

---

**Original research article**

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SERBIAN SOKOL PARISH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS FUNCTIONING TILL THE END OF 1911

**Petar D. Pavlovic<sup>1</sup>, Kristina Pantelic Babic<sup>1</sup>, Danilo Pavlovic<sup>1</sup> and Danica Pirs<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, Nis, Serbia

UDK 796.03(73)“1911”

---

## SUMMARY

In the first half of 1909, the Serbs in America began to accept the Sokol idea. Then the first initiatives to establish Sokol associations started to appear and by the end of 1911, ten Serbian Sokol associations were established. To unify the work of the established associations, primarily in order to achieve the objectives of the Sokols, in early October 1911, in Gary (Indiana) the Serbian Sokol Parish in America (SSPA) was established, incorporating seven associations. The aim of this paper is to shed light and save from the oblivion SSPA establishment, its operation by the end of 1911 and its contribution to the development of the Serbian Sokol movement. First historical sources created at the time of the Parish establishment and its operation, as well as the sources which were created later, were reviewed and analyzed.

**Key words:** Sokol association, parish, Sokols, session.

---

### Correspondence author

Kristina Pantelic Babic  
kri.pan@hotmail.com

---

## INTRODUCTION

Sokol movement, as a new way of physical exercise, stemmed in 1862 in the Czech Republic when in Prague the "Prague Gymnastic Society" as part of the struggle of the Czech people for liberation from the invaders, was founded. At the suggestion of Professor Emanuel Toner, in 1864, the company changed its name to "Sokol". Sokol movement has from then on begun to spread in all countries inhabited with the Slavic peoples. Thus the idea of the Sokol movement spread among the Serbs and other Slavs who lived in America<sup>1</sup>.

In the first half of 1909, the Serbs in America began to accept the Sokol movement as a way of gathering and physical exercising, primarily with the aim of the spiritual and physical strengthening of their people. There began to emerge first initiatives for the establishment of the Serbian Sokol associations, which actually happened in mid of that year. In late May the first Serbian Sokol association was established in the United States, Cincinnati (Ohio), and in early October of the same year there was established one more in Detroit (Michigan). Soon, there were established Sokol associations in other places of America, where the Serbs lived. Over the next year, in 1910, there were founded five associations in: Indiana Harbor (Indiana), Barberton (Ohio), Akron (Ohio), Gary (Indiana) and Chicago (Illinois), and in 1911, three associations in St. Louis (Montana ), Butte (Montana) and New York (New York). By the end of 1911 ten Serbian Sokol associations were established and functioned in America.

## OBJECT AND AIM

The paper deals with the development of the Serbian Sokol movement in America and the aim of the paper is to shed light on the establishment of the Serbian Sokol parish in the United States, its activities by the end of 1911, and its contribution to the development of the Sokol movement in America.

## METHOD

A historical method was used. Historical sources created at the time of the establishment and operation of the Parish, as well as the sources created later, were reviewed and critically analyzed.

---

<sup>1</sup> America - a term that is used in the paper relates to the territory of the United States.

---

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Establishment of the Parish

In mid 1911 there began to emerge initiatives for the representatives of then established S.S.A. to gather, hold a meeting and agree on further joint work to achieve the objectives of the Sokol movement. Serbian Sokols from Cincinnati, Gary, and other individuals sparked initiative for the representatives of all S.S.A in America to meet and agree on the most important tasks for the future work of the Serbian Sokols throughout America, during 1911. One of these individuals was the initiator Peter O. Stijačić, or more precisely, as noted by the Serbian officer of the Sokol Parish in America (SSPA), Dušan B. Popovic "[...] on the initiative of Stijačić"<sup>2</sup>, Serbian Sokols in America were "[...] gathered at their first Convention in Gary, Ind., to hit a solid foundation of the local Sokol movement..."<sup>3</sup> Sokols from other association accepted this and scheduled a meeting for October 1, 1911., in Gary.

The first meeting of the Serbian Sokols in America took place on 1, 2 and 3 October, 1911 at the premises of S.S.A. in Gary. The meeting was attended by the delegates of the Serbian Sokols from seven S.S.A.: Vlado Botić from Indiana Harbor (Indiana), Milan Glisic from Cincinnati (Ohio), Duro Kecić from Detroit (Michigan), Peter N. Kumanovac from Barberton (Ohio), Joca Sekerić from Akron (Ohio), Ljubomir Simic from Gary (Indiana) and Dušan Čelović from Chicago (Illinois); and representative of the Serbian cultural and charitable fund in New York, Peter O. Stijačić.<sup>4</sup>

On Sunday, October 1, S.S.A. senior management from Gary lead by their headmaster Luka Grkovic organized a dinner party at which, besides arriving S.S.A. delegates many Serbs, Americans, Croats and others from Gary, as well as other places within the United States, were invited. "The hall was decorated beautifully and was crowded with guests and the members of the Serbian Sokols from Gary, Ind., as well"<sup>5</sup>. Head of the Serbian Sokols from Gary, brother Luka Grković with chosen words welcomed the entire present and appointed brother Milan Glišić, a Serbian envoy of the Sokol association from Cincinnati to host the

---

<sup>2</sup> Dušan B. Popović and Miloš Jokanović: Minutes of the ninth session of the Serbian Sokol Parish in America, held on February 28, 1913. in Chicago, Il., Sokol, organ of Serbian Sokols in America and the paper of national enlightenment, yr. 3, no. 3 and 4, New York, March-April, 1913, p. 58

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Peter Stijačić: First meeting of the Serbian Sokols of America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 7-11.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 7.

dinner. During the dinner a friendly conversation was struck, there were cheers, toasts and speeches in which, mainly, talks about this first meeting, the Serbian and Slavic Sokol movement and their tasks were held. The following envoys addressed the audience: Milan Glisic, Duro Kecić, Peter N. Kumanovac, Joca Sekerić Dusan Čelović and Todor Bozovic, Jos. Zoković, Blagoje Savic, Peter O. Stijačić and head of the Croatian Sokol association from Gary. Sokols from the Serbian and Croatian Sokol associations from Gary performed several different exercises. After midnight they "[...] all dispersed all satisfied and delighted with the Sokol idea."<sup>6</sup>

The next day, on Monday, October 2, at 9 a.m. the delegates gathered and started to work. First they elected a chairman and the secretary of the meeting, and then the agenda was made and acclaimed. Ljubomir Simic from Gary was elected a chairperson, and Milan Glisic from Cincinnati the secretary.

They followed the acclaimed agenda of six points:

1. Establishment of the Serbian Sokol Parish in America;
2. Setting rules for the Serbian Sokols in America;
3. Drafting rules for the Serbian Sokol Parish in America;
4. Management;
5. Slet; and
6. Election of the Parish administration. "<sup>7</sup>

Chairman, Ljubomir Simic noted that there were present representatives from seven associations and the representatives from St. Louis (Montana) did not come. Then he presented statistical data on the total members number of the present seven associations, and members number of any single association on October 1, 1911. First ranked by the number of members was an association from Gary, with 116 members (46 regular and 70 helpers<sup>8</sup>). Then followed the associations from Detroit with 70 members (25 full-time and 45 helpers), Chicago with 62 members (32 full-time and 30 helpers), Cincinnati with 60 members (35 full-time and 25 helpers), Berbertona with 60 members (32 regular and 28 helpers), Akron with 36 members (24 regular and 12 helpers) and

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Unpaid family workers (helpers) "[...] are members who pay the association one year membership fee- according to local conditions, all at once or in monthly installments. They have all the rights of full members. "(Ibid).

the Indiana Harbor with only 8 members. In total there were 402 members (192 regular and 210 helpers).

After that discussion on the establishment of SSPA ensued. All representatives took the floor and after the speeches delivered and proposals claimed the chairman gave a final proposal to establish SSPA with the seat of the Parish in Gary. The proposal was unanimously adopted. The parish encompassed seven associations from: Akron (Ohio), Barberton (Ohio), Gary (Indiana), Detroit (Michigan), Indiana Harbor (Indiana), Cincinnati (Ohio) and Chicago (Illinois)<sup>9</sup>.

The second item on the agenda comprised the Rules of the Serbian Sokols. Board members were elected as follows: Luka Grković, Petar N. Kumanovac, Petar O. Stijačić and Dusan Čelović, whose job was to prepare draft rules until the following day, October 3.

The next point discussed the rules of the Parish and all the attendees participated in their design.

The fourth point to discuss was the need for issuing a newspaper (authority) of the Parish. After the discussion, all the participants unanimously concluded that SSPA was to launch an issue of its newspaper (body) which would be called "Soko", the newspaper of the Serbian Sokols in America.

The newspaper would be published in New York "[...] every 1st of the month in the form of literary papers comprising 16 pages and the price would be 60 cents per year for the United States, and 75 cents for Europe and the rest of the world" and "the Newspaper would be distributed to all the members - Sokols - as their body."<sup>10</sup>

The following item discussed going public to present the work of the association in America. After the discussions it was concluded unanimously that the first Sunday after St. Vitus Day, on 17 (30) June, 1912 in Chicago, the first Serbian Sokol slet in America was to be held. The newly elected members of the Parish Board were asked to put all preparations into action for Slet holding.

---

<sup>9</sup> Serbian Sokol Parish in America, Sokol, Serbian Sokols Newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 11

Regular members are all those received by the Management Board and paying a monthly fee as determined by the general meeting of shareholders and their rights are: "1. that on completion of the eighteen (18) years they shall be elected and that they can be chosen by the officers of the Board on completion of 21 (twenty-one) years; and 2. to wear a suit and social badges. (Rights and duties of members, Soko, newspaper of the Serbian Sokols in America, vol. 2, no. 1, New York, January 1, 1912, p. 8)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

The last item was selection of the Parish Administration: Board of Directors, board members, supervisory board, head of the Parish and his deputies. For the Board of Directors there was elected Head, Luka Grković from Gary; Deputy Head, Petar Sekulović from Chicago; Secretary, Milan Muslin from Gary; Deputy Secretary, Risto Kovacevic from Gary and Treasurer, Mato Cuk from Gary.

The Supervisory Board comprised: Risto Baltic from Gary, Njegovan Bogdanov from Detroit, Milan Glisic from Cincinnati, Gliša Loncar from Akron and Velimir Hajdin from Barberton.

For councilors were elected: Vlado Botić from Indiana Harbor, Ilija Milojevic from Chicago and Dusan Čelović from Chicago.

SSPA elected the leader Petar N. Kumanovac from Barberton and his deputies were Lazar Dobric and Milan Rebrača, both from Detroit.

For the editor of the Serbian Sokols newspapers in America, "Soko" Peter O. Stijačić from New York was elected. Its owner was SSPA.

The elected members of the Parish Board were called and informed "[...] those who were then in Gary that they were elected by the delegates into the management and were asked whether they received these duties."<sup>11</sup> All had pleaded "[...] to receive them and to work for the Serbian Sokol movement as much as they could and knew."<sup>12</sup>

On Tuesday, October 3, 1911, the delegates resumed their work. The Rules and Regulations of the Serbian Sokols and the Parish were discussed, previously prepared by the Drafting Rules Committee. After the discussion, the rules were accepted and the Parish Administration was ordered that the Rules should be printed and sent to all Sokol associations, members of the Parish, as well as the newly established associations which approached the Parish.

Article 1 and 2 of the Serbian Sokols Rules defined how the Serbian Sokol associations would be called and which language would be used in their mutual correspondence. All associations would be called "Serbian Sokol" and "Business language of the associations would be Serbian (Cyrillic), except in the case of correspondence with the North American authorities, when they would have to use the English language."<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> Ibid..

<sup>12</sup> Ibid..

<sup>13</sup> Peter O. Stijačić: How do we establish Serbian Sokols, Sokol, Serbian Sokols newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 6



**Illustration:** *First Serbian Sokols meeting in America* <sup>14</sup>

*First row from left to right: Joca Sekerić, deputy of the association from Akron (Ohio); Peter N. Kumanovac, deputy of the assoc. from Barberton (Ohio) and SSPA leader; Dusan Čelović, deputy of the assoc. Chicago (Illinois) and a member of the Board of SSPA; Ljubomir Simic, representative of the assoc. from Gary (Indiana); Peter O. Stijačić, deputy of the Serbian cultural and charity fund and the "Srbobran" paper from New York, and editor of the Serbian paper in America, "Sokol"; Vlado Botić, deputy of the assoc. from Indiana Harbor (Indiana) and a member of the Board of SSPA; Duro Kecić, deputy of the assoc. Detroit (Michigan); Milan Glisic, envoy of the assoc. Cincinnati (Ohio) and a member of the Supervisory Board SSPA.*

*Second row from left to right: Tanasije Nastic, deputy head of the assoc. from Gary (Indiana); Milan Muslin, Secretary of the assoc. from Gary and SSPA; Mato Cuk, cashier SSPA; Luka Grković, head of the assoc. from Gary and officers SSPA; Jovo Krstović, philanthropist of the assoc. from Gary; Milan Rebrača, leader of the assoc. from Gary and deputy leader SSPA, Krstovic, beneficiary of the assoc. from Gary.*

Member of the Serbian Sokol association "[...] can be every male and female Serb, every male and female Slav, who is of good behavior and who is clean in public opinion and who the Management accepts" and the " Association has members: regular, helpers, founders, benefactors, major benefactors and honorary members."<sup>15</sup>

Finally, they discuss the costumes of the Serbian Sokols and it was concluded that the costumes must be the same for all associations, and that the Board of Directors (seniority) of the Parish would make rules for carrying clothes.

---

<sup>14</sup> Our pictures, Sokol, Serbian Sokols newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 9

<sup>15</sup> Ibid...

It was also concluded that all printed materials: membership cards, certificates, application forms, intercessions; as well as seals, flags, badges and the like, must be uniform. They would only be distinguished by the name of the place where the company was located.

After the meeting, the delegates and association seniority from Gary were taken photographed together.

At the time of the meeting delegates posted a greeting telegram to professor Mihajlo I. Pupin, president of the League of the United Serbs "Unity" and the Cultural Charity Fund: "Gary, Ind. – M.I. Pupin, Norfolk, Con. With the first meeting of the Serbian Sokols please receive an expression of our great respect for your tireless work for the good of the Serbian people. Hello. - Serbian Sokols Convention."<sup>16</sup>

Pupin did not receive the telegram in time, and later on, on October 17, 1911, from New York he sent to Luka Grkovic, leader of the SSPA a letter with the following contents:

"Dear Mr. Grkovic, I am sorry I did not get the telegraph with greetings from the Sokols Convention on time, so that I did not answer the Convention. I was very pleased, as the honorable Serbian Sokols remembered me, and for that I extend my great thanks to them.

Mr. Stijačić told me a lot of nice things about the Sokols Convention and the Serbian Sokol in America. I believe it is all the way he says enthusiastically describing it and in that faith, I find the greatest comfort. In the current Serbian state in America, Serbian Sokol movement is the best and healthiest occurrence in the life of the Serbian people on this side of the Atlantic, so I salute you honorable Sokols, and cry: `May you live and multiply for many years on`.

With the Serbian salute your admirer,

M. I. Pupin. "<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Greetings and congratulations, Sokol, Serbian Sokols newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 13

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 14.



Letters and telegrams greetings were received from associations from Barberton, Indiana Harbor, Cincinnati, Chicago, and the "United Serbian nation" from Chicago, Anne Krejček, founder of the female Sokol in Belgrade and others<sup>18</sup>.

### **Parish functioning from the foundation till the end of 1911**

From 15 October 1911, the Board of Directors of SSPA began to hold its sessions. By the end of that year it held three sessions, mid of every month. At meetings there were discussed all issues relevant to the development of the Sokol movement and the important decisions for its further successful development were made. Following topics were discussed: publishing of the Serbian Sokol newspaper in America and its distribution not only to the Serbian association, but associations of other nations as well; organization of the First Serbian Sokol Slet in America; of income and expenditures; the cliches of the Sokol character, diploma, candidates and the like; making outfits (formal and work); maintenance of fun; were sending letters to the newly formed associations to join SSPA, reading their letters; Committees were formed to perform specific tasks (finding a place for the maintenance of Slets, searching for music Slets, etc..).

Board of Directors of the SSPA held its first session. on Sunday, October 15, 1911 in Gary. The following persons attended it: Luka Grković, SSPA head; Peter Sekulović, deputy head; Milan Muslin, secretary, and his deputy, Risto A. Kovacevic; Mato Cuk, treasurer; Milan Rebrača, SSPA deputy leader; and councilors Risto Baltic and Ilija Milojevic.<sup>19</sup>

After the talks and discussions they had unanimously concluded that the sessions would be held "[...] two times per month, in the first and last week of the month" <sup>20</sup> and that the reports of the sessions were to be published in the newspaper of the Serbian Sokols in America, "[...] to enable the Serbian Sokols to know what was going on in the Parish." <sup>21</sup> Conclusion that the sessions were to be held twice a week was not implemented, but they were held once a month.

It was decided to send a letter to the association in St. Louis (Montana) by which to inform them that SSPA was founded, as they did not send their delegates to the meeting when the Parish was founded, to ask them to join the Parish. It was

---

<sup>18</sup> The first session of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 11 - 12.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 11.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

also decided to send letters to all associations to send them a list of names of its members, as well as other information about their activities.

For further expansion of the Serbian Sokol movement throughout the United States, wherever there were Serbs, they decided to write to the most distinguished Serbs and institutions in the United States. Since they did not have their addresses they asked the daily "Srbobran" from New York to send them the same.

They also decided to draw up a sign of the Serbian Sokol in America that will be placed on all printed materials of all Serbian Sokols in North America and the production of all printed materials (application forms, membership cards, certificates, letters, etc.) would be entrusted to the printing Serbian Cultural and charity Fund in New York. They also decided to inform all associations in America that besides printed materials other stationery and printing materials should be purchased in the printing press, through daily "Soko", and that the social signs, flags, formal suits, suits for exercise and the like should be ordered by the Board of the Parish.

At the first meeting of the Serbian Sokols in America it was decided that the first Sunday after St. Vitus in 1912 first Serbian Sokol slet in America was to take place and at the first meeting of the Parish a special committee was appointed composed of Luka Grković, head of the Parish; Peter Sekulović, deputy head; Savo Jaksic and Dusan Čelović, whose task would be "[...] to find and book land for Slet in June 1912, in Chicago, Il."<sup>22</sup>

At the end of the sessions it was decided to give the notice to all Serbian Sokols in America "[...] to take considerable effort" to expand<sup>23</sup> the list of the Serbian Sokols in America, "[...] and to collect subscriptions and ads" for them. After that session ended its work and scheduled another session for 29 October, in the same year.

The second session of the SSPA Board was not held on October 29, 1911, as agreed at the first meeting, it was held on November 15, at "Serbian Sokol" premises in Gary. The session was attended by: Luke R. Grković, senior chief; Milan Muslin, secretary; Mato Cuk, treasurer; and members: Risto Baltic, Ilija Milojevic and Risto A. Kovacevic.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the first session, the agenda was discussed. First, the treasurer, Mato Cuk, submitted the report on the

---

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, p. 12.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

revenues and expenditures of the Parish from 10 October to 15 November, 1911. During this period, Parish had received a total of 170.10 dollars from the associations and individuals:

"From S. Sokols from Gary, Ind. There was received on October 10, \$ 53.30; from S. Sokols from Cincinnati, O. On 18 October \$ 27.95, November 15, \$ 6.95; of S. Sokols from Detroit, Mich., on November 12, \$ 9.95; of S. Sokols from Chicago, Ill. on November 11, \$ 37.70; of S. Sokols from Barberton, O. October 18, \$ 25.00, on October 25, \$ 7:50 dollars; subscription to the paper `Soko` Reception of Ivković \$ 1.00, from Risto A. Kovacevic 75 c.<sup>24</sup>

After treasurer's report the head of the the Parish, whose task, on behalf of the Committee, was to find a suitable space for Slet in Chicago, in June 1912, took the floor and informed the Board of Directors that until then they had not managed to find the perfect place, because, as he said among other things, "[...] one should be looking to find land which would in addition to moral, bring also material profit to the Parish."<sup>25</sup>

Then ensued reading of the letters from associations and individuals: Nikola I. Guzina from association in St. Louis; association Detroit; Plavša Leskovac from Stbenvil and Velimir Hajdin. Plavša Leskovac in his letter, "[...] reports that he will seek to establish S. Sokol in Stbenvil, O. and asks all the instructions as well as several copies of the paper `Soko`."<sup>26</sup> Velimir Hajdin writes he accepts membership on the Supervisory Board, and Sokols from Detroit ask for a copy of the exercise suit, so all the Sokols can practice in the same suit.

Then they talked about the establishment of the association in So. Chicago (Illinois) and Hegvic (Illinois). It was agreed that the Parish Secretary, Milan Muslin would visit So. Chicago to convene a meeting there and give necessary instructions to the local Serbs in the formation of association, and that Jovo T. Risto Maric and A. Kovacevic Hegvić would go in there and try to establish association.

It was also discussed the development of clichés with Sokols sign that would be placed on all printed Sokol materials and about making diploma. The editor of the paper "Soko", Peter O. Stijačić, was asked to produce a diploma, which would be similar to the Czech Sokols and printed in the Serbian printing company in New York. They decided to ask the association from Sremski Karlovci

---

<sup>24</sup> Session of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 2, New York, December 1, 1911, p. 28.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid..

to send them 100 pieces of "Handbook of exercises" to distribute them to the leaders of the Sokol associations in America.

After that, they talked about the festive Sokol suit, and after a long discussion they decided that formal suit would be the same as the Sokols wear, which are the Serbian Sokols in Chicago had already acquired, with little change, that the hat resembled those of the Serbian in Herzegovina and Bosnia. All association in America were informed that solemn and exercise Sokols suits should be ordered with SSPA.

At the end of the meeting they agreed to send a letter to the newly formed association in Butte (Montana) which would inform them that SSPA was founded and advise that it would be good if they joined the Parish. Afterwards, head of the Parish stated that the session had completed its work.

After the second meeting of the Parish, it was decided to hold meetings once a month. Thus, the third session was held on December 15, 1911, in Gary. Following persons took part in the session: head of the Parish, Luka Grković; deputy head, Petar Sekulović; Secretary, Milan Muslin and his deputy Risto Kovacevic; and councilors Risto Baltic and Dusan Čelović. The session was not attended by the treasurer Mato Cuk, as he traveled to his homeland Herzegovina, where he would stay for three months. Board of Directors of the Parish until his return, appointed Deputy John Krstović. Savo Jaksic, a member of the Slet committee informed the Parish head in writing he would not be able to attend the session. We do not know for what reason.

After approving the minutes of the previous meeting Deputy Treasurer, Jovo Krstović, filed a statement of income and expenditure of the Parish of the previous session, until December 15, 1911. Head of the Parish informed all participants that they had found a place for Slet, a park in Chicago, and had given a deposit in the amount of 25.00 dollars.<sup>27</sup>

Risto Kovacevic, who was in the previous session together with Jovo Maric assigned to go to Hegović and work on the establishment of the association informed the Administration of the Parish that he agreed with the Serbian club in Hegović to soon organize a party, to assist the establishment of the association in that place. They also decided that the Serbian team from Hegović agree with the Serbian Sokols from Gary and Chicago, that they participated together in the party.

---

<sup>27</sup> The minutes of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 2, no. 1, New York, January 1, 1912, p. 9 - 10.

Milan Muslin, who at the previous session was tasked to go to So. Chicago and help the Serbs there to establish association said that he would, as Risto Kovacevic had done in So. Chicago, do the same, so the association would be founded as soon as possible.

After reading letters from the Serbian Sokol Associations of Barberton and Cincinnati, and making the decision to purchase the necessary items for the exercise in the First Serbian Sokol Slet in America, it was decided to send a letter to the head of the Serbian Sokol Parish in Bosnia-Herzegovina, dr. Vojislav Besarović asking them "[...] to send a Sokols hat as a pattern."<sup>28</sup>

In the end they chose a special committee of two members, Luka Grković, head of the parish and Jova Krstović, deputy treasurer. The task of the Committee was to prepare the party in favor of SSPA.

"Serbian Sokol" from Gary appointed the Board for the expansion of the "Sokol" paper, finding ads, collecting fees and the like, comprising: Mihail M. Ducic, Jovo T. Maric and Luka R. Grković. Guided by this example SSPA decided to send letters to all associations in America to do the same.

From the above said we can conclude that SSPA in that short period of three months, did a tremendous job, which was of great importance for the further establishment of the associations in the entire United States where Serbs lived and for their continued good work.

## SOURCES AND LITERATURE

1. The minutes of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 2, no. 1, New York, January 1, 1912, p. 9 - 10.
2. Our pictures, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 9
3. Greetings and congratulations, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 13 - 14.
4. Popovic, B. Dusan and Jokanovic, Miloš: The minutes of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, held on February 28, 1913, in Chicago, Il., Soko, represent of the Serbian Sokols in America and the paper of national enlightenment, year. 3, no. 3 and 4, New York, March-April, 1913, p. 58
5. Rights and duties of the members, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 2, no. 1, New York, January 1, 1912, p. 8
6. The first session of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 11 - 12.

---

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, p. 10.

7. The first Serbian Sokol meeting in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 16
8. Session of the Serbian Sokols Parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 2, New York, December 1, 1911, p. 27-28.
9. Serbian Sokols parish in America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 11
10. Stijačić, O. Peter: How do we establish Serbian Sokols, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. : 5 - 7.
11. Stijačić, O. Peter: Who can be a member of the Serbian Sokols, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 2, New York, December 1, 1911, p. 27
12. Stijačić, Peter: The first meeting of the Serbian Sokols of America, Sokol, Sokols Serbian newspaper in America, Vol. 1, no. 1, New York, November 1, 1911, p. 7-11.

## ОСНИВАЊЕ СРПСКЕ СОКОЛСКЕ ЖУПЕ У АМЕРИЦИ И ЊЕН РАД ДО КРАЈА 1911. ГОДИНЕ

### САЖЕТАК

У првој половини 1909. године Срби у Америци су почели прихватати соколску идеју. Тада су се почеле јављати и прве иницијативе за оснивање соколских друштава и до краја 1911. године основано је десет српских соколских друштава. Да би се објединио рад основаних друштава, пре свега ради остварења соколских циљева, почетком октобра 1911. године је у Герију (Индијана) основана Српска соколска жупа у Америци (ССЖА) у коју је ступило седам друштава. Циљ рада је да се осветли и отргне од заборава оснивање ССЖА, рад до краја 1911. године и њен допринос развоју српског соколства. Прегледани су и проанализирани историјски извори настали у време оснивања и рада Жупе, као и извори који су настајали касније.

**Кључне речи:** соколска друштва, Жупа, соколи, седнице.

## ОСНОВАНИЕ СЕРБСКОЙ СОКОЛЬСКОЙ ЖУПЫ В США И ЕЕ РАБОТА ДО КОНЦА 1911. ГОДА

### РЕЗЮМЕ

В первой половине 1909. года, сербы в США начали принимать идею Сокольства. В то время стали появляться и первые инициативы по созданию Сокольских обществ, а к концу 1911. года, уже насчитывалось десять сербских Сокольских обществ. Для того, чтобы унифицировать работу создаваемых обществ, а в первую очередь для того, чтобы достичь целей Сокольства, в

начале октября 1911. года в Гэри (штат Индиана) была основана сербская сокольская жупа в США (ССЖА), в которую поступило семь обществ. Цель статьи пояснить и сохранить от забвения основание ССЖА, ее работу к концу 1911. года и ее вклад в развитие сербского сокольства. Были рассмотрены и проанализированы исторические источники, которые появились во время основания и работы сообщества, а также источники, которые появились позже.

**Ключевые слова:** Сокольские общества, жупа, Соколы, заседания.

---