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## Croatian Librarian Ivan Kostrenčić: From Vienna to Zagreb

### Abstract

The article analyses the life and work of Ivan Kostrenčić (1844–1924). He was the first independent and professional librarian in Croatia with the necessary professional qualifications.

Kostrenčić first graduated in theology in Budapest in 1866, then in history and Slavonic studies in Vienna in 1868. From 1868 until 1875 he worked as a librarian at the Imperial Library in Vienna (today the Austrian National Library), where he learned the librarian’s “craft”.

Kostrenčić was the director of the Royal University Library of Franz Joseph I in Zagreb (today the National and University Library) from 1875 until 1911. During his 35 years of work in Zagreb he tried to implement his knowledge and the system of work that he had learned in Vienna (e. g., in the making of catalogues, positioning the role of the library and librarian in society, staff policy). With his arrival in Zagreb and the foundation of the Royal University Library, Croatia became more actively included in the general trends of development of modern librarianship and library science in Europe. In accordance with the existing possibilities, Kostrenčić especially aspired to follow the example of the most famous libraries of German-speaking areas in theory and practice.

In summary, Kostrenčić was a highly rated professional librarian, a capable organiser and a good manager. Through his work we get to know some of the most famous people of Croatian scholarly, ecclesiastical, political, and cultural life in the last quarter of the 19th and in the early 20th centuries.

\*\* Der Artikel untersucht das Leben und Werk von Ivan Kostrenčić (1844–1924), dem ersten unabhängigen, professionellen Bibliothekar Kroatiens mit den erforderlichen beruflichen Qualifikationen.

Kostrenčić schloss 1866 das Studium der Theologie in Budapest ab, 1868 folgten Abschlüsse in Geschichte und Slawistik in Wien. Von 1868 bis 1875 arbeitete er als Bibliothekar an der Wiener Hofbibliothek (der heutigen Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek), wo er das ‚Handwerk‘ des Bibliothekars erlernte.

Kostrenčić war von 1875 bis 1911 Direktor der Königlichen Universitätsbibliothek (der heutigen National- und Universitätsbibliothek) Zagreb. Während seiner 35-jährigen Tätigkeit in Zagreb versuchte er, sein Wissen und die in Wien erlernte Systemarbeit umzusetzen (z. B. bei der Erstellung von Katalogen, der Suche nach einer Rolle für die Bibliothek und den Bibliothekar in der Gesellschaft oder in der Personalpolitik). Mit seiner Ankunft in Zagreb und der Gründung der Universitätsbibliothek wurde Kroatien stärker in die allgemeinen Entwicklungstendenzen des modernen Bibliothekswesens und der Bibliothekswissenschaft in Europa einbezogen. Unter Rücksicht auf die bestehenden Möglichkeiten strebte Kostrenčić insbesondere danach, in Theorie und Praxis den bekanntesten Bibliotheken des deutschsprachigen Raums zu folgen.

Insgesamt war Kostrenčić ein sehr geschätzter, fachkundiger Bibliothekar, ein kompetenter Organisator und guter Manager. Durch seine Tätigkeit lernen wir einige der bedeutendsten Persönlichkeiten des gelehrten, kirchlichen, politischen und kulturellen Lebens Kroatiens des zu Ende gehenden 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhunderts kennen.

### **Keywords**

Ivan Kostrenčić / librarianship / cultural history / Imperial Library in Vienna / Royal University Library in Zagreb

\*\* Ivan Kostrenčić / Bibliothekswesen / Kulturgeschichte / Wiener Hofbibliothek / Königliche Universitätsbibliothek Zagreb

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### **Introduction**

A number of works about the life and work of Ivan Kostrenčić have been published within Croatian scholarly and cultural circles,<sup>1</sup> and we will

<sup>1</sup> About Kostrenčić's life and work see: SEČIĆ 2000 and 2007. Also, on various aspects of Kostrenčić's life and work see: BARIC 2005; JEMBRIH 2015; ZVONAR 2001; 2002; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007a; 2007b; 2012; 2013 and 2016.



Ivan Kostrenčić, 1886 (published in: RAVLIĆ 1963)

refer to these in more detail later in this text. Also, something about Kostrenčić as a librarian at the Imperial Library in Vienna (today the Austrian National Library) has been briefly mentioned in some Austrian professional and scientific publications,<sup>2</sup> but his life and work in Zagreb remain little known to Austrian researchers. Furthermore, Kostrenčić's valuable papers, which are kept in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb as a separate fonds entitled *Ivan Kostrenčić, Correspondence*, also attest to his activity in the fields of culture, science, and politics. This archival

material contains correspondence with a total of 29 identified persons, 12 letters with illegible signatures, Kostrenčić's diary, and several pages of various documents and notes. Most of the letters are in Croatian, but there are also a few in German, Italian, Hungarian, or Latin. It is immediately apparent that Kostrenčić collaborated, established friendships, and corresponded with the most famous persons of Croatian scholarly, ecclesiastical, political, and cultural life in the last quarter of the 19th and in the early 20th century. Thus, his preserved letters include parts of his correspondence with Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Bishop of Đakovo, and benefactor; Franjo Rački, politician, historian, first president of the Yugoslav (today Croatian) Academy of Sciences and Arts; Metel Ožegović, politician; Matija Mesić, first rector of Zagreb University; Ivan Kukuljević, historian, politician, and writer; Šime Ljubić, historian and archaeologist; Bogoslav Šulek, polymath; Ivan Danilo, politician;

<sup>2</sup> MRÁZEK-SCHWAB 1968, 471–472; ROJNIĆ 1970 and 1978b; RAZUMOVSKY 1988. Also, the Austrian National Library in Vienna has several documents about Kostrenčić's work in that library from 1868 to 1875. See: <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00009508>; <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00009588>; <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00009682>; <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00010099>; <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00010631>; <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/DZ00016147> (11 January 2019).

Franjo Marković, philosopher; Vatroslav Jagić, Slavacist, and many others. Several letters from the Kostrenčić Papers speak about the days of his youth and his education after completing high school.

It should be noted that Kostrenčić's letters are also present in other fonds of the Archive of the Croatian Academy. For example, the index of papers shows that he sent one letter each to historian Tadija Smičiklas, politician Matija Mrazović, and naturalist Dragutin Hirc as well as three letters to Ladislav Mrazović. The highest number of Kostrenčić's letters has been preserved among the papers of Franjo Rački, Metel Ožegović, and Josip Juraj Strossmayer. Kostrenčić sent 52 letters to Rački in the period from 1866 until 1892. In the period from 1871 until 1888, Strossmayer sent Kostrenčić 16 letters and a card. In addition to this, two telegrams and two congratulatory telegrams sent by Ivan and his wife Zlata Kostrenčić to Bishop Strossmayer have also been preserved. Kostrenčić sent 20 letters on various occasions to Metel Ožegović in the 1872–1877 period. The majority of the letters in the three mentioned individuals' papers encompass the period from the second half of the 1860s to the mid-1870s, and most were sent by Kostrenčić from Vienna.

It is important to note that this contribution on the life and work of Ivan Kostrenčić is based on published articles, created as a result of researching his papers kept in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the archive of the National and University Library in Zagreb. In future studies, it would be interesting and useful to examine the documents that probably exist in the archives in Vienna and pertain to the period 1866–1875, when Ivan Kostrenčić was studying and working in Vienna.

### **Kostrenčić's activities in Vienna**

A large amount of valuable data pertaining to the first years of Kostrenčić's life and work in Vienna can be gleaned from the letters he sent from Vienna to Franjo Rački in Zagreb, namely, that after finishing his theology studies in Budapest in 1866, Kostrenčić did not become a priest. For existential reasons, he needed a job, so he turned to his friend and supporter Franjo Rački,<sup>3</sup> who supported his efforts to find a job as a teacher. Since he did

<sup>3</sup> Franjo Rački, Croatian historian and politician (1826–1894). Began his education in his birthplace, Fužine in the Gorski kotar region of Croatia, and continued it in Rijeka, Varaždin, Senj, and Vienna, where he attained a doctorate in Theology in 1855. He was ordained as a priest in Senj in 1852. He worked as a professor at the seminary in Senj, and as Land School Inspector for Croatia. By publishing sources, and writing treatises and critical reviews, he gained prominence as a historian. Together with Vatroslav Jagić and Josip Torbar, he launched the first Croatian scientific journal, *Književnik*. He served as the first president of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts (1866–1886), founded by bishop and patron Josip Juraj Strossmayer, and edited many volumes

not manage to find employment despite various attempts and recommendations by Rački and his other friends, he came to Vienna in early October 1866 in order to study history and philosophy, and began preparations for taking the teachers' exam. He had only a little money at the beginning of his study, so he urgently needed a grant. In addition, he attempted to find a job at the Austrian Institute of Historical Research (*Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung*), but his chances of success were very low. To be precise, the Institute was at that time headed by the Benedictine and historian Albert Jäger, who indirectly let Kostrenčić know that he would not employ him or Smičiklas. Only one Slav worked at the Institute; all the others were Germans. At that time, Kostrenčić and Smičiklas were attending Auxiliary Sciences of History classes and seminars and were planning to continue attending lectures in the following year as private attendees. In addition, they applied to the Ministry of War in Vienna in order to research wars with the Ottoman Empire, wishing to shed more light on that period of Croatian history due to the importance and role of the Military Border for Croatia. Upon completing his studies, Kostrenčić wished, as he wrote to Rački, to become an archaeologist. In addition, he intended to take up numismatics, and this is why he got in touch with Prof. Rudolf Eitelberger von Edelberg, who was renowned as an expert in that field throughout Europe. In spring 1867, Kostrenčić again appealed to Rački, asking him to act as an intermediary with Matija Mesić and Janko Jurković, who held positions of responsibility related to Croatian education in the Croatian government and on the level of the Monarchy as a whole, since he had applied to the Regency Council for a grant. He was afraid that, unless he soon received the grant, he would be unable to continue living in Vienna.<sup>4</sup>

In 1868, Kostrenčić asked Rački for help in getting a job as a librarian at the Imperial Library in Vienna, because he urgently needed a job that would allow him to live in Vienna, since life there was quite expensive. Kostrenčić's compatriot Baltazar Bogišić left the position of library assistant at the Imperial Library in Vienna. In February 1868 a tender for the library assistant was announced.<sup>5</sup> Kostrenčić's friends' recommendations helped him get this job – Venceslav Soić, Bishop of the Senj-Modruš or Krbava Diocese, recommended him to Bishop (later Cardinal) Lajos Haynald, while Aurel Kušević, a member of the Croatian, i. e. the common

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of the Academy's journal *Starine*. Together with Bishop Strossmayer, he was the co-founder of the People's Party (1860), and later, with Matija Mrazović, the cofounder of the Independent People's Party (1880). On the various aspects of F. Rački's activities, see: Zbornik 1979. Also, for information about the life and work of Franjo Rački, see: GROSS 2004. Also see: Rački 2007.

<sup>4</sup> ZVONAR 2016, 11–12.

<sup>5</sup> RAZUMOVSKY 1988, 234–236.

Croatian-Hungarian Parliament, recommended him to Prince Hohenlohe.<sup>6</sup> Later, following the recommendation of the Viennese university professor and well-known Slavist Franc Miklošič,<sup>7</sup> Kostrenčić was employed on 1 April 1868 for a trial period as “Hilfsarbeiter der kk. Hofbibliothek ...” at the Imperial Library in Vienna. Director Eligius Franz Joseph Freiherr Münch von Bellinghausen<sup>8</sup> was pleased with Kostrenčić’s work. In July 1868 Münch applied for a permanent position as “amanuensis” (library assistant) for Kostrenčić. During his work in Vienna, where he spent over seven years at the Imperial Library, Kostrenčić advanced as a librarian. On 4 June 1871 he became the fourth amanuensis and in August 1874 he advanced to first amanuensis.<sup>9</sup> At that time the director of the Imperial Library was Ernst Ritter von Birk.<sup>10</sup> Beside his work as a librarian, Kostrenčić was engaged in education and culture – he was a Croatian Language teacher at the Theresian (Military) Academy in Vienna, and also did translation and literary work as well as being responsible for copy-editing Croatian schoolbooks at the state publishing house for textbooks. He published the works *Uspomena Mirka bar. Ožegovića Barlabaševačkoga biskupa senjskoga i modruškoga ili krbavskoga* (Vienna, 1869) and *Urkundliche Beiträge zur Geschichte der protestantischen Literatur der Südslaven in den Jahren 1559–1565* (Vienna, 1874). He also published a collection of poems entitled *Vrtić* by Fran Krsto Frankopan, a Croatian nobleman, poet and conspirator against Emperor Leopold I. Kostrenčić found the poems in the Viennese State Archives, prepared them for print, and published them on the 200th anniversary of Frankopan’s execution in Wiener Neustadt.<sup>11</sup> Kostrenčić was well educated, he knew German, Hungarian, Italian and French, and he knew all the major Slavic languages. In his work he was diligent and conscientious, and his superiors respected him.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> ZVONAR 2016, 13.

<sup>7</sup> From 1844 to 1850 Miklošič was also a librarian at the Imperial Library in Vienna. Regarding that part of his career see: RAZUMOVSKY 1988, 230–234. Edith MRÁZEK-SCHWAB (1968, 471–472) briefly mentions Kostrenčić as a librarian in Vienna.

<sup>8</sup> About the Imperial Library in Vienna in that period and Münch see: MRÁZEK-SCHWAB 1968, 421–455.

<sup>9</sup> „Schon am 25. Juni 1868 suchte Münch um seine Definitivstellung an: „... Kostrenčić hat während seiner probeweisen Dienstleistung vielseitige Sprachkenntnisse und bey großem Fleiße eine besondere Begabung für bibliothekarische Arbeiten in solchem Grade an den Tag gelegt, daß ich mich veranlaßt finde, dessen definitive Aufnahme als Hilfsarbeiter ... hiemit ergebenst in Antrag zu bringen.“ RAZUMOVSKY 1988, 236.

<sup>10</sup> About Birk see: MRÁZEK-SCHWAB 1968, 457–475.

<sup>11</sup> ZVONAR 2007b, 53. Also, about Kostrenčić’s life and work in Vienna see: PETROVIĆ 1913, 10.

<sup>12</sup> „Die gute Meinung, die seine Vorgesetzten in Wien von ihm hatten, schmeichelte ihm, und mit Stolz hob er hervor, daß er am *Catalogus codicum manu scriptorum Bibliothecae Palatinae Vindobonensis* mitgearbeitet hatte.“ ROJNIĆ 1970, 418.



At the time of Kostrenčić's study and work in Vienna, many distinguished Croatian intellectuals were residing in the city, including writer August Šenoa, writer and physician Ivan Dežman, composer and conductor Ivan Zajc, Slavacist and philologist Vatroslav Jagić, and philosopher Franjo Marković. Metel Ožegović was an advisor at the Ministry of Interior who strove to help his Croatian compatriots, and the family of general and poet Petar Preradović was also living in Vienna at that time. Members of the People's Party, such as Matija Mrazović, Nikola Krestić, Ivan Vončina, and Antun Jakić, occasionally came to Vienna from Zagreb in order to conclude agreements and make political appearances in the Austro-Hungarian capital. They were often joined by Croatian politicians from Dalmatia such as Ivan Danilo, Konstantin Vojnović, and others, as well as unionist politicians such as Koloman Bedeković, Petar Pejačević, Mirko Šuhaj, and Antun Vakanović, who were firm supporters of a strong alliance between Croatia and Hungary. Communication between the members of this "Croatian colony" was vibrant, which is reflected in the letters from Kostrenčić's papers as well as the preserved fragments of his diary. Thus, Kostrenčić participated in political events during this period to some degree, since he always kept an eye on the political situation in his homeland. Besides meeting his compatriots in person, he was kept up to date on political and social conditions through letters sent by his friends, who wrote to him about his colleagues and acquaintances, and forwarded news about the possibility of his employment as a librarian at the Royal University Library in Zagreb.<sup>13</sup>

During his stay and work in Vienna, Kostrenčić remained constantly in contact with his compatriots since he was ready to help them, especially in the fields of science and culture. Many people from Croatia turned to him for help during the time he worked in the Imperial Library in Vienna. They most often wrote to him regarding the acquisition of scholarly literature and transcripts of archival material for their research; his papers contain several short letters sent to him by geographer Petar Matković, philologist Đuro Daničić, naturalist Josip Torbar, historians Ivan Kukuljević and Šime Ljubić, and philosopher Julije Šajatović in the first half of the 1870s. As part of the efforts to reorganise and reform the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, and to establish a theatre academy, he was requested to acquire the rules and statutes of similar institutions abroad and send them to Zagreb. In addition, Kostrenčić helped his friends in various private matters – he met with them upon their arrival in Vienna, relayed their letters, booked tickets, and organised tuition in certain school subjects for them. He tried to help everyone, and the various requests sometimes overburdened him.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> ZVONAR 2007b, 53, 58. Also, see: ZVONAR 2006, 189–191.

<sup>14</sup> ZVONAR 2007b, 57–58.

A relatively good insight into Kostrenčić's activities in Vienna is offered by the 15 letters sent from Rački in Zagreb to Kostrenčić in Vienna, plus a concept of a letter by Kostrenčić for Rački. In these letters, Rački addresses Kostrenčić, as he puts it, "whenever we are in need of something from Vienna". He most often asked for Kostrenčić's aid regarding research and acquiring archival materials from Viennese archives in order to publish Academy publications – *Rad*, *Starine*, and the series *Monumenta spectantia historiam Slavorum Meridionalium*. In addition, Kostrenčić occasionally acquired archival material for his scholarly work, bought literature for him, borrowed and sent him books from Viennese libraries, and contacted experts regarding historical research and the restoration of works of art. In addition, he relayed his messages and greetings to Baltazar Bogišić, Josip Miškatović, Metel Ožegović, Tadija Smičiklas, Ivan Danilo, and many other Croats who were in Vienna at the time. On several occasions, Rački lamented to Kostrenčić about the difficult political position of the Croatian people in the late 1860s and early 1870s. In the letters sent to Kostrenčić, he occasionally commented on the broader social climate in Croatian society, and sometimes referred to the cultural (e. g. in the *Matrix Croatica*, the Yugoslav Academy, Land Archive, etc.) and political conditions (e. g. political commentaries in the daily press, the activities of the People's Party, relations with Hungary, the position of Dalmatia, and the political activities of the Dalmatian representatives at the Imperial Council in Vienna).<sup>15</sup>

As can be seen from their letters, Rački and Kostrenčić worked on publishing the collection of poems *Vrtić* by Fran Krsto Frankopan in 1870 and 1871. Rački invited Kostrenčić to collaborate in the Academy's publications many times, and he was particularly interested in the materials on Protestantism Kostrenčić had gathered – he published them in Vienna in 1874 under the title *Urkundliche Beiträge zur Geschichte der protestantischen Literatur der Südslaven in den Jahren 1559–1565*. An extensive and important part of the correspondence between Kostrenčić and Rački involved the question of the fate of the archival material concerning the conspiracy of Croatian magnates Petar Zrinski and Fran Krsto Frankopan against the Habsburg policy of absolutism. Kostrenčić located and reviewed the documents and organised their transcription, eventually collating them himself and sending them to Rački in Zagreb. Following this, *Izprave o uroti bana P. Zrinskoga i kneza Fr. Frankopana* was printed in Croatian in 1873 and edited by Franjo Rački. This work was published by the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts. In this context, it is important to mention that the Viennese academy also showed interest in publishing

<sup>15</sup> ZVONAR 2007a.



this work should it fail to be published in Zagreb.<sup>16</sup> The correspondence between Kostrenčić and Rački clearly shows their interest in political topics – on certain occasions, they discussed the possibilities of reorganising the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy on a federalist basis, where the South Slavic nations would form a separate unit, since they considered that the dualist organisation of the country weakened the position of the Slavs and prevented them from forming stronger bonds amongst themselves.<sup>17</sup>

Some information about Kostrenčić's life and activities in Vienna can also be gleaned from the letters sent to him by Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer from Đakovo.<sup>18</sup> Sixteen letters and one note have been preserved. Only one letter dates from 1899, while the remaining correspondence encompasses the period from 1869 until 1874. As mentioned, Kostrenčić sent the bishop 16 letters and one card in the period from May 1871 until November 1888, with most of the letters dating from the period 1871–1875. All of these letters, like those from the Rački-Kostrenčić correspondence, clearly show Kostrenčić's willingness to accommodate and assist Strossmayer and his other compatriots on a cultural and scholarly level. Upon Strossmayer's requests, Kostrenčić checked the data needed by the bishop and his associates in archives, ministries, and other institutions in Vienna and elsewhere. In addition, he bought and claimed works of art and other items for Strossmayer, took care of the restoration and production of frames and glass for paintings, and secured their transportation to Croatia. In this context, he was also responsible for a part of the works involving the construction and arrangement of the cathedral in Đakovo. Furthermore, according to Strossmayer's instructions, Kostrenčić visited and

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<sup>16</sup> ROJNIĆ 1970, 417.

<sup>17</sup> ZVONAR 2016, 13.

<sup>18</sup> Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Bishop of Đakovo and Croatian politician (1815–1905). He completed the seminary in Đakovo and studied theology in Pest, where he completed his doctorate in Philosophy. He also completed a doctorate in Theology at the Augustineum in Vienna. After working as professor at the Đakovo seminary until 1847, he performed the duty of royal chaplain from autumn 1847 and was one of the three directors of the Augustineum. In 1849, he was appointed as the bishop of Srijem-Bosnia. From 1860 until 1873, he was actively involved in politics through the People's Party, and aligned himself with the policy of the Independent People's Party in 1880. In his political activity, he advocated the South Slavic idea, which stood for political and cultural cooperation between South Slavs as a counterbalance towards German, Hungarian, and Italian aspirations. On the religious plan, he advocated ecumenical dialogue between Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants. He monetarily supported the founding of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, to which he donated his personal collection of paintings. Also, he monetarily supported the Pontifical Croatian College of St Jerome in Rome, sponsored Bosnian Franciscans and students from Bulgaria, and assisted the printing of certain Croatian newspapers. For more details on Strossmayer's work, see e. g. KOŠČAK 1990; TOMLIANOVICH 2001; ŠANJEK 2006.

consulted painters, appraisers, restorers, and connoisseurs of art in Vienna in order to receive certain information, relaying Strossmayer's demands or representing his interests. In the correspondence between Kostrenčić and Strossmayer, we also occasionally find comments on the political situation in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and thoughts on the position of Croats and other Slavic peoples in the Monarchy.<sup>19</sup>

A total of five letters by Metel Ožegović<sup>20</sup> have been preserved in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, sent to Kostrenčić from Hietzing on various occasions from May 1872 until May 1874. The preserved correspondence between Ožegović and Kostrenčić illustrates in brief certain events related most of all to their private lives, and only rarely touches upon their public activities in Austria in the first half of the 1870s. In addition, as mentioned in the introduction, the Archive of the Croatian Academy contains a total of 20 letters by Ivan Kostrenčić, which he sent to Metel Ožegović on various occasions from 1872 until 1877. Kostrenčić addresses Ožegović in a very respectful, friendly, and confidential tone. That is to say, he addressed Ožegović concerning intimate matters several times. Furthermore, the correspondence shows that Kostrenčić knew all the members of his family well, and that he was close to them. An examination of the letters clearly shows that Kostrenčić was a sort of secretary, representative, and envoy of Ožegović in certain matters, both in Vienna and in his homeland. Through this correspondence, we also get acquainted to a certain extent with the circle of people among whom both of them moved, and they maintained friendships and business relationships with many prominent members of Croatian public life in the 1870s. In addition, through Kostrenčić's correspondence with Metel Ožegović, we can acquaint ourselves with the situation at the University of Zagreb and the *Matrix Croatica*. In this context, the letters offer an important insight into

<sup>19</sup> ZVONAR 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Metel Ožegović (1814–1890), one of the most prominent Croatian politicians and public figures of the 19th century. He was born in Zagreb and educated there and in Pest. In 1838, he founded the National Reading Room in Varaždin. He was a representative of the Croatian Diet at the sessions of the Croatian-Hungarian Diet (1843–1844 and 1847–1848), a secretary of the Royal Hungarian Court Chancellery (1845), and an advisor at the Hungarian Regency Council (1847). In late July 1848, he became a member of the Croatian delegation that unsuccessfully negotiated with representatives of the Hungarian government. In December 1848, he became an advisor at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Vienna, and in 1851 a councillor of the Supreme Court of Cassation, member of the State Council, and secret advisor. In 1858, he received a baronage. After the Constitution was restored in 1860, he advocated the unification of Dalmatia and Croatia as well as an alliance of Slavs and Hungarians against German superiority. In this context, he advocated the formation of Austria as a federation of historical provinces. He was against a settlement with Hungary and retired when it was concluded in 1868. For a short overview of Ožegović's life and work, see: KARBIĆ 1997.

the development of the library profession in Croatian areas as well as better knowledge of the history of the Royal University Library in Zagreb, which Kostrenčić headed from 1875 until 1911. Particularly interesting in the Kostrenčić – Ožegović correspondence are Kostrenčić's observations on some phenomena in society at that time, which he characterised as apathetic, immoral, indolent, and crooked, and he therefore wrote rather pessimistically about the future of the Croatian people.<sup>21</sup>

Through their public activities, Ivan Kostrenčić and Franjo Marković<sup>22</sup> made a huge impression on Croatian scholarly and cultural life in the last quarter of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Both were students in Vienna in the 1860s and showed great interest in cultural activities. Also, they were good friends, colleagues, and collaborators, to which the five preserved letters sent by Kostrenčić to Marković from Vienna in 1872 and 1873 attest. From these, we can clearly discern several details from their private lives during that time. Firstly, we learn something about their characters and their friendship. Next, on the basis of what was written, we can, in broad terms, discern Kostrenčić's and Marković's interests and part of their intellectual and social activities. Furthermore, we learn of some of their thoughts regarding the political position of the Croatian people and Croatia in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Finally, the letters are particularly important since they testify to a certain connection and relatively vibrant communication between members of the Croatian community in Vienna as well as a certain level of their connection with their homeland.<sup>23</sup>

Also important for reconstructing Kostrenčić's life and activity in Vienna is the diary he wrote from 27 December 1871 until 6 January 1872. The entries in Ivan Kostrenčić's diary represent a contribution towards a better understanding of the position of the Croatian people in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the early 1870s. Even though the diary encompasses a very short period, it is important due to its contribution towards achieving a better understanding of the conditions under which the negotiations of members of the People's Party with Hungarian Minister-President Melchior Lónyay regarding the revision of the Croatian-Hungarian Settlement were conducted. Apart from that, the notes from the diary also confirm Kostrenčić's interest in political events. Even though Kostrenčić

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<sup>21</sup> ZVONAR 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Franjo Marković, Croatian writer and philosopher (1845–1914). He completed his studies of Classical Philology, Slavonic Studies, and Philosophy in Vienna, where he attained a doctorate in Aesthetics in 1872. He was the first professor of Philosophy at the restored Zagreb University and its rector during the academic year 1881/1882. From 1876, he was a full member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts. As a member of the Croatian Parliament, he actively participated in Croatian political life. See: FILIPOVIĆ 1982.

<sup>23</sup> ZVONAR 2003b.

was not active in politics, his notes show us that he was, primarily through personal contacts with individual Croatian politicians, involved in the political events in the first half of the 1870s.<sup>24</sup>

During the time Ivan Kostrenčić lived and worked in Vienna and Zagreb, the Croatian lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, but were territorially, administratively, and politically divided between the Austrian and the Hungarian part of the Monarchy.<sup>25</sup> In the last quarter of the 19th and the early 20th century, Zagreb grew into the main political, cultural, educational, and scholarly centre of the Croatian people. The processes of modernisation encompassed almost all spheres of life. The city rapidly urbanised and developed economically, central cultural and science institutions were established, and the population grew from 29,218 in 1880 to 74,703 in 1910.<sup>26</sup> In 1874, the Franz Joseph I University was established in Zagreb. Due to the need for holding university classes, the Royal Land Government Religion and Education Department decided that the Law Academy Library should be united with the National Museum Library into a university library, which was to become one of ten university libraries in Austria-Hungary.<sup>27</sup> Consequently, the university sought a competent librarian who would organise the working of the new university library. According to a banal decree issued on 20 July 1875, Ivan Kostrenčić was appointed as director of the newly established Royal University Library of Franz Joseph I in Zagreb. Before this appointment, from late 1874 and until mid-1875, he presented his opinions and his expectations regarding the position of university librarian in Zagreb to the university's rector Matija Mesić.<sup>28</sup> These letters are valuable since they offer a good insight into the attempts to affirm the library profession in Croatia, but also show Kostrenčić's misgivings regarding his status; namely, he was afraid that he would be in a subservient position in Zagreb, and that he would regress in the professional and material sense.<sup>29</sup>

Ivan Kostrenčić was the first Croatian independent and professional university librarian with the necessary qualifications. He had learned the "librarian's trade" at the Imperial Library in Vienna, and thus endeavoured to apply the knowledge and system of work he had learned there in Zagreb (e. g. in the making of catalogues; positioning the role of the library and librarian in society; staff policy; securing interlibrary loans from Central Eu-

<sup>24</sup> ZVONAR 2005.

<sup>25</sup> ŠVOGER & TURKALJ 2016.

<sup>26</sup> See e. g. VRANJEŠ-ŠOLJAN 1991; IVELJIĆ 2007; LUETIĆ 2002 and 2012.

<sup>27</sup> FANCEV 1925, 203.

<sup>28</sup> ZVONAR 2002, 275–277, and 2006, 193–195.

<sup>29</sup> SEČIĆ 2000, 5.

ropean libraries; initiating the delivery of school, church, or other reports; the making of appropriate rules for librarians and library services; etc.).<sup>30</sup>

### Austrian models in the late 19th century: general framework<sup>31</sup>

The *Instruction for Royal and University Libraries* of 1825 (*Instruction für die k. k. Universitäts- und Studienbibliotheken, provisorisch erlassen mit Stud. Hof-Comm.-Decrete vom 23. Juli 1825*) played a great role in the development of Austrian librarianship. This *Instruction* standardised the library service as a whole: from the question of professional library staff to acquiring, processing, and protecting the library stock, and working with users. Even though this document was supposed to be of a temporary character, it remained in force in Austria until 1918. In addition to the *Instruction*, the Austrian government enacted a series of other regulations during the 19th and in the early 20th century.<sup>32</sup>

The organisation of Austrian libraries differed in many ways from that in Germany. In 1883, Ferdinand Grassauer published the work *Handbuch für österreichische Universitäts- und Studien-Bibliotheken*, in which he gave an overview of the state of affairs in Austrian libraries. That year, Austria had the Imperial Library, 6 university libraries, 6 study libraries, 4 technical school libraries, 23 specialised libraries, 76 gymnasium libraries, 24 *Realygnasium* libraries, and 40 *Realschule* libraries. In addition, there existed ecclesiastical libraries, military and private libraries, etc. Thus, there were 526 libraries of various sorts in Austria, possessing a total of 4,748,961 volumes. In 1890, the Imperial Library in Vienna had 500,000 volumes, while the University Library in Vienna had around 400,000. All other Austrian libraries had a considerably smaller stock at that time. The Austrian university and study libraries developed the functions of land / national libraries and were obliged to preserve mandatory copies.<sup>33</sup>

There was a relatively well-elaborated categorisation of employees in the university and study libraries in Austria, according to which we distinguish the following groups of employees: library director, assistant librarians and custodians, clerks, and library assistants.<sup>34</sup> The difficulties that were characteristic for libraries can be seen in the example of the Imperi-

<sup>30</sup> About the reception of Kostrenčić's actions by contemporaries and heirs see: ZVONAR 2004.

<sup>31</sup> ZVONAR 2001.

<sup>32</sup> GRASSAUER 1883, 31–65, 191–225.

<sup>33</sup> GRASSAUER 1883, 3.

<sup>34</sup> For more detailed insight into the organisation of libraries within the territory of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, see e. g. SEČIĆ 2007, 40–50.

al Library in Vienna, where the lack of space (the reading room was too small, and the working area cramped) presented a constant problem during the 19th century. Further problems included the poor organisation of loans and the short opening hours for users. The well-known librarian Richard Kukula, at that time employed at the Study Library in Klagenfurt, wrote an article on Austrian libraries in 1893, clearly indicating other troubles in the sphere of librarianship and librarians' work, which included the poor status of librarians and poor prospects for advancement. According to him, this was due to the inadequate number of employees, since all the Austrian university libraries put together had 7 librarians, 8 custodians, 11 clerks, and 18 amanuenses, which was significantly less than provided for by law.<sup>35</sup> In the late 19th and early 20th century, due to the increasing amount of library stock and the need for expanding university library space, new library buildings were built at the universities in Vienna (1884), Graz (1895), and Innsbruck (1915). The establishment of a national association of Austrian librarians in Vienna in 1896 represented an advance in the organisation of the library profession.<sup>36</sup>

In this period, and in line with organisational, staff, and technical developments, there was an effort to define the profile of a librarian as precisely as possible. Within the framework of the library profession, in the second half of the 19th and the early 20th century, we can follow an almost never-ending discussion on the position and role of librarians, the place and role of library science, and the necessary qualities and efficient education system in the library profession. There were particularly lively debates on this in the lands of the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy,<sup>37</sup> and their echoes reached Zagreb. The general tone of these discussions was marked by the discontent of the librarians about their position as well as the insufficiently elaborated education system in the profession, which resulted in a lack of quality library staff. The statistical data on library employees offers further proof of this. In addition, the librarians' discontent with their financial compensation compared to the demanding criteria required of them was evident, since not everybody could be a librarian – the profession required a series of fairly demanding criteria ranging from the professional to the ethical.<sup>38</sup> In addition, demands for the independence of the library profession had a prominent place in many discussions.<sup>39</sup> All of these happenings introduced a certain dose of dynamics into library circles, also positively influencing the development and affir-

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<sup>35</sup> KUKULA 1893, 335–340.

<sup>36</sup> GRASSAUER 1896.

<sup>37</sup> LEYH 1940, 746–751.

<sup>38</sup> FRANKFURTER 1898, 15–19.

<sup>39</sup> FRANKFURTER 1898; KEYSER 1905.



mation of the profession. Some of the most famous German and Austrian librarians and library theorists, such as Seizinger and Grassauer, or Eichler and Milkau, highlighted in their works certain necessary qualities that a librarian should possess,<sup>40</sup> such as:

1. *professional knowledge and skills* – good general education, knowledge of languages (Greek, Latin, French, English, Italian ...), familiarity with the structure and disciplines within the science, theoretical-practical knowledge in the field of librarianship (e. g. knowledge of palaeography, bibliography, book history, restoration ...), work experience in a library, professional experience from study trips, engagement in the profession through participation in the working of a library association, passed qualification exam (if the procedure is regulated), etc.
2. *characteristics and qualities* – precision, tidiness, systematic approach to work, organisational skills, being ethical, loving one's work, humaneness, communicativeness, consistency, perseverance, calmness, love of books, patience, courtesy, nice handwriting, practical working habits, flexibility, etc.

The question of educating librarians and passing qualification exams was of particular importance for the development of librarianship. Qualification exams were introduced due to the need for quality staff, since in this way candidates gained the knowledge necessary for working in a library. This also created the conditions for the quality development and dignity of the profession. In addition, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, efforts for the institutionalisation and affirmation of librarianship within the university yielded their first results in the form of the establishment of a chair. At that time, there was very vibrant activity in this field in European countries and the USA. Austria and Germany had a significant role in this context. Thus, within the framework of the Viennese university, at the turn of the 20th century, the course "Archivistics and Librarianship" was taught at the History Institute of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. That is to say, back in 1874, it had been decided that a professional introduction into library service and the working of archives and museums should be organised for those taking the course. However, according to the opinion of Salomon Frankfurter, a well-known Austrian library theorist at the University Library in Vienna at the turn of the 20th century, the lectures only partially managed to fulfil the given goal due to the unsuitability of the lecturers. Frankfurter believed that candidates for librarian posts who possessed previous academic education needed to pass a qualification exam, which would consist of a written and an oral part, and would encompass knowledge of the development of science, knowledge of general literary

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<sup>40</sup> Some other authors have also written about this topic. For example, see: PETZHOLDT 1871, 7–16; KLETTE 1897, 38–43; GRASEL 1902, 457–492.

history, knowledge in the fields of bibliography and diplomatics with palaeography, and knowledge of library science in the narrower sense.<sup>41</sup> A chair for library sciences (*Bibliothekshilfswissenschaften*) was established at the university in Göttingen, and Karl Dziatzko began holding the first lectures in 1890. In 1893, passing a librarian qualification exam became obligatory for academic librarians.<sup>42</sup> The first qualification exam in Prussia was held on 25 July 1896 in Göttingen.<sup>43</sup> Qualification exams in Austria were introduced only in 1929, and preparatory courses for the same purpose began to be held that same year.<sup>44</sup>

The *Handbuch der Architektur*, a famous architecture handbook, was published in Germany in 1893. One of its chapters was devoted to archive, library, and museum buildings. The introductory part contains a brief history of libraries. This is followed by an exhaustive description of the contents of library spaces, from those open for users to closed stacks storage. In addition, there is a systematic overview of the problems related to lighting and heating the buildings, their interior arrangement, fire safety, dust, excessive lighting, ventilation, the arrangement of shelves and counters, etc. Three ways of organising library spaces were explained: high shelves with ladders, galleries, and closed stacks storage. Also explained were the possibilities for organising the library stock with regard to its professional layout and various other elements. This book set the standards for constructing future library buildings in Central Europe, offering various possible spatial solutions with accompanying texts as well as appropriate building plans and library furniture plans.<sup>45</sup>

On the basis of his rich library experience, Austrian university librarian Ferdinand Eichler<sup>46</sup> from Graz wrote about the building of libraries primarily in Austria and Germany in a series of works, analysing historical examples so that their experiences could help in avoiding errors in new projects.<sup>47</sup> According to his opinion, every library, considering its value and significance as well as the needs of its users, should have an appropriate space at its disposal. He believed that the aesthetic and functional dimensions of a library should be harmonised, since each new library building should be a representative space and, as such, set an example. The basic principle when building a library should be the separation of the administrative and official spaces from user spaces, where reading rooms would

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<sup>41</sup> FRANKFURTER 1898, 8–13.

<sup>42</sup> EICHLER 1910, 7–11.

<sup>43</sup> MILKAU 1933, 660.

<sup>44</sup> HIRSCHEGGER 1989, 65.

<sup>45</sup> DURM et al. 1893, 43–44.

<sup>46</sup> ZVONAR 2003a.

<sup>47</sup> EICHLER 1897, 6–9.

take up the central space. He stressed that the problems of lighting,<sup>48</sup> heating, and ventilating the space need to be resolved in a quality manner, as do the technical problems of the placement and accessibility of the stock and the interior arrangement.<sup>49</sup> Using German libraries as examples, Eichler also offered estimates of the material expenses of building a library.<sup>50</sup> All in all, one can say that Ferdinand Eichler was very knowledgeable about the possible architectural solutions for libraries,<sup>51</sup> and also possessed extensive professional knowledge of librarianship and, through his discussions, gave a quality contribution to resolving the problems related to building library spaces.<sup>52</sup> In this context, Ferdinand Grassauer, the director of the University Library in Vienna from 1884 until 1903, spoke about the creation of a new “library architecture” that “needs to resolve the problems of storing the stock, and answer the new needs of users for using library spaces in a quality manner”.<sup>53</sup>

In 1902, Arnim Gräsel made a contribution to the discussion on the building of libraries in his work, *Handbuch der Bibliothekslehre*, speaking about a whole series of problems related to possible arrangements of library buildings. In the chapter “On library buildings”, Gräsel, in addition to appropriate explanations using practical examples (Austria, Germany, USA, France, etc.), provides interesting sketches and photos of library buildings. The work *Der Bibliothekar und sein Beruf* was published in Leipzig in 1909, bringing the problems of space usage in old library buildings to attention, particularly highlighting the lack of work space, cupboards, and the inadequacy of interiors in general.<sup>54</sup> In the second half of the 19th century, in Austrian as well as in German libraries, there was an effort to enforce the provisions of the so-called house rules, which pertained to security, fire safety, flood and damp safety, and the need for tidiness and cleanliness in the library in order to avoid the dangers posed by various insects and pests, and there was also a ban on taking animals into the library space. Night watches were organised in libraries to help protect against threats.<sup>55</sup>

During the 19th century, Austrian and German libraries became increasingly open towards users. The opening hours, i. e. the working hours of libraries for users were continually expanded. This was further facilitat-

<sup>48</sup> EICHLER 1906b.

<sup>49</sup> LEYH 1933, 48.

<sup>50</sup> EICHLER 1906a.

<sup>51</sup> Eichler’s critique addressed to the authors of the work *Handbuch der Architektur*. See: EICHLER 1894.

<sup>52</sup> EICHLER 1924b.

<sup>53</sup> GRASSAUER 1896.

<sup>54</sup> *Bibliothekar* 1909, 9.

<sup>55</sup> GRASSAUER 1883, 136–137.

ed by the introduction of electrical lighting after 1897. However, libraries most often worked in two shifts (morning and afternoon) during the school year and in one shift (morning) on holidays and Sundays. During school holidays, some libraries were closed for revision or rearrangement, while others usually worked shorter hours, according to a set schedule.<sup>56</sup>

In his review of the development of librarianship in Austria, Hugo Alker categorised all Austrian libraries until 1918 into state and public libraries (e. g. national, university, school, *land*, study, science, etc.), and local and private libraries. According to him, Austrian librarianship was, in the organisational sense, given impetus by the reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II. They set down the basis for a quality development of state libraries, since no state libraries open for users existed in Austria until the mid-18th century. Before then, there were only royal, noblemen's, and independent libraries, which were closed to the public. Therefore, the intensive development of Austrian librarianship began only during the 19th century.<sup>57</sup>

The *Prussian Instructions* from 1899, the most significant catalogue regulations in German-speaking lands, including the entire Central European – and thus Croatian – area, were accepted as a standard for alphabetical catalogues, and were used in Central Europe until recent times. They found a broader use in Germany, but in Austria they were at first used only in the university library in Graz. After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Robert Teichl, in his review of the history and current state of librarianship in Austria, determined that a common set of cataloguing rules was never applied in Austria.<sup>58</sup> Therefore, for a long time, Austrian libraries followed their own cataloguing tradition, and only began broadly applying the principles of the *Prussian Instructions* in the 1930s.<sup>59</sup> The best-known cataloguing rules in Austria were the rules of the Imperial Library in Vienna of 1901. They were explained in great detail through 500 selected practical examples.<sup>60</sup>

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Austrian Library Association initiated a discussion in its organ, *Mitteilungen des österr. Vereins für Bibliothekswesen*, established in Vienna in 1897, which drew international attention, including contributions from the USA, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany.<sup>61</sup> In his introductory article, Ferdinand Eichler explained the necessary properties of such a catalogue and its importance

<sup>56</sup> GRASSAUER 1883, 142–144; LEYH 1940, 683.

<sup>57</sup> ALKER 1952.

<sup>58</sup> TEICHL 1926.

<sup>59</sup> ALKER 1952.

<sup>60</sup> KAISER 1933, 255–256.

<sup>61</sup> SEČIĆ 2007, 55.

for the library. The basic question posed was whether a universal classification (e. g. Dewey's or the UDC) should be applied in Austrian libraries, or should every library continue to have its own classification system, which is adapted to its stock and the needs and interests of its users.<sup>62</sup> In this article, but also in other contributions,<sup>63</sup> we can see that Eichler was acquainted with the problem of cataloguing and catalogues, since he based his thoughts on the results of comparative analysis of Austrian libraries with other larger European libraries.<sup>64</sup>

The achievements that we had the opportunity to follow through the development of Austrian and German librarianship were to some extent present in Croatia in the second half of the 19th century. The number of libraries grew, and their organisation improved in accordance with the prevailing trends in Austrian and German libraries. The number of teachers' libraries in Croatia and Slavonia in the period from 1877 until 1885 grew from 286 to 594, while the number of students' libraries grew from 82 to 351. Library stocks grew proportionately. Teachers' libraries served for the education of teachers in the scholarly and pedagogical sense, and each general school was supposed to have one according to law. In the territory of the former Military Border, all nine civil schools had teachers' libraries, but only the schools in Otočac and Petrovaradin also had students' libraries. Also, certain vocational schools had the appropriate libraries (e. g. the Royal School of Economy and Forestry in Križevci, etc.), and the same applied to secondary schools (e. g. the Royal Gymnasiums in Zagreb, Senj, etc.).<sup>65</sup> In Zagreb, there existed the Library of the Cathedral Chapter of Zagreb (the Chapter Library or Metropolitana was established back in 1690) and the Library of the National Museum, which were not accessible to the public, but there were efforts to resolve this situation, to rearrange the libraries and open them for users. The only library in Zagreb that was arranged and open to the public was the Law Academy Library.<sup>66</sup> At the end of the 19th century there were very valuable libraries in archives and in museums in Zagreb, Osijek and Zadar. Hospital libraries were important in Šibenik, Dubrovnik and Split. In addition, in some Croatian cities there were also libraries of various associations (for example, associations of naturalists, businessmen, medical doctors etc.).<sup>67</sup> Around 1910 there were open public libraries in Split, Karlovac and Zagreb.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> EICHLER 1903.

<sup>63</sup> EICHLER 1894.

<sup>64</sup> EICHLER 1924a and 1897, 10–13.

<sup>65</sup> *Izješće* 1886, 43, 111–115, 169, 224–226.

<sup>66</sup> SZABO 1988, 97–105, 110–111, 124–126. Also, see: ROJNIĆ 1978a, 19–20.

<sup>67</sup> MARKIĆ-ČUČUKOVIĆ 1978, 126–127.

<sup>68</sup> MUDRI-ŠKUNCA 1978, 133.

As in certain Austrian and German university libraries, and in the period before the founding of the Royal University Library in Zagreb, university professor Matija Smodek served as librarian at the Law Academy Library. Also, the position of librarian in the Library of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts was held, albeit only formally, by university professor Jaromir Haněl, while the first librarian who actually served in this position was Ivan Krstitelj Tkalčić, a regular member of the Academy and a well-known historian. The first professional librarian, however, was Ivan Kostrenčić. In 1875, after the establishment of the Royal University Library, Kostrenčić received 23,920 volumes from the previous librarian of the Law Academy, M. Smodek, and also received the Library of the National Museum from Franjo Rački. The library stock of the University Library in Zagreb grew by the year so that, after Kostrenčić's retirement in 1912, it had 140,811 volumes and, in addition to a yearly grant of 20,000 Kronen, it received a flat-rate sum of 1000 Kronen.<sup>69</sup> Under Kostrenčić's direction, from 1875 until 1911, the Royal University Library in Zagreb, following the example of Austrian university libraries, began to develop a dual function (national and university), and there was an effort to extend opening hours for users. In addition, like in many libraries in Austria, securing an appropriate space for the reading room and for accommodating the library stock presented an almost constant problem. There was no institutional education of librarians in Croatia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and no qualification exams were taken. Through his work, Ivan Kostrenčić managed to pass on a certain amount of professional knowledge to the librarians employed at the University Library in Zagreb (more on this later). Only from the mid-20th century can there be talk of a certain form of systematic education in the library profession.<sup>70</sup> The Croatian Library Association was founded on 14 March 1940.<sup>71</sup>

### **Kostrenčić's work in Zagreb**

After arriving in Zagreb and taking up his duties, Ivan Kostrenčić devoted himself to organising the Royal University Library. When setting down a new basis for the rules of the University Library, he primarily relied on the Austrian *Instruction for University and Study Libraries* from 1825. Therefore, like the libraries of the Austrian universities, the Zagreb university library was, according to its rules from 1876, administratively directly subordinated to the Land Government in Zagreb.<sup>72</sup> Kostrenčić modified the

<sup>69</sup> ZVONAR 2001, 763.

<sup>70</sup> TADIĆ 1994, 172–173.

<sup>71</sup> ŽIVKOVIĆ 2000.

<sup>72</sup> ROJNIĆ 1970, 419, 421; ZVONAR 2002, 277, 285.



rules for cataloguing the library stock of the Imperial Library in Vienna and applied them to cataloguing in Zagreb. Also important for the development of Croatian librarianship were Kostrenčić's contacts with his colleagues in other countries, which is visible from their correspondence. The influence of the systematic catalogue scheme developed by Otto Hartwig, a university professor from Halle, is also visible in the efforts of Croatian librarians Ivan Kostrenčić and Velimir Deželić to produce a systematic catalogue for the Royal University Library in Zagreb at the turn of the 20th century. They partially adopted Hartwig's scheme and developed it further according to their needs. Thus, their scheme from 1900 had 11 groups and, in 1912, Deželić modernised it and arranged all the disciplines into 19 groups.<sup>73</sup> Therefore, we can say that Croatian university librarianship in the second half of the 19th and the early 20th century endeavoured to follow the tradition and methods of operation of the most famous Austrian and German libraries.

At the time of Kostrenčić's directorship, the Royal University Library in Zagreb, as we have mentioned, began to develop a dual function (national and university), following the example of Austrian university libraries. Accordingly, Kostrenčić attempted to build up a stock intended for assisting scholarly research and conducting university classes, but also collected library stock important to the Croatian people. In addition, due to his great professional knowledge and wealth of experience as well as his good knowledge of the state of affairs within the profession in other European countries, Kostrenčić was involved in the creation of plans for building a new library building on Marko Marulić Square in Zagreb.<sup>74</sup> In particular, the University Library in Zagreb, like many Austrian and German libraries, had an inadequate and insufficient space. This is why the library was moved in 1882 from the premises of the Gornjogradska Gymnasium to a part of the premises of the university (today the University Rector's Office and Faculty of Law buildings in Zagreb), where appropriate reading rooms were arranged and the library stock was stored. Despite the relocation, the issue of space was only temporarily resolved. This is why Kostrenčić, in his reports to the government and the University Senate, often stressed that the lack of space, together with the problem of funding and personnel, present the main obstacles for the further development of the library. Through his activities, Kostrenčić endeavoured to secure a certain dignity for the library profession and, even before arriving in Zagreb, he made a demand that the position of university librarian and other library personnel

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<sup>73</sup> HARTWIG 1889; SEČIĆ 2007, 271–275.

<sup>74</sup> ROJNIĆ 1978b, 72; SEČIĆ 2007, 235–237.

be arranged in the same manner as at Austrian universities, since Zagreb University was organised according to their example.<sup>75</sup>

In 1906, in accordance with an agreement with the Senate and following a government memo, Ivan Kostrenčić made a report about the need for a new library space. At the same time, the government submitted the “Basics of the Law on the Construction of a Building for the University Library of Franz Joseph I in Zagreb” to the parliament for consideration. The reasons for erecting a new library building were manifold, the most commonly stated ones being the risk of fire and the insufficient space for the needs of the users. This plan gained the support of the parliament and, in 1907, also the emperor in Vienna, and thus a legal framework for the construction of a new library was created. Kostrenčić stressed that his greatest satisfaction for his successful work was the conclusion of the Croatian parliament on the need to construct a new library building, so that its valuable stock could be adequately stored. In 1909, a tender for building the library was announced. It was won by architects Rudolf Lubynski and Dionis Sunko. Before the library was built, librarian Velimir Deželić, government engineer Vladimir Sitzer, and architect Lubynski made a study trip in order to see how the newest libraries were constructed. They visited the Technical Library in Budapest and the university libraries in Cluj (today Cluj-Napoca), Lemberg (today Lviv), Pressburg (today Bratislava), Berlin, and Leipzig. During the *banal* mandate of Dr Nikola Tomašić, on 29 July 1910, it was decided that the construction of a new library should begin. Thus, the construction of a new library and *land* archive on Marko Marulić Square in Zagreb began on 21 February 1911. The head of the Religion and Education Department was Milan Amruš, while Kostrenčić’s long-time collaborator Velimir Deželić became the director of the Royal University Library on 3 March 1911 and remained in this post until 1919.<sup>76</sup>

Like his Austrian and German Colleagues, Ivan Kostrenčić kept up with the development of library architecture, since he tried to point out the problems related to the construction and location of the new university library in Zagreb with regard to the technical demands proclaimed by the builders of new German libraries. The new university library in Zagreb satisfied the high technical-security and spatial standards set by the builders based on their experiences with Austrian and German library construction (e. g. the building was insulated; built from reinforced concrete and iron, it had iron bookcases and shelves; its space was divided into three parts – for users, storage, and administration; and the problem of lighting and ventilation was also successfully resolved).<sup>77</sup>

<sup>75</sup> ZVONAR 2002, 277.

<sup>76</sup> ZVONAR 2001; HORVAT 1914, 25; SEČIĆ 2007, 179, 293.

<sup>77</sup> PETROVIĆ 1913, 20–23, 25, 29.

From the very beginning of his work in Zagreb, Kostrenčić persistently demanded of the Croatian government that his status be equal to that of university librarians in the Monarchy, i. e. that he should be classified as 6th grade just like full university professors.<sup>78</sup> The lack of quality library staff necessary for the working of the Royal University Library in Zagreb presented a serious obstacle to the further development of the library. Thus he, back at the beginning of his service in Zagreb in 1876, sought regulation of the status of university staff, and the employment of a library assessor. Consequently, in 1876, he suggested that the status of library personnel be regulated by the Religion and Education Department of the High Royal Land Government, according to the Austrian regulations of that time. He understood that he would not get someone who knew the library profession, but he hoped that he would manage to get a younger person who was ready to work, and whom he would therefore be able to train for library work in a certain amount of time. According to him, the preconditions for performing the job of librarian in a satisfactory manner were knowledge of library service; knowledge of the history, language, and culture of European peoples; experience in palaeography and diplomacy; production of bibliographies, etc. For example, in 1889, when he asked the government to employ a library assessor at the library, he suggested that the qualifications needed to be the same as in Austria and Hungary, should the candidate have no work experience as a librarian. Kostrenčić then cited Austrian and Hungarian demands regarding that matter – the candidates should have completed a university course; possess a doctorate or have completed the state examination for gymnasium professors or three state examinations for lawyers; know several world languages; and have a nice and legible handwriting. In addition to the appropriate professional knowledge, candidates needed to approach their work with love, willingness, diligence, tidiness, and professionalism, and be accommodating to users. He stressed that these qualifications needed to be sought, and that the candidate should, at first, be employed only temporarily, until his suitability for the job was confirmed. Kostrenčić believed that library service was difficult and carried responsibility, and that it required complete devotion; it should not be regarded as a sinecure, since librarians need to be completely reliable and loyal, and capable of preserving and protecting the treasure committed to their keeping from any sort of mishap. In the early part of his stay in Zagreb, Kostrenčić worked in the Library alone, with only one clerk and honorary attendant, but many other library employees came and went before his retirement. In order to get a better idea of the staffing, we can mention that the employees of Zagreb University Library in early 1898 included: direc-

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<sup>78</sup> About Kostrenčić's suggestions, see: FANCEV 1911, 355, and 1925. Also, see: SEČIĆ 2000, 19–21.

tor Ivan Kostrenčić, 2nd class assessors Dr Velimir Deželić and Dr Stjepan Ortner, clerk Virgil Diković, attendant Ivan Punjek, and servant-assistant Mato Kondras. In 1906, the Zagreb university library had 4 clerks, 2 assistants, and 4 attendants. Kostrenčić completed his career in 1910 with only one 1st class assessor, who was also his deputy, one 2nd class assessor, and 4 library assistants. All of them were government officials with doctorates in law or philosophy, while other library employees included 1 clerk and several attendants. The low salaries of library workers were one of Kostrenčić's greatest problems. Some of them moved on since they couldn't get a permanent contract, while others did so because their salaries were lower than those of university-educated employees in other fields.<sup>79</sup>

Compared to their colleagues in other university libraries in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy at the turn of the 20th century, library staff in Zagreb had to work a lot. For example, in his letter to the government from 6 July 1897, Kostrenčić compared the work of librarians in Zagreb to those at the university libraries in Czenrowitz (today Chernivtsi), Cluj, and Lemberg. In 1896, the Zagreb library had three officials for 22,706 readers, who borrowed 41,825 volumes. At the same time, the library in Czenrowitz, with six officials, had 3664 readers; the library in Cluj, four officials and 4669 readers; and the library in Lemberg, seven officials and 15,000 readers.<sup>80</sup>

An illustrative example of Kostrenčić's care for library staff is visible in his letter, sent on 6 December 1910 from Crikvenica, just before his retirement, to library assessors Milutin Krišković and Branko Gavella. It offers a striking picture of his struggle for bettering the status of librarians at the Royal University Library in Zagreb, since he almost programmatically highlights the tasks that librarians need to fulfil through their work, and which skills they need to acquire. In this sense, he called for unity among his colleagues and, among other things, told them: "... at the same time push forward, so that, if possible, you attain all the knowledge and skill that you absolutely need as librarians. Be punctual and conscientious, – strict: towards yourself and others, – so that nobody can make legitimate complaints against you ...".<sup>81</sup>

As one can see from the series of letters sent to his superiors during his long time as director of Zagreb University Library, Kostrenčić persistently fought for the betterment of the library profession's status and, in accordance with the best Central European tradition, endeavoured to establish a complete professional library organisation in Zagreb. Due to a lack of

<sup>79</sup> ZVONAR 2002, 280–282.

<sup>80</sup> SEČIĆ 2007, 245.

<sup>81</sup> R 6248a, Kostrenčić's letter to Milutin Krišković and Branko Gavella; Crikvenica, 6 December 1910.

understanding on the government's part, the issue of professional staff and its social position was not resolved, and neither was a regular education of librarians implemented. However, through his reports and suggestions, Kostrenčić still managed to broaden the public understanding of library-related issues.<sup>82</sup>

Even after his retirement, Kostrenčić kept up to date with the state of affairs in his profession and the development of the library, and suggested his successor, Dr Velimir Deželić, draw up new library rules that would apply to the new state of affairs, new duties, and new staff, since the library had, in the meantime, moved to a new building on Marko Marulić Square. He particularly recommended that the latter should exercise caution, tact, and decisiveness in administration, prudence when making changes, and orderliness in library service.<sup>83</sup>

Elza Kučera, his former associate in Zagreb and the first female librarian in Croatia, offered a very vivid account of Kostrenčić as a person. Even though she worked for only a little over a year during his administration, her observations are interesting since she was a psychologist by basic education. In her judgment, Kostrenčić was serious and austere, yet amicable. He kept a vigilant eye on the work of the library, seeing to it that everything was in good order, and personally oversaw each task in a consistent and careful manner. He was frugal with the funds intended for book acquisition. When dealing with his superiors and his subordinates, he acted independently and with authority.<sup>84</sup> With regard to Kostrenčić's time working at the University Library in Zagreb, one can say that he was a good, expert and diligent director. Inadequate space, a lack of funds, and an insufficient number of employees were great obstacles in his work but, through his persistence, commitment, and devoted work, he managed to surmount them to a certain degree. Despite the insufficient funding, he managed to secure the money for purchasing the necessary books and journals, and also proved to be a skilled negotiator and trader when dealing with private contributors and antiquarians.<sup>85</sup> In addition, he managed to earn the right

<sup>82</sup> Later Kostrenčić's successors Franjo Fancev (1916–1926) and Matko Rojnić (1945–1976) also wrote about this issue. See: FANCEV 1925, 208, 213–214, 218; ROJNIĆ 1996, 563–564.

<sup>83</sup> R 6248a, Kostrenčić's letter to Velimir Deželić; Crikvenica, 30 April 1915. Also, see: ROJNIĆ 1978b, 76; SEČIĆ 2007, 184–185.

<sup>84</sup> KUČERA 1951.

<sup>85</sup> ROJNIĆ 1978b, 74–75. „Dessen unbeschadet blieb die Ära Kostrenčić nicht von Kritik verschont. Insbesondere wurde ihm vorgeworfen, daß er nicht genügend Entgegenkommen in der Ausleihe von Büchern an die breite Öffentlichkeit zeigte. Die Leser strebten einen möglichst leichten Zugang zum Buch an, und dies umso nachdrücklicher, als es ja damals in Zagreb außer der Universitätsbibliothek noch keine andere funktionsfähige öffentliche Bibliothek gab.“

to employ a certain number of badly needed library staff, whom he then personally trained.

In addition to his many duties at the Royal University Library in Zagreb, Kostrenčić actively participated in the cultural life of Croatia, becoming the secretary and treasurer of the Matrix Croatica in 1877. He spent years actively working on the Matrix's committee for publishing folk songs and poems, which was then one of the largest projects within the framework of the Matrix. Furthermore, he was the censor of Matrix publications, and it was also noted that he was involved in the construction of the Matrix's building in Zagreb.<sup>86</sup> Kostrenčić's devoted work within the frame of the administrative-financial, organisational and editorial activities of the Matrix Croatica was held in very high regard by the Matrix's leadership, and was perceived positively among the public, since he proved to be a flexible and industrious man.<sup>87</sup> He continued performing the duties of secretary and treasurer at the Matrix until 1902.

### Conclusion

Ivan Kostrenčić's library career began in 1868, when he was accepted at the Imperial Library in Vienna, where he worked for 7 years. During that time, he also worked as a Croatian Language teacher and translator. The fruits of his labours included three published books. He published *Uspomena Mirka bar. Ožegovića Barlabaševačkoga biskupa senjskoga i modruškoga ili krbavskoga* (Vienna, 1869) and *Urkundliche Beiträge zur Geschichte der protestantischen Literatur der Südslaven in den Jahren 1559–1565* (Vienna, 1874). He also prepared and published the collection of poems *Vrtić* (Zagreb, 1871).

The Franz Joseph I University was established in Zagreb in 1874, and it was determined that a university library should be established by uniting the libraries of the Law Academy and the National Museum. Consequently, the university sought a competent librarian who would be capable of organising the working of the new university library. Thanks to the efforts of historian Tadija Smičiklas, the support of Yugoslav Academy president Franjo Rački, and with the assistance of university rector Matija Mesić and Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Ivan Kostrenčić was chosen for this position in 1875. Even though very young – he was only 31 – he was already known as an educated and competent librarian of the Imperial Library in Vienna. Upon his arrival in Zagreb and the founding of the Royal University Library, Croatia became more actively involved in the general devel-

<sup>86</sup> SEČIĆ 2000, 8–9.

<sup>87</sup> RAVLIĆ 1963, 124.



opment trends of modern librarianship. During the 35 years spent working in his homeland, Kostrenčić attempted to apply the knowledge and working system he had learned at the Imperial Library in Vienna. Thus, for example, he modified the library stock cataloguing rules that were in use at the Imperial Library in Vienna and applied them to Zagreb. Also, his acquaintance with Austrian and German librarians, which is visible in his personal correspondence (e. g. regarding problems with employing new librarians and their status, etc.), helped him to organise the library in Zagreb. His struggle for the development of the Zagreb university library as well as a series of letters sent to competent authorities with the goal of improving the status of the library profession and staff clearly testify to his persistence, but also to a certain level of success in these endeavours. He managed to secure a greater number of library staff, whom he personally educated for working in the library. During his time working in Zagreb, Kostrenčić always tried to protect the dignity of his profession. He was also involved in the drawing up of plans for the new National and University Library building in Zagreb. We can say that he was the resourceful manager of his age. It was precisely thanks to Kostrenčić's knowledge and commitment that Croatian university librarianship endeavoured to keep up with the best examples of European library thought and practice. Upon arriving in Zagreb, Kostrenčić also became actively involved in the cultural life of Croatia. In 1877, he became the secretary and treasurer of the Matrix Croatica. He was the censor of Matrix publications and was also involved in the construction of the Matrix's palace in Zagreb.

Through his devoted work, Ivan Kostrenčić has earned the right to be remembered in history as a prominent personality of Croatian scholarly and cultural life in the last quarter of the 19th and the early 20th century.

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