in about thirty scientific and professional conferences all over the country and abroad (Hungary, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Russia, Germany, Bulgaria). As the President of the District of Matica Rijeka from 2008, he has organized numerous literary presentations, exhibitions, round tables and scientific symposiums that have substantially enriched Rijeka's cultural life and had an impact on the national and international cultural scene.

## **Danko Pavešić**

Professor Emeritus, was born in 1931 in the Italian town of Gorizia. After graduating from Sušak Gymnasium, he enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana and after graduating in 1956 he came to Rijeka. After serving military service, he was employed at the Department of Pathology and Pathological Anatomy. He specialized in Gynecology and Obstetrics in 1963 and received his Doctorate of Science in 1974. He works as a full professor and chair of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, where he was a dean for two years, and served as the rector of the University of Rijeka

He is author and co-author of numerous scientific papers and textbooks from gynecology and obstetrics. He has actively participated in numerous congresses domestically and abroad, and has been educated by numerous

experts and gynecologists for many years. He received numerous recognitions and awards for his work, and he was awarded the Order of Danica Hrvatske with the representation of the image of Ruđer Bošković. He was a top athlete, a member of the water polo team and the longtime president of the Sports Association of Primorje 08. He is always willing to contribute to the community in the wider sphere of interest and was one of the founders of the Journal Sušačka revija, where he has been working for over twenty years as a Head editor.

### **Marko Čičin - Šain**

Born in 1977 in Rijeka. He graduated from the Italian Gymnasium in 1995, graduated in 2000 and earned his master's in Economics in 2007. In the field of Information technology, he completed his doctorate in 2011.

In early 2001 employed in Eidos, he worked for the Italian multinational company Finmatica. At the end of 2002, he started working as an IT Manager at Kvarner Bank (today BKS Bank from Klagenfurt) and then he became Head of bank support. At the beginning of 2009, he was appointed as a member of the Management Board of Primorska Banka. In mid 2013 he became a member of the Management Board of Jadrolinija, in charge of finance, commercial and general affairs. In 2017 he becomes a Board Member of PIK, d.d. Rijeka, in charge of general and financial affairs, a position that he currently holds.

In 2014 he earned the title of Assistant Professor of Science and in that position collaborates with the Faculty of Maritime studies and the Faculty of Economics as an IT teacher. He is the author of a series of publications and articles both domestic and foreign. Since 2015, he has been a proud member of Rotary Club Rijeka.

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS**

### **Željko Bartulović**

Full Professor, born March 5, 1962 in Rijeka. Graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Rijeka in 1986 and earned a Master's degree from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade in 1991 and completed his doctorate in 1998 at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. He is the Department Chair of

the Department of Law and State Law at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka. He held lectures in the field of law at Faculties in Osijek, Bihać, Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka (UPS), Novi Pazar (IUNP), Universities in Rijeka and Gospić, University of Zadar – Section of History, Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Mostar.

He has published five books and more than seventy papers that mainly deal with the history of the Croatian State and other countries as well as legal history. He is a researcher for projects funded by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia, the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and the City of Rijeka. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Zbornik*, a Science Journal of the Faculty of Law at the University of Rijeka and a member of the editorial offices of several scientific journals and professional and civic associations. He was the winner of the Zlatna plaketa Grb Grada Rijeke in 2015.

### **Ervin Dubrović**

He was born in Rijeka in 1957. He is a longtime director of the Rijeka City Museum, as well as a historian of art, culture, and a researcher of Rijeka and Central European historical topics from recent history. He is the leader, author or co-author of several major research projects and exhibitions: *Riječka luka*, 2001., *Adamićevo doba, riječki trgovac u doba velikih promjena 1780. – 1830.*, 2006., *Riječki torpedo – prvi na svijetu*, 2010. He organized the exhibition *Merika*, 2008 about the emigration from Central Europe to America that began at the end of the nineteenth century till the First World War. The American exhibition of *Merika*, 2008 was held at the Immigration Museum in New York (The Statue of Liberty national Monument and Ellis Island), 2012. He published three editions: *Merika* (monograph in Croatian and English languages), 2008, *Great Wave* (Collection-Monograph in Croatian), 2012, and *From Central Europe to America - Emigration from Central Europe to America* (monograph in English), 2012.

He is author and editor of several monographs, art biographies and essay books on the social, cultural and artistic history of Rijeka and Central Europe: *Arte miracolosa, povijest fotografije u Rijeci*, 1995. (editor and co-author), *Na kraju stoljeća – likovne teme*, 1996., *Riječki kazališni plakat*, 1996., *Scena i kostim – Dorian and Ružica Sokolić*, 1998., *Vrag nikad ne spava – Riječki pogledi i ogleđi*, 2002., *Dobro jutro, gospodine Kalina*, 2000., *Ninoslav Kučan*, 2005., *Ivo Marendić Ivša*, 2005., *Drenig: talijansko-*



hrvatski kulturni dodiri 1900 – 1950., Leontine Littrow – slikarica svjetla, 2017. (co-author Bernhard Barta), Rijeka – južni pol Srednje Europe, 2018.

### **Dejana Golenko**

Head of the Library at the Faculty of Law of the University of Rijeka since 2003. She completed the Postgraduate degree and University Doctoral Study of Knowledge Society and Transfer of Information at the University of Zadar, Department of Information Science in 2016 (topic of PhD dissertation: Intracurricular approach to information literacy at higher education level in the field of Law). Since 2014, she has been the Head of the European Documentation Center, as part of the Europe Direct information center in the European Union Member States, at the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka.

She has held several lectures at scientific conferences in the field of librarianship and information science. She is the author of several scientific and professional papers whose content suggests that the area of her interest is information literacy at the higher education level. Researching information literacy programs for students in the field of Law. She was president of the Rijeka Library Association 2008/2010 and is a member of numerous committees and working groups at the Croatian Bookshop Society. In 2010 she received the Eva Verona Prize, which is awarded to young librarians, members of the Croatian Bookshop Society.

### **Mirjana Gulić**

She graduated in History of South Slavic literature and Croatian language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. She has been working in the State Archives in Zagreb since 1993 as a senior archivist in the field of archiving and processing archives of the judiciary, notary and attorney's funds. Since 1999, she has been the Head of the 2nd Section for Arrangement and Archival Processing that holds 70% of the State Archives Fund in Zagreb. She has been working, processing and writing up more than 80 judiciary, notary and attorney funds. She is also author and co-author of scientific publications - books, expert articles, exhibitions that she presented both domestically and internationally .

She was a member of the editorial board of the Guide through the archives and collections of the State Archives in Zagreb. Author of eight chapters, as well as an expert associate and consultant in the development of the State Archive Archives in Zadar, which she also professionally lectured. She participated in the preparation of data on the project Overview of

archival funds and collections of the Republic of Croatia. She studied the archive of dental medicine in Zagreb and referred to it on the occasion of marking the anniversary of the Croatian Chamber of Dental Medicine. At the training for archive staff, organized by the State Archives in Zagreb, she was lecturer on two courses: Protection of Materials, Organization, Decoration and Equipment of Storage Space and Arrangement, Processing and Description of Materials. At the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Information and Communication Science, she is a mentor for archivist students.

### **Božidar Perharić**

Born in Zagreb in 1925. Once he graduated, after the end of the war he enrolled in a study group of (A) Philosophy, (B) Psychology and (C) History at the Faculty of Philosophy which he completed in 1951. He taught at the Second Gymnasium in Rijeka and Sušak Gymnasium. Returning to Zagreb, he obtained a postgraduate degree from the Faculty of Philosophy in Industrial Psychology in which he received a master's degree in 1975.

He worked at the Nikola Tesla factory as a psychologist and trainer. At the same time, he taught at various educational and other types of institutions. Several of his expert books and "memoir's" have been published as well as expert articles in various printed media where he portrait events, people and his memories.

### **Hana Lencovic**

Professor of Philosophy and History, currently completing a PhD at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, in the area of humanities, in the field of anthropology. She explores the Free software movement in the context of cognitive capitalism and hacking ethics and changes that arise in contemporary work processes and precarious work, and the consequences that affect individual social groups. She researches societal changes that cause the neoliberal economic paradigm and globalization, commodification and inequality in the knowledge economy and the problem of kitsch (excess) in modern media.

As a longtime volunteer in cultural associations in the city of Rijeka, she is especially committed to intercultural dialogue as a very important segment of the networked society of today and in this area she explores a wide range of topics, especially mindfulness within the discipline of cognitive science, zen Buddhism and its echo in Croatian art, Shaman culture and

African IFA philosophy. She works in the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts - Department of Historical and Social Science in Rijeka.

### **Zvonko Lovrek**

Born in Osijek on January 25, 1960, he completed the elementary school and Gymnasium in Beli Manastir. He studied at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb, which he interrupted after the VI. semester. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb in Archives studies earned the title of Records Manager.

From 1990 to 1995 he worked in the Croatian State Archives, Section for New History and the Section of Military Funds, and later in the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Zagreb in the area of arraigning, researching historical sources in archives, museums and libraries.

### **Irvin Lukežić**

He was born in Rijeka on April 13, 1961. He graduated in 1983 from the Section of Croatian Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Rijeka, where he currently works as a full professor in the courses of Old Croatian Literature, Croatian Culture and Civilization. He is engaged in publicist, critic and essay work in several fields: literary, historical and ethnological. He has published nineteen books and many papers in various publications and participated at numerous scientific and expert meetings in Croatia and abroad.

He wrote belletristic and dramatic work. He translated scientific and philosophical works from the Italian, English and Slovenian languages. He wrote a screenplay for the documentary film about the Frankopan family, directed by Bernard Modrić. For the Grobnik biographical Lexicon (Grobnički biografski leksikon) in 1994. he was recognized by the Jelenje Municipality that presented him with the Award. Additionally, in 2006, he was awarded the Rijeka Prize for his special contribution on the study of the cultural history of the city.

### **Oleg Mandić**

He was born in 1933 in Sušak. He has a law degree and passed the Bar. He has been active in foreign trade for 10 years an established himself for 4 decades in the newspaper - publishing business (Informator and Privredni vjesnik - Zagreb). In that period, he published, alone or in co-authorship,

five expert books and several expert papers. He also wrote and published books: *Kronika obitelji Mandić, I. i II. izdanje, Rotary i mi – prvih 100 godina, Rotary u Hrvatskoj i svijetu, Oleg Mandić, l'ultimo bambino di Auschwitz i Oleg Mandić, posljednji dječak Auschwitza.*

He is the author of three exhibitions, two short-documentaries and co-author of a feature film. He visited about a hundred countries on all continents with his beloved companion Duška. These trips were described in numerous presentations at the Department of Čakavština dialect in Opatija. He has been a passionate player of Bridge for more than half a century. Co-founder of RC Rijeka and the Dr.Viktor Ružić Foundation.

The infamous Auschwitz 1944/1945, from which he literally left last, marked his life. He loves his life and he is proud of it because, as he says, compared to Auschwitz other problems fade away. He is the bearer of numerous acknowledgments for prominent social work, especially with the youth, and the promotion of social, ethical and moral values. For the past ten years he was invited to speak in Italy, Croatia and Slovenia where, motivated by social movements, he called for resistance against all evil and violence. He calls this resistance and battle anti-fascism for which in 2017 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Primorje Gorski Kotar County.

### **Maja Polić**

Scientific associate at HAZU (Institute of History and Social Sciences in Rijeka) and Head of the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Rijeka.

She specializes in history of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, focusing on economic and cultural aspects.

She has published several book editions and dozens of scientific and professional articles. She participated and helped organize forty domestic and international scientific and expert conferences. She is the president of the editorial boards of a series of scientific and professional associations, and the member of many publishing offices and editorial councils.

### **Nikola Sabljar**

He was born in 1978 in Rijeka. After graduating from the First Rijeka Croatian Gymnasium Rijeka in 1997, he studied law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Rijeka and the Faculty of Law of the University of

Zagreb where he graduated in 2002. He has been a civil servant at the Rijeka Municipal Court, and until 2004 he was an employee in the Law Firm Bogdanović, Dolički & Partners in Zagreb.

Until 2008 he worked as a lawyer trainee at the practice of mr. Tomislav Sabljara in Rijeka and after having passed the Bar exam before the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia, he opened his own law firm with headquartered in Rijeka and worked with the representation of parties by providing legal assistance from several legal areas. In his practice, he represents the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation in the proceedings of property restitution and in resolving the property-related problems of the restituted property. He is one of the founders of Rotaract club Rijeka and member of Rotary Club Rijeka since 2014.

### **Tomislav Sabljar**

Born in 1938 in Godinjak near Nova Gradiška, he graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb in 1962. He completed the Postgraduate study in criminal law in 1969/1970 and defended his master's thesis on the Criminal Defense of Cultural Monuments. From 1962 to 1974 he was employed at the Municipal State Attorney's Office in Rijeka (then the Public Prosecutor's Office) as deputy public prosecutor. He had to leave this post due to his membership in the Matica hrvatska. From 1974 to 1980 he worked at the Rijeka Construction Department. Since the beginning of 1981 he has been registered with the Croatian Bar Association.

In his work as a lawyer he deals specially with the defendants' defense in criminal proceedings and the protection of human rights. In several terms, he served as the President of the Rijeka Bar Association, the Board of Trustees of the Croatian Bar Association and the Vice-President of the Croatian Chamber of Attorneys. For his contribution to the practice of law, he was awarded with the highest award - plaque Dr. Ivo Politeo. In addition to his work as an attorney, he was a city councilor of the City of Rijeka and chairman of the Management Board of the Modern Gallery in Rijeka. He is one of the founders of the Rotary Club of Rijeka and the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation and its director.

### **Petar Strčić**

He is a regular member of HAZU, a scientific consultant (permanent profession) - retired. He was the director of the Croatian State Archives and Archives of the Croatian Academy of Sciences, founder of the Section

of History of the Faculty of Philosophy in Rijeka, a lecturer in several graduate and postgraduate studies, president or member of the presidency of numerous scientific and professional societies: SFRY and Western Croatian archivists, historians of SRH and RH, Čakavski Parliament. He is the founder and co-founder of a number of institutions and societies, a member of State and other expert commissions, organizer and head, co-organizer and co-head of a number of scientific and expert conferences in Croatia and abroad, the holder of a series of scientific projects.

He is currently Chairman of the Historical Society of Rijeka, head of the Department for Historical and Social Sciences of the HAZU Rijeka and the Pula Field Unit, Member of the Parliamentary Committee of the Croatian Parliament for Croats outside the Homeland, Commission for Research, Decoration and Maintenance of Military Cemeteries and Graves of Victims of the Second World War and Post-war period, adviser for the memorial of the Ministry of Defense, editor-in-chief of the Krka collection and the Rijeka magazine, special editions of the historical societies of Krk and Rijeka. He is the winner of the Life Achievement Award of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and of the City of Rijeka, an honorary citizen of the City of Kastav and the municipalities of Čavle, Dobrinj, Fužine and Klana.

### **Daniel Vranešić**

Born on December 1, 1979 in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, to father Milan and mother Đurđa maden Rapljenović. He attended the elementary school in Metlica and Zagreb, and he continued his high school education in Rijeka. Once he graduated from the Salesian classical Gymnasium Rijeka, he enrolled in the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb where he graduated with the thesis on the Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac in Rijeka's Novi list - news and commentary. In 2005 he was ordained as priest of the Greek Catholic Križevac Eparchy and received service in Samobor, Jastrebarsko and Pribić, where he served as a priest and dean.

Since 2006 he has been a member of the Croatian Family Council of the Episcopal Conference, since 2010 the secretary of the Presbyterian Council, and in 2014 he was appointed dean of the Cathedral Dean's office of the Križevac Eparchy. In 2009 he founded the Žumberak Archives in Stojdraga and took up the post of editor of the annual Žumberački krijes.

## Vidoje Vujić

Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management in Opatija, with a doctorate of social-humanities sciences in the field of economics. He has completed four postdoctoral specializations: Entrepreneurial and Participatory Management at the Carl Düisburg Gesellschaft Köln Institute in Germany in 1992, the world-recognized EOQ (Quality System Manager) and EOQ (Quality Auditor) Certificate in Austria in 1977, and a Certificate of Teacher/Trainer of Entrepreneurship and Manager training, earned in the Netherlands in 1999.

Author of eighteen books, seven of which are university textbooks and 450 scientific papers published in magazines and scientific journals that are reviewed and recognized internationally. He continues to participate in scientific projects in the area of business ethics and culture, entrepreneurship and management, knowledge management and human resources. Along with his university career, he was deputy, and in the period from 2011 to 2013, County President of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar. In October 2013, he was elected President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy-County Chamber Rijeka, a position which he still holds today.

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Belarus, a regular member of the European Academy of Sciences based in Vienna, a member of the Rotary Club of Rijeka, deserving member and President of Supervisory Board of CROMA (Croatian Association of Managers and Entrepreneurs), a member of the Croatian Society for Quality, a member of the Presidency of the Croatian Association for Information and Communication Technology, Electronics and Microelectronics - MIPRO, member of the Presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Region and Deputy President of INSULEUR at the European Social Council.

Prof. Vidoje Vujić, Emeritus Professor  
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## AFTERWORD

The life and work of Dr. Viktor Ružić (1893 – 1976) and those of his children -, his son Đoko Ružić (Gjoko Ruzio) born in 1920, and of his daughters Vesna Draxler (1918 – 2012) and Vera Willisits, born in 1931., clearly show that, in our pragmatism-oriented world, that there are individuals dedicated to noble goals. The Ružić family has stayed united in the ideal of helping others by advocating peace, truth and justice, nonviolence and victim protection, which laid the foundation of rotarianship.

### What do Rotary and its membership represent?<sup>4</sup>

Rotary is a global association of people of various vocations and professions, business individuals prominent in public and private life, joined by a sense of morality and global solidarity.

Rotarians are expected to be of service to the community, the public good, their club, their vocation and the young. A special focus is placed on the development of young people in the spirit of the rotarian ideals. Moreover, it is the obligation of all members of the Rotary Club to assist in work and care for the young. Rotarianism rejects prejudices and tolerates all races, cultures, religions, peoples and democratically elected parties and their representatives. Rotary is socially engaged and in solidarity with others on an international level.

With its attitudes, actions and behavior, it strives to set a good example and create a positive climate and environment in which satisfaction and quality of life of all citizens are a priority.

By applying a “test of the four questions” the Rotary members evaluate a correct response to a certain need that requires action:

- Is it (based on my opinions and beliefs) really true?
- Is it (in all known forms of interpersonal relationships) fair?

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4 For more information on the Rotary movement please consult: Oleg Mandić, Rotary u Hrvatskoj i svijetu, Rotary Internešenal, Distrikt 1913/Hrvatska, Rotary Club Rijeka i Zaklada Dr. Viktor Ružić, Rijeka 2016. and Dr. Mario Seiller-Tarbuk, Rotary vademecum – Ideali i realnost, Rotary International / Distrikt 1910. Translation: dr. Sunčica Bulat-Würsching, Zagreb, 2012. Rotary ABC, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) i [www.rotary.hr](http://www.rotary.hr)



- Will it promote friendship and good will among people?
- Will it serve the well-being of all stakeholders involved?

If the answers to all these questions are affirmative, then it is worthwhile to pledge one's own contribution. This is how the members of Rotary act and perceive the world. Along with their personal integrity and they nurture, they strive to develop good relationships and build a better society worldwide. Rotary seeks to connect and understand all areas of social creativity and spirituality from science and technology to art, religion and philosophy. Opportunities resulting from a comprehensive overview of the environment are what direct the activities of the Rotary Club. Activities primarily take place within the Clubs, past potential obstacles, in the direction of international understanding and in connection to common goals. The strength of the Rotary Club lies within each member.

Each Rotary Club decides on the selection of new members and therefore, a person alone cannot apply for membership. A difference should be made between *Rotary* and *Rotary International*. The latter represents the worldwide organizational structure (clubs and districts in all parts of the world, with its headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA). The primary mission of *Rotary International* consists supporting the Rotary Clubs in achieving their goals through:

- promoting unity among Rotary Clubs
- strengthening and disseminating the Rotary movement in the world
- raising the visibility of Rotary activities
- making available an international administration system which serves Clubs and Districts.

*Rotary* is basically, not what Rotary International sets out as guidelines, but rather the actions and goals of the Clubs themselves. Hence, there is a great expectation of responsibility for each Club president and member. Rotary International has its own activities such as PolioPlus, World Understanding and Peace, Young people without drugs and others, that position it as a non-governmental organization of international significance, recognized by the United Nations and of which Pope Francis (born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, in Buenos Aires on 17.12.1936.), was a member and remains a Rotarian to this day.

Not so long ago, in Rotary, the issue of women's membership was revised as *Rotary*, in the first eight decades of its existence, was exclusively a "male" Club. Since women have become equals in business and public functions, Rotary did not ignore that fact and left it up to the Clubs to decide on accepting women as members.

For a proper understanding of Rotary, it is important that an individual Rotarian participates in Rotary activities with full respect for his personality, opinion, religious affiliation and political attitudes. Rotarians are distinguished by:

- doing more than average;
- taking responsibility in society, economy, affairs of the State, politics, as well as in other forms of social life;
- having the courage to speak up for good things, not avoiding confrontation;
- having perseverance and not giving up on principles.

These attributes were a part of Dr. Viktor Ružić and his life.

One of the most prominent features of Rotary is mutual trust. Wherever they meet, Rotary members can count on mutual trust. The value of mutual trust is a value which is held to high standards by the members of Rotary. Therefore, above all else, the highest values of morality are expected and required. To the combination of high principles and a successful influence on changing reality, the Dr. Viktor Ružić Foundation contributes greatly. The Foundation would never have existed if a prominent individual from Sušak had not planted a tree that gathers us and still contributes to society to this day.