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**BOOK REVIEW: ANDRIJA ŠTAMPAR - SLIKE VELIKIH FORMATATA
[ANDRIJA ŠTAMPAR – GRAND PERSPECTIVES] BY ŽELJKO DUGAC,
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In the latest monograph entitled *Andrija Štampar - Slike velikih formata* [Andrija Štampar – Grand Perspectives], the esteemed medical historian Željko Dugac gives the reader a comprehensive insight into the contributions of a leading figure in the 20th century medicine. Although the title suggests a biographical focus, the intricate nature of Štampar's character and his global impact introduces elements that justify placing the book in the field of social and political history.

The table of contents at the beginning already indicates that this work is the result of extensive, decades-long research in which numerous archival sources — official political and medical documents, international announcements, proclamations, personal correspondence, and publications – were analysed. In addition, a thorough review of secondary academic literature has been undertaken. This approach ensures a high level of theoretical and methodological precision in presenting a reliable historical interpretation of Andrija Štampar's activities, both domestically and internationally. It's worth noting the author's adept selection of information, skilfully constructing a framework that leaves little room for deviation, thereby greatly easing the narrative's comprehension for both knowledgeable readers and those less familiar with the topic. Consequently, the chapter on *Kako pisati biografiju* [How to write a biography] (pages 11-14) serves not only as an introductory and methodological guide but also functions as a key for understanding the subsequent detailed chapters.

Within the monograph, there are a total of ten chapters dedicated to illuminating Štampar's societal and academic ascent in diverse social and state-ideological contexts. The concept of establishing a public health system serves as a common thread through these chapters. Initially, in the early stages of Štampar's professional endeavours

urs, it represents a pioneering leap forward. Towards the end of his career, it evolves into an intrinsic, even normative, component of contemporary societies and states. While Štampar's actions undeniably played a role in this transformation, it is important to remember that the 20th century was a period characterized by extremes, marked by global volatility and upheavals. It is therefore particularly fascinating to trace the author's conceptualisation of the dynamic interplay between the idea of a public health system and the various, at times exceptionally tumultuous, political, social, and medical configurations – exploring the reverberations generated by the notion of establishing a public health system.

In the first three analytical chapters entitled *Učenički i studentski dani* [Student and academic days] (pages 15-18), *Prva liječnička iskustva* [First medical experiences] (pages 19-24) and *Rad na izgradnji i oblikovanju javnog zdravstva u Kraljevini Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca - Jugoslaviji* [Contributions to the development and organisation of the public health system in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes – Yugoslavia] (pages 25-48), Dugac describes Štampar's career from his early upbringing to his medical studies in Vienna. There, Štampar encounters the concepts of public health and social medicine, initiates his medical career in Karlovac and Nova Gradiška, and describes the assumption of a political position in Belgrade in order to establish and shape the public health system in the Kingdom. His role as the head of the Department of Racial, Public, and Social Hygiene is particularly emphasised because this position gave Štampar considerable influence in altering the perception of the medical profession. It emphasizes the notion that a physician is fundamentally a social worker, tasked with proactively engaging with people rather than passively awaiting patients in the office. The emergence of the new public healthcare system and the paradigm shift in healthcare are not welcomed by everyone. The subchapter *Štampar i politička događanja u Kraljevini Jugoslaviji 1930-ih* [Štampar and political events in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in the 1930s] (pages 45-48) explores contemporaneous criticisms, accusations, and political gimmicks, ultimately playing a substantial role in propelling Štampar into more active international involvement. Paradoxically, one might conclude that Štampar's international engagement stemmed from nationalist subterfuge.

The international engagement marks the next subsequent section in the monograph, threaded through the chapters *Rad za Zdravstvenu organizaciju Lige naroda* [Service for the Health Organization of the League of Nations] (pages 49-56), *Dnevnički zapisi* [Journal entries] (pages 57-70) and *Nedaće Drugog svjetskog rata* [The misfortunes of the Second World War] (pages 71-72). Through these headings, Dugac intentionally reveals Štampar's active participation in the modern international health organization. However, it's only as one delves into the chapters that the complexity of the situations Štampar navigated becomes apparent.

The chapter on *Rad za Zdravstvenu organizaciju Lige naroda* [Service for the Health Organization of the League of Nations] reveals that Štampar played an active role as a representative of the Kingdom in numerous international forums and conferences in the 1920s. However, the 1930s saw political turmoil in Yugoslavia, during which Štampar managed to gain a relatively stable position as an "expert" within the League of Nations Health Organisation. His increased involvement in the League of

Nations led to the dissemination of ideas related to public health, social hygiene, and strategies for preventing the spread of infectious diseases in Europe, North America, and Asia — an account that is vividly presented in the form of *Dnevnički zapisi* [Journal entries].

Despite Štampar's successful international endeavours, upon returning to Zagreb, the soaring trajectory of his international success was disrupted by *Nedaće Drugog svjetskog rata* [The misfortunes of the Second World War]. Dugac, acknowledging the methodological challenge posed by the lack of reliable archival sources for this period, briefly reconstructs Štampar's experiences following the establishment of the fascist Independent State of Croatia. These experiences included his arrest, his subsequent release, his forced retirement and his later re-arrest by the order of Gestapo, which led to his deportation from Zagreb to Graz, where he remained imprisoned until 1945.

The end of the Second World War marks the end of the intermission in Štampar's biography. Consequently, the final four analytical chapters focus on the last thirteen years of Štampar's life and his *Rad za Ujedinjene nacije i Svjetsku zdravstvenu organizaciju* [Contributions to the United Nations and the World Health Organization] (pages 73-80), *Suradnja Andrije Štampara i jugoslavenske zdravstvene administracije nakon Drugog svjetskog rata* [Collaboration between Andrija Štampar and the Yugoslav health administration post-Second World War] (pages 81-92), *Sveučilišna aktivnost* [University activities] (pages 93-98), and his *Predsjedanje Jugoslavenskom akademijom znanosti i umjetnosti* [Presidency of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts] (pages 99-106). Dugac suggests that this period can be characterized as the zenith of Štampar's professional activities, marked by significant achievements. His roles as Vice President of the newly established Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and President of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization confirm his entry into the international public health elite. Štampar became a key figure in shaping global health policies and combating infectious diseases. Furthermore, he plays a pivotal role in establishment of a new Yugoslav health and social system that increasingly involved the population in health and social protection. These positive transformations are complemented by the development of a comprehensive scientific-educational institutional framework, facilitating high-quality education, and resulting in a fresh scientific and intellectual incentive.

It is also worth mentioning that the publication features 11 photographs, predominantly archival images capturing various phases of Andrija Štampar's life and includes an *Imensko kazalo* [Index of names] (pages 122-124) and a comprehensive total of 279 footnotes throughout the book.

In conclusion, the author's clear and articulate presentation of the historical narrative not only engages readers with the subject matter, but also gives essential information for independent academic endeavours, facilitating one's exploration and contribution to the field. Given all the elements, we are confident that Dugac's book will prove exceptionally valuable to those delving into the study of Andrija Štampar, the history of medicine, or the evolution of the modern (global) public health system.