

## SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ORIENTAL STUDIES

The former directors referred to the Institute's activities on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and that was published in *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* (Contributions to Oriental philology),<sup>3</sup> while reports on the work and destruction of the Institute for Oriental Studies were published in the Monograph of the Institute of Oriental Studies<sup>4</sup> on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So, I am going to give only a brief outline of the Institute's work from its establishment to date, the most important fields that this institution deals with, and the credible results achieved over these six decades, with a special reference to the past ten years.

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<sup>3</sup> Sulejman Grozdanić, "Orijentalni institut u Sarajevu", *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju (POF)*, XXV/1975, Sarajevo 1976, pp. 13-24; Ahmed S. Aličić, "Četrdeset godina postojanja i rada Orijentalnog instituta", *POF* 41/1991, Sarajevo 1991, pp. 11-19.

<sup>4</sup> Behija Zlatar, "The Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo 1950–2000" and Lejla Gazić, "Destruction of the Institute for Oriental Studies during the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992–1995" in Monograph: *The Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo 1950-2000*, Sarajevo 2000.

The Institute for Oriental Studies was founded in 1950 by a Decree of the Government of the People's Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent scientific-research institution with a task to collect, keep, process, and publish archival and manuscript materials in the Arabic, Turkish, and Persian languages. The major part of the scientific opus of this institution relates to our history, literature and cultural heritage of the Ottoman period. The programme tasks defined at that time have developed and extended according to the needs of science and later orientation of the scientific-research personnel at the Institute.

Owing to the fact that the Institute employed almost all the best Orientalists in these parts, the Institute for Oriental Studies developed into one of the most respectable scientific institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of the humanities. It would take long to mention all those who left a profound imprint not only on the history of the Institute for Oriental Studies but on Oriental studies as well both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Balkans, and beyond. However, I can't help mentioning at least those who are not alive any more, starting with the academician Branislav Đurđev who is deserving for the beginning of work of the Institute for Oriental Studies as an independent scientific-research institution; the academicians Nedim Filipović and Avdo Sućeska; an excellent expert in shari'a law Hamid Hadžibegić; acknowledged Ottomanists Hazim Šabanović, Adem Handžić, Ešref Kovačević, Fehim Spaho, Medžida Selmanović, Dušanka Bojanić; then Arabists Teufik Muftić, Besim Korkut, Omer Mušić, Muhamed Mujić, Sulejman Grozdanić, and Ismet Kasumović; and the well-known patron and keeper of the material heritage Alija Bejtić; the Iranist Džemal Čehajić; and in particular Salih Trako who, besides his undeniable contribution to scientific and professional work, placed us all in his debt for giving his unselfish help to all of us.

The fellows and associates of the Institute for Oriental studies publish results of their work in the journal *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* which was started immediately upon the foundation of the Institute, and which publishes only original research papers. Since its first issue (1950) to date *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* has kept its professional profile. Looking at the contents of the past issues of *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* we can see the relevance of the journal, the diversity of its themes, and a large number of contributors from the country and from abroad. The largest number of papers in the journal covers our history from the time of the Ottoman rule; then there follow studies in literature that our authors wrote

in Arabic, Turkish, and Persian as part of our cultural heritage; the study of Arabic, Turkish, and Persian with the related literatures; and the study of Islamic architecture and arts. There are also translations of scientific texts, bibliographies, reviews, critiques and analyses of books and journals from the field the Institute deals with. So far, 59 issues of the journal have come out, and it has been referred to in the CEEOL and EBSCO databases.

Besides in *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju*, the Institute's staff members publish also in other editions of the Institute. In the series *Monumenta Turcica Historiam Slavorum Meridionalium Illustrantia*, we publish historical sources relevant to the study of the past of the Balkans. To date, 12 books have come out in this series, of which number the following books have been published since 2000 to date: *Opširni popis Bosanskog sandžaka iz 1604. godine* (The 1604 Detailed Register of the Bosnian Sanjak) in four volumes; *Opširni popis Kliškog sandžaka iz 1550. godine* (The 1550 Detailed Register of the Sanjak of Klis); and *Sidžil Tešanjskog kadiluka iz 1740-1752. godine* (The Protocol /Sigil/ of the Tešanj's Court ; 1740-1752).

In the *Posebna izdanja* edition (Special editions) which publishes monographs on certain topics and authors, 33 books have been published, of that number 10 books since 2000 to the present, including three books published in 2010: *Glagolski aspekt u perzijskom i bosanskom jeziku* (Verb Aspect in the Persian and Bosnian Languages), *Gazi Husrev-beg* (Gazi Husrev-bey) and *Naučno i stručno djelo dr. Safvet-bega Bašagića* (Scientific Work and Research of Dr Safvet-bey Bašagić). Also, the Institute's associates and fellows publish their books, studies and other research papers in other publishing houses and other research and professional journals in the country and abroad. Some of those are major works in particular areas of our Oriental studies and they are used as unavoidable literature for students and research fellows in studying language, literature, history, and other related areas.

Within its scope of work, the Institute for Oriental Studies occasionally organises symposia as one of the forms of scientific experience exchange and acquaintance with the work of other research institutions and individuals dealing with the related issues. In co-operation with the Sarajevo Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Islamic Studies, and the Ibn Sina Research Institute, an international symposium was held late in 2007 under the title of *The Place and Role of Dervish Orders in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. In June 2008, The Institute for Oriental Studies in co-operation with The Ohio State University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures organised a conference entitled *Conversion to*

*Islam and Islamization in the Early Ottoman Balkans*, and in December 2009 a round table entitled *Scientific Work of the Academician Branislav Đurđev* in co-operation with The Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faculty of Philosophy, and the Institute for History.

Also, staff members of the Institute in the past ten years, like earlier, have taken part in many local and international symposia, round tables, conferences and congresses under the joint title of *Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans* organised by the IRCICA, held in Sofia in 2000, in Bukarest in 2006, and in Skopje in 2010; the symposium *Istorijska nauka u Bosni i Hercegovini u razdoblju 1990.-2000. /Historical Science in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990-2000 period/* organised by the Academy of sciences B&H in Sarajevo in 2001; then an international symposium *The Turkish Archives (Uluslararası Türk Arşivleri Sempozyumu)* held in Istanbul in 2005; and other conferences in the country and abroad.

The Institute has always had good co-operation with other scientific and professional institutions in the country and abroad. The co-operation has been firstly in the exchange of publications and journals so that the Institute's editions can be found in a large number of libraries and scientific institutions all over the world, and the Institute's Library fills up its holdings of books and journals. Co-operation with other scientific and professional institutions, cultural societies, editorial staff in media and journals, and publishers is seen in participation in symposia, publishing projects, book promotions, in evaluation of research projects and reviewing of books and other publications, in translating, etc.

The Institute's research assistants and fellows also go, for shorter or longer periods, for specialist training, study visits, research work at universities, research institutions, archives and libraries, first of all in Istanbul, Ankara, Cairo, Vienna, Paris, Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Belgrade, and in other scientific centres.

For the purpose of establishing still better co-operation and our staff members' going to do research, we signed agreements on cooperation with The Archives of the Government of the Republic of Turkey and Agency for Scientific, Cultural, and Technical Co-operation (TIKA).

Today, the Institute for Oriental Studies employs 20 staff members: six doctors of science, six masters of science, one research assistant at doctoral study in the U.S., three at postgraduate studies, a librarian, and three office clerks.

In organisational terms, the Institute is comprised of three departments:

- 1) History Department – where historical sources for a history of the B&H peoples are processed and published, and they are available for use for scientific purposes.
- 2) Philology Department – where Oriental manuscript materials and other sources for a cultural history of B&H are processed and published; the B&H cultural heritage in Oriental languages is studied; and the Arabic, Turkish, and Persian languages and their literatures and cultures are studied along with their elements in the Bosnian language and culture.
- 3) Documentation Department – consists of Archives, Manuscript Collection, Library and holdings of the Institute's editions together with other documentary and informative materials and media. The Department collects, classifies, keeps and processes archival and manuscript materials, books and journals, and does the jobs related to these. Today the Archive has only a few preserved sigils (court records/protocols) from the former collection, and many photocopies from the Archives of the Istanbul Government Presidency, the Archives Tapu ve kadastro of Ankara, the Ankara Waqf Archives, and the Collection of Documents and Translations given to us by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of B&H. The Manuscript Collection holds 108 manuscript codices with 203 works of which only a small number are manuscripts from the former Manuscript Collection. The Library of the Institute for Oriental Studies today has about 9,500 bibliographical items, of which 1,079 are books – a gift from our former associate Hamid Hadžibegić's family; then 1,362 copies of periodicals and 120 other journals

Besides these three Departments, there is still a possibility to set up a department of Oriental arts, which would study Oriental arts and material culture, primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but this depends on the future organisation and personnel structure in the Institute.

Administrative and legal, financial and other jobs related to the general operations of the Institute are performed by the Institute's Office.

Management organ of the Institute is the Management Board of five members, while the professional organ is the Scientific Council of seven members.

Taking a look at the results of the Institute for Oriental Studies' work over the past sixty years, we realise that they are striking; however, we cannot be completely satisfied as things can always be better. One of

the weaknesses is failing to execute our duties timely, either for objective or subjective reasons. Also, the Institute encounters a constant shortage of finances for book publishing so that ready papers/works often wait for years to be published. Nevertheless, irrespective of all problems, the Institute is going to continue its work. In the future our task is going to be the collecting of manuscript and archival materials, their classification and publication, and training scientific and professional workers for research in this important study area of our general and cultural history; over its long-time activity and continuing publication of materials, the Institute has proved to be one of fundamental scientific institutions. Without its activity, it would be impossible to validly study history and culture in these regions. A majority of historiographic, manuscript, archival and other materials in Oriental languages falls within the scope of the Institute's research personnel's line of work. Currently, the Institute has been working on two macro-projects: one from the field of general (social, political and military) history, and the other from the field of cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Ottoman rule.

A focus of the Institute's activity used to be research into the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and classifying and publishing historical sources. Today, only six staff members work in the Department of History on a macro-project from the field of general (social, political and military) history of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Ottoman rule, while nine associates from the Department of Philology, with two outsourcers from the Sarajevo Faculty of Philosophy, work on projects from the field of cultural history of B&H and on research into the Arabic, Turkish, and Persian languages and literatures in these languages. Therefore, one of our future projects is going to be engagement of junior staff members and their training in independent scientific-research work in the field of history, and processing and publishing historical sources, in particular the Ottoman ones.

If we look back on the papers published over these sixty years at the Institute for Oriental Studies, either in the *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* journal or *Monumenta Turcica* editions, or *Posebna izdanja*, and on many books, studies and papers which the Institute's staff members have published with other publishers and in other journals in the country and abroad, we will realise that the results are striking. As already mentioned, over the past ten years alone, the Institute for Oriental Studies has published as its own editions: ten issues of the journal *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju*; ten books in *Posebna izdanja*; and three more editions, one of them being a four-volume one in the

*Monumenta Turcica* series; the Monograph *The Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo 1950-2000* on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary; and Peçevi's two-volume *History* was published as a joint edition of El-Kalem and the Institute for Oriental Studies.

It should be especially emphasised that some of the projects carried out at the Institute for Oriental Studies have been recently published as translations into English and Arabic, which is another verification of quality of the scientific-research work at the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo. We are going to continue research into the fields the Institute deals with and make results of such research available to the broad public at home and in the world through our journal and other editions. Marking another future anniversary will show how successful it will have been.