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BUNTOVNIK S RAZLOGOM - DR VOJISLAV VELJKOVIĆ (1865-1931)

Rezime

Dr Vojislav Veljković potiče iz stare i ugledne porodice, čiji su osnivači bili Miljko Biljarac, pre Prvog srpskog ustanka poznat kao narodni prvak i ktitor crkava i škola i njegov sin, Veljo Miljković, knez paraćinske nahije. Porodično stablo Veljkovića krase i brojni doktori nauka. Otac dr Vojislava Veljkovića, dr Stojan Veljković, bio je jedan od prvih Srba koji je još polovinom XIX veka doktorirao prava na Hajdelbergu, a potom, kao ekspert za rimsko i krivično pravo, ove predmete predavao na Liceju u Beogradu. Veljkovići su bili i jedna veoma imućna porodica koja je volela umetnost i ulagala u nabavku umetničkih dela. U takvoj sredini se rodio i odrastao dr Vojislav Veljković, političar i finansijer, čovek sa čvrstim životnim, profesionalnim i političkim stavovima. U ekonomskoj istoriji Srbije zapamćen je kao tvorac jugoslovenskog dinara.

Ključne reči: monetarni sistem, valuta, monetarna sukcesija

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Summary

Dr Vojislav Veljković comes from an old and respectable family, whose founders were Miljko Biljarac, before the First Serbian Uprising known as the national hero and patron of many churches and schools, and his son, Veljo Miljković, ruler of the district of Paraćin. The Veljković family tree is also studded with many doctoral scholars. The father of Dr Vojislav Veljković, Dr Stojan Veljković, was one of the first Serbs to graduate law at Heidelberg University in mid 19th century, after which, being an expert for Roman and criminal law, taught these subjects at the Lyceum in Belgrade. The family of Veljković was rather well-off, and its members, being the connoisseurs of art, invested a lot in the procurement of numerous works of art. This was the milieu into which Dr Vojislav Veljković was born and raised, to become a politician and financier, the man with firm beliefs when it comes to life, profession and politics. In the economic history of Serbia, he has been remembered as the originator of Yugoslav dinar.

Key words: monetary system, currency, monetary succession

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REBEL WITH A CAUSE - DR VOJISLAV VELJKOVIĆ (1865 - 1931)

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Burne godine političkih vetrometina

Dr Vojislav Veljković rođen je 1865. godine u Beogradu. Njegov razvojni put karakteriše nastavak porodične tradicije doprinosa razvoju pravnih nauka i pripadnosti liberalnim političkim uverenjima. Sledeći primer svoga oca, diplomirao je, a potom i doktorirao pravne nauke 1892. godine na Univerzitetu Sorbona sa tezom o trgovačkim ugovorima. Sjajno odbranjena doktorska teza ocenjena je kao veliki doprinos razvoju trgovačkog prava, ali je bila i referenca za mesto profesora administrativnog prava na Velikoj školi u Beogradu. Profesurom se bavio relativno kratko, u periodu od 1896. do 1899. godine i u tom periodu je napisao i objavio neku vrstu udžbenika pod nazivom: „Odnos između sudske i administrativne vlasti u državi“.

U politički život Srbije uključio se odmah po povratku sa studija. Postao je član Liberalne stranke, sledeći na samom početku političke karijere politička opredeljenja svoga oca. Vremenom međutim, opredelio se za energičniji i borbeniji pristup političkog delovanja, što je krajem devedesetih godina devetnaestog veka rezultiralo njegovim odlukom da se priključi levom krilu Liberalne stranke, koje su predvodili Jovan Avakumović i Stojan Ribarac. Pristalice ovog krila Liberalne stranke nazivali su „nacionalistima“, a ono je predstavljalo jezgro iz koga se posle Prvog svetskog rata razvila Socijal-demokratska stranka. Pragmatičan i smiren, sa jasno definisanim stavovima kako u profesionalnom tako i

političkom životu, dr Veljković je među svojim političkim saborcima ipak važio za čoveka koji doprinosi stišavanju političkog temperamenta i stranačkih ostrašćenosti u političkom životu Srbije pri kraju XIX veka.

Veliki ugled porodice Veljković na dvoru dinastije Obrenovića, ali i lične reference mladog profesora administrativnog prava, širom su otvorile odškrinuta vrata dvora. Godine 1899. dr Vojislav Veljković postavljen je za sekretara mladog kralja Aleksandra Obrenovića. Iako prihvaćen na dvoru kao pripadnik porodice veoma odane režimu dinastije Obrenović, kao čovek kome je mladi Kralj sa poverenjem prepustio celu svoju državnu prepisku, dr Veljković je već nakon godinu dana napustio ovu funkciju. Mladi buntovnik sa razlogom, javno je pokazivao neodobravanje kraljevom režimu, inicirano pre svega Kraljevom ženidbom sa Dragom Mašin.

Ovaj dualizam između njegove, u osnovi privrženosti dinastiji Obrenović i neodobravanja politike koju je vodio kralj Aleksandar Obrenović nakon ženidbe sa Dragom Mašin, bio je veliki teret za mladog Veljkovića i uticao je na odluke koje je donosio, bez obzira što niko u tadašnjoj Srbiji nijednog trenutka nije dovodio u pitanje njegov patriotizam.

Rasplet

Iako je znao da se priprema oficirska zavera, Dr Veljković je dao podršku formiranju nove vlasti još pre Majskog prevrata 1903. godine. Kada je konačno, nakon ubistva kraljevskog para Obrenović, formirana nova vlada pod okriljem levog krila Liberalne stranke Jovana Avakumovića, dr Veljković je postavljen za ministra finansija. Pod teretom opšte evropske osude da je izneverio dinastiju Obrenović i odgovornosti o potrebi da prihvati ovo ministarsko mesto u Vladi pod okriljem Petra I Karađorđevića, nije dugo izdržao. Nakon dva meseca dao je ostavku i svoj politički rad nastavio kao poslanik u parlamentu.

Preokret

Veliki preokret u političkom i profesionalnom životu dr Veljkovića donele su turbulentne posleratne godine.



Vojislav Veljković sa suprugom Ljudmilom
Vojislav Veljković with his wife Ljudmila

Tempestuous years of political turbulences

Dr Vojislav Veljković was born in 1865 in Belgrade. His development path was characterized by the continuation of the family tradition of contributing to the development of law science and cherishing liberal political convictions. Following in his father's footsteps, he graduated, and then gained a doctoral degree in law, in 1892 at the University of Sorbonne, defending a thesis on commercial contracts. His brilliantly defended doctoral thesis was estimated as a huge contribution to the development of commercial law, but was also a sound reference that ensured him a position of a professor of administrative law at the Great School in Belgrade. He was in professorship relatively briefly, from 1896 till 1899, in which period he wrote and published a sort of a course book titled: "Relationship between Judicial and Administrative Power in a Country".

He joined the political life in Serbia straight after he returned from his studies. Having become a member of the Liberal Party, at the beginning of his political career he followed the political convictions of his father. Over time, however, he opted for a more energetic and feistier approach to political action, which, in late 1890s, resulted in his decision to join the left wing of the Liberal Party, led by Jovan Akumović and Stojan Ribarac. The followers of this wing of the Liberal Party were called "nationalists", this wing being the core for the development of the Socio-Democratic Party after the World War I. Pragmatic and composed, with clearly defined beliefs both in professional and political life, among his political comrades, Dr Veljković nevertheless enjoyed the reputation of a man contributing to the appeasement of political temperament and party-related zealotry in the political life in

Serbia towards the end of the 19th century.

The enviable reputation that the Veljković family enjoyed at court in the times of the Dynasty of Obrenović, alongside the personal references of the young professor of administrative law, made the door of the court wide open. In 1899 Dr Vojislav Veljković was appointed the Secretary of the young King Alexander Obrenović. Although accepted at the court as a descendant of the family fully loyal to the regime of the Obrenović Dynasty, and the man to whom the young King entrusted his entire official correspondence, Dr Veljković resigned on this function after a year. Young

rebel with a cause, he publicly displayed his disapproval of the King's regime, initiated mostly by the King's marriage to Draga Mašin.

This discrepancy between his ingrained devotion to the Dynasty of Obrenović and his disapproval of the policy led by King Alexander Obrenović following his marriage to Draga Mašin, was a huge burden on the shoulders of young Veljković, influencing the decisions he made, regardless of the fact

that nobody in the then Serbia doubted his patriotism, not for a single moment.

Denouement

Although he knew that the officers had been conspiring to perform a coup d'état, Dr Veljković supported the formation of the new government even before the May Overthrow in 1903. When finally, after the assassination of the royal couple Obrenović, the new government was formed under the auspices of the left wing of the Liberal Party led by Jovan Avakumović, Dr Veljković was appointed Minister of Finance. Under the pressure of general condemnation coming from Europe that he had betrayed the Dynasty of Obrenović, and the responsibility to accept this ministerial position in the



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Po završetku Prvog svetskog rata, formirana je Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca koja je obuhvatila ne samo dve kraljevine, Srbiju i Crnu Goru, već i delove dve imperije, Austro-Ugarske i Turske. Sudar različitih privrednih i pravnih sistema na prostoru nove države bio je veoma veliki izazov za državni aparat i zahtevao je temeljnu reformu na svim nivoima.

Valutno pitanje, kao jedno od ključnih za očuvanje finansijske stabilnosti nove države i njenog finansijskog i privrednog sistema, bilo je problem od prvorazrednog značaja, koji je imao više dimenzija u svetlu:

- funkcionisanja većeg broja valuta u jednom monetarnom sistemu (osim srpskog dinara, u opticaju su bile austrijske krune, crnogorski perper, lev),
- različitih stavova novih država po pitanju monetarne sukcesije bivše Austro-Ugarske imperije i
- skoro potpuno obezvređene krune, valute bivše Austro-Ugarske imperije, koja je bila u upotrebi u prvom posleratnom periodu u novo-formiranoj državi slovenskih naroda.

Veliko obezvređivanje nacionalne valute bivše Imperije bilo je planski sprovedeno još tokom ratnih godina od strane privilegovane Centralne banke vlade Austrije i Ugarske, koja je štampala ogromne količine papirnih novčanica bez pokrića, finansirajući tako ratne troškove Beča i Budimpešte. Bilans na kraju rata, 31. oktobra 1918. bio je poražavajući - emisija austro-ugarskih kruna iznosila je 31,5 milijardi, a imala je pokriće u metalu u vrednosti od svega 342 miliona kruna (Boarov, str. 194).

Bio je to možda krajnje nerealan i utopijski pokušaj Centralne banke Austrije i Ugarske da kroz održanje monetarne i carinske unije produži opstanak Habzburške dinastije i bivše Imperije koja je definitivno kapitulirala. Austrija i Mađarska zagovarale su ovu opciju i tražile da je i ostale države nastale na teritoriji bivše Monarhije prihvate, kao i da priznaju dugove bivše države.

Iako su sve novo-nastale države odbile ovu opciju, Austro-Ugarska Centralna banka je nastavila da se ponaša kao privilegovana i nakon kapitulacije Imperije - i dalje je štampala papirne novčanice bez pokrića u korist Austrije i Mađarske, pa je krajem 1919. godine u opticaju bilo više od 50 milijardi kruna. Svi pokušaji

prve posleratne Vlade Kraljevine SHS i njenog ministra finansija dr Momčila Ninčića da utiče na ovakav razvoj događaja, ostali su bez uspeha.

U sastavu ove Vlade, dr Vojislav Veljković bio je ministar trgovine i industrije, ali je već iste 1919. godine, 16. avgusta, regent Aleksandar Karađorđević predao premijerski mandat Ljubi Davidoviću, osnivaču Demokratske stranke. U novoj Vladi, dr Vojislav Veljković postavljen je za ministra finansija. Preuzimanje ovako odgovorne funkcije u uslovima valutnog haosa u novonastaloj državi, koja praktično nije imala još uvek jasno definisane granice i redovan parlament, bio je veoma veliki izazov. Ipak, dr Veljković je upravo na ovoj funkciji pokazao da ima dovoljno odlučnosti, stručnog znanja i profesionalnog integriteta, da postavi temelje monetarnog sistema i valutne reforme i realizuje je do određenog nivoa u izuzetno kratkom roku od nekoliko meseci.

Shvatio je da je potrebno delati brzo, bez obzira na brojna systemska ograničenja - nije bilo oslonca u Ustavu, a ni vremena za donošenje zakona, obzirom da je parlament bio u povremenom zasedanju. Odlučan u nameri da ipak sprovede reformu monetarnog sistema i valutnu reformu, tražio je alternativna rešenja kojima bi obezbedio systemske preduslove za realizaciju ovog posla.

Prvo je pripremio regulatorni okvir u vidu paketa systemskih mera koje je usvojio Ministarski savet Kraljevine SHS 2. januara 1920. godine, koji je omogućio reformu monetarnog sistema i valutnu reformu u Kraljevini SHS u kratkom roku u nekoliko faza:

- Po ovlašćenju koje je dobio kao ministar finansija Odlukom iz seta mera Ministarskog saveta Kraljevine SHS, dr Veljković je odmah pristupio uvođenju valutnog reda u državi. Ministarstvo finansija počelo je da štampa jedinstvenu novčanicu pod nazivom dinar, koja je na obe strane imala oznaku vrednosti u krunama, po paritetu jedan dinar jednako četiri krune. Sve ostale novčanice sa oznakom krune morale su biti povučene sa teritorije Kraljevine SHS u periodu od 16. februara do 15. marta 1920. godine, odnosno, najkasnije do 1. juna 1920. Od tog datuma dinar je trebalo da bude jedino zakonsko sredstvo plaćanja na teritoriji države.
- Nastavak reformi bio je u pravcu reorganizacije

Government under the jurisdiction of Petar I Karadjordjević, he did not last long. After two months, he resigned, and continued his political career as a member of the Parliament.

Twist

The turbulent post-war years brought about a significant twist in the political and professional life of Dr Veljković. In the aftermath of the World War I, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was formed, encompassing not only two kingdoms, Serbia and Montenegro, but also the parts of two empires, Austro-Hungary and Turkey. The collision of different economic and legal systems within the borders of the new state was a huge challenge for the state apparatus, requiring a radical reform at all levels.

The currency issue, being among the crucial ones for the preservation of financial stability of the new state and its financial and economic system, was the priority issue, implying several dimensions, in light of the following:

- Functioning of many currencies in a single monetary system (alongside the Serbian dinar, in circulation were the Austrian crowns, the Montenegrin perper, the lev, etc.);
- Different opinions of the new states concerning the monetary succession of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire; and
- Almost completely devalued crown - currency of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was used in the immediate post-war period in the newly established state of the Slavonic peoples.

Excessive devaluation of the national currency of the former Empire had already been implemented during the war years by the Privileged Central Bank of the Austrian and Hungarian Government, which printed

large amounts of paper banknotes without coverage, thus financing the war costs of Wien and Budapest. The balance at the end of the war, on October 31st 1918 was devastating - the Austro-Hungarian crowns were issued in the amount of 31.5 billion, out of which only 342 million crowns were covered in metal coins (Boarov, pp. 195).

This was perhaps the utterly unrealistic and utopian attempt of the Central Bank of Austria and Hungary to prolong, through the maintenance of monetary and customs union, the survival of the Habsburg Dynasty and the former Empire, which definitely capitulated. Austria and Hungary advocated this option, demanding from the other countries formed at the territory of the former Monarchy to accept it, and to recognize the debts of the former state.

Although all newly-formed countries rejected this option, the Austro-Hungarian Central Bank continued to act as if it

were still privileged, still printing - even after the capitulation of the Empire - the uncovered paper banknotes in the name of Austria and Hungary, resulting in more than 50 billion crowns in circulation in late 1919. All attempts of the first post-war Government of the Kingdom of SCS and its Minister of Finance, Dr Momčilo Ninčić, to influence such developments, remained unfruitful.

In the composition of this Government, Dr Vojislav Veljković was the Minister of Trade and Industry, and the very same 1919, on August 16th, the Regent Alexander Karadjordjević appointed Ljuba Davidović, founder of the Democratic Party, the Prime Minister. In the new Government, Dr Vojislav Veljković was appointed Minister of Finance. Such a responsible function, especially in the times of currency related chaos in the newly-established state which practically still had no clearly defined boundaries and a



dr Vojislav Veljković



Dinarsko krunski novčanica 1919. godine
Dinar-crown banknote from 1919

Srpske Privilegovane Narodne banke u jugoslovensku emisionu banku. Već 26. januara 1920. godine dr Veljković ispred Ministarstva finansija sa Narodnom bankom potpisuje ugovor po kome od 1. februara 1920. stupa na snagu Zakon o Narodnoj banci Kraljevine SHS. Narodna banka ne samo da je počela da funkcioniše kao emisiona ustanova (preuzela je tu funkciju od Uprave fondova Kraljevine Srbije koja je po nalogu Vlade preštamovala prvu emisiju krunsko-dinarskih novčanica koje je emitovao Ministarstvo finansija Kraljevine SHS), već su njenom reorganizacijom udareni temelji nove monetarne politike na teritoriji nove države, koju je trebalo da vodi centralna banka.

Vođenje monetarne politike, međutim, bilo je veliki izazov u novoj državi, obzirom da je državna blagajna bila skoro prazna, privreda razorena. Jugoslovenski dinar je od uvođenja počeo da beleži nominalni i realni pad u odnosu na vodeće valute drugih država. Ovaj silazni trend trajao je sve do 1923. godine, nakon kog perioda je kurs dinara zabeležio značajni rast.

Angažovanje dr Veljkovića u ovoj oblasti završilo se donošenjem Zakona o Narodnoj banci, koja je preuzela vođenje monetarne politike, ali je 1920. označila i kraj njegove karijere kao državnog poslenika. Vlada čiji je bio član smenjena je već 26. februara 1920. godine. Ogroman posao koji je udarnički uradio za državu uz pomoć svega par saradnika, u neverovatno kratkom periodu od nekoliko meseci (avgust 1919 - februar 1920.), imao je odraza i na zdravlje dr Veljkovića. Posle ovog ministarskog mandata bavio se još neko vreme državnim finansijama kao predsednik Finansijskog odbora jugoslovenske Skupštine, ali se polako povlačio iz javnog života.

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regular Parliament, was quite some challenge. Nevertheless, it was exactly in this position that Dr Veljković demonstrated that he had sufficient determination, expert knowledge and professional integrity, to set up the foundations of the monetary system and currency reform and implement it up to a certain level within an extremely short notice of no more than several months.

He realized the necessity of acting swiftly, regardless of the numerous systemic limitations - there was no basis in the Constitution, or the time to adopt any laws, given that the Parliament was convening only occasional sessions. Determined to, nevertheless, implement the monetary system reform and currency reform, he sought for alternative solutions whereby he would ensure systemic preconditions for the realization of this operation.

First, he prepared a regulatory framework in the form of a package of systemic measures, adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of SCS on January 2nd 1920, enabling the monetary system reform and currency reform in the Kingdom of SCS, to be implemented in a short notice, involving several stages:

- In line with the authority he received as a Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Decision from the set of measures by the Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of SCS, Dr Veljković immediately started introducing order in terms of the national currency. The Ministry of Finance started printing a uniform banknote called “dinar”, which on both sides bore the signifier of its value in crowns, at the parity of one dinar equalling four crowns. All other banknotes bearing the sign of a crown had to be withdrawn from the territory of the Kingdom of SCS in the period from February 16th until March 15th 1920, i.e. by June 1st 1920 at the latest. From that date onwards the dinar was to be the only legal tender in the country.
- The reforms continued in the direction of reorganizing the Serbian Privileged

National Bank into the Yugoslav issuing bank. It was already on January 26th 1920 that Dr Veljković, in front of the Ministry of Finance, signed a contract with the National Bank, according to which the Law on National Bank of the Kingdom of SCS came into effect as of February 1st 1920. Not only did the National Bank start to operate as an issuing institution (it took this function over from the Administration of Funds of the Kingdom of Serbia, which, at the request of the Government, re-printed the first issuance of the crown-dinar banknotes issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of SCS), but its reorganization also set the pillars of the new monetary policy at the territory of the new state, which was to be led by the central bank.

Leading the monetary policy, however, was a huge challenge in the new state, given that the state treasury was almost empty and the economy in shambles. Since its introduction, the Yugoslav dinar started to record a nominal and real drop compared to the leading currencies of other states. This downward trend lasted until 1923, when the dinar rate recorded a considerable growth.

The engagement of Dr Veljković in this field resulted in the adoption of the Law on National Bank, which took over the leading of the monetary policy, and the year of 1920 marked the end of his career as a government official. The Government in which he served as a minister lost confidence on February 26th 1920. The enormous job he did for the state, with the help of only a few associates, within an unbelievably short period of time, covering a span of only several months (August 1919 - February 1920) unfortunately took its toll on the health of Dr Veljković. After this mandate as a minister, he dealt for a brief while with the state finances in the capacity of the President of the Financial Committee of the Yugoslav Parliament, but was soon gradually withdrawing from the public life.

Sudbina blaga porodice Veljković

Ugledna i veoma bogata porodica Veljković bila je vlasnik holding banke „Vračarska zadruga“, hotela „Srpski kralj“, više od 50% akcija „Vajfertove pivare“ i 60 hektara vinograda, voćnjaka i povrtnjaka u Smederevu. Njihova imovina, međutim, sastojala se i od umetničkog blaga u koje su investirale generacije u ovoj porodici. Bila je to vrlo vredna zbirka umetničkih predmeta koju su pored kolekcije većih i manjih skulptura sačinjavali i odlivci pet Mikelandelovih skulptura, Hudonovog Voltera i još nekoliko bronzanih odlivaka prema antičkim motivima Apolona i dve Dijane, zbirka od 250 slika najčuvenijih domaćih i stranih slikara, kolekcije porcelana i vredna zbirka ćilima



Hotel Srpski kralj
Serbian King Hotel

i tepiha koju je ova porodica sakupljala tokom dva veka. Prema procenama samo je zbirka tepiha i ćilima vredela više miliona tadašnjih dinara.

Ovi umetnički predmeti bili su smešteni u Krunskoj uluci u Beogradu, u Vračarskoj zadruzi. Dr Veljković je nameravao da podigne muzej, ali ga je u toj nameri sprečila smrt. Taj posao uradio je njegov naslednik, Dr Jovan Veljković, prema planovima arhitekta Vojislava Đokića. Novi muzej zvao se Museo, ili, poznatije u narodu kao „Paviljon Veljković“.

Nalazio se u Birčaninovoj ulici u Beogradu i imao je sve potrebne uslove za čuvanje umetničkih predmeta. Umetničko blago bilo je u vlasništvu porodice Veljković sve do 1945. godine, kada se ova porodica našla na Titovom spisku deset najuglednijih ljudi, koje je kao „trulu buržoaziju“ trebalo uništiti, pa im je u ime naroda oduzeto sve što su imali.

Nakon ove odluke političke elite u FNRJ, nasilje nad porodicom Veljković i njihovom imovinom sprovedeno je i ponovljeno više puta, i to na sve brutalniji način. Museo je bahato uništen, umetnička dela razasuta na razne strane, tako da se za dobar deo ne zna gde je. Samo je mali broj slika ostao u vlasništvu porodice. Interesantno je da ovaj umetnički potencijal nisu rasturili Nemci za vreme Drugog svetskog rata, već Titov režim. U prostorijama bivšeg muzeja danas je smešten Centar za kulturnu dekontaminaciju.

Istorijsko nasilje nad ovom porodicom nastavljeno je i u prvim decenijama ovog veka. Konfiskovana realna imovina ove porodice, umesto da bude vraćena porodici, u procesu privatizacije,



Vajfertova pivara
Vajfert's brewery

puštena je u prodaju. Za sada bez uspeha, uglavnom zbog angažovanja živih članova ove ugledne porodice.

Fate of the Veljković Family Treasure

The reputable and rather well-off family of Veljković owned the holding bank “Vračarska Cooperative”, the hotel “Serbian King”, more than 50% of shares of “Vajfert’s Brewery” and 60 hectares of vineyards, orchards and vegetable gardens in the city of Smederevo. Their assets, however, also included the artistic treasures invested in by many generations of this family. These treasures made an extremely valuable collection of works of art, which, in addition to a collection of sculptures of various sizes, included the moulds of five Michelangelo’s sculptures, Houdon’s Voltaire, several other bronze moulds made according to the antique motifs of Apollo and two Dianas, a collection of 250 paintings by the most famous domestic and foreign painters, a collection of porcelain and a precious collection of rugs and carpets that this family had been collecting over two centuries. According to some estimates, this collection of rugs and carpets itself was worth several million of the then dinars.

These works of art were kept in Krunska Street in Belgrade, on the premises of “Vračarska Cooperative”. Dr Veljković intended to erect a museum, but he passed away before he turned his intention into reality. Nonetheless, this task was completed by his heir, Dr Jovan Veljković, according to the plans of the architect Vojislav Djokić. The new museum was named Museo,

among the common people known as the “Pavilion Veljković”. It was located in Birčaninova Street in Belgrade, and met all necessary preconditions for preservation of works of art. This artistic treasure was in the possession of the Veljković family until 1945, when this family found itself in the Tito’s list of the ten most reputable families which,

representing the “rotten bourgeoisie”, were to be destroyed, hence everything they owned got confiscated in the name of the people.

The act of violence conducted over the Veljković family and their property has been repeated on several more occasions, becoming increasingly brutal along the way. Museo was overbearingly destroyed; works of art scattered, so that today most of them are virtually lost. Only a few paintings remained in the hands of the family. Interestingly enough, this artistic potential was not ruined by the Germans during the World War II, but by the Tito’s regime. The premises of the former museum

today house the Centre for Cultural Decontamination.

Historic violence over this family continued even in the first decades of this century. Instead of being returned to the family, its confiscated real assets were, in the privatization process, released for sale. With no success, for the time being, mostly due to the engagement and effort of the remaining members of this respectable family.



Reklama Vračarske zadruge
Advertisement of Vračarska cooperative



Paviljon Veljković u Birčaninovoj ulici
Pavilion Veljković in Birčaninova Street