

*prikaz
knjige*

BORBA ZA DOBAR NOVAC I ZDRAVE DRŽAVNE FINANSIJE

- Prikaz knjige: dr Vesna
Matić (2014) *Finansije srpske*,
Udruženje banaka Srbije,
Beograd

Doprinos dr Vesne Matić ekonomskoj istoriji sastoji se upravo u tome što je kao ekonomsko socijalnu pojavu dugog trajanja analizirala stalnu borbu intelektualne elite u Srbiji za iustum pondus, pravu meru nacionalnog novca i državnih finansija.

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FIGHTING FOR
STABLE MONEY
AND HEALTHY
STATE FINANCES -
Book Review: Vesna Matic, PhD (2014) *Serbian Finances*,
Association of Serbian Banks
Belgrade

The contribution of Vesna Matic to national economic history is precisely the way she analyzes the constant struggle of the intellectual elite in Serbia for iustum pondus, right measure of national currency and public finances.as economic social phenomenon of long duration.

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Knjiga dr Vesne Matić „Finansije srpske“ je vredan prilog kako ekonomsko finansijskoj istoriji Srbije tako i istoriji ekonomske misli u Srbiji. Ona prati razvoj srpskih finansija tokom 125 godina, od 1868. godine, kada Srbija prihvata standarde kovanja novca Latinske kovničke unije pa sve do 1993. godine, kada se posle nezapamćene hiperinflacije nacionalna valuta vezuje za nemačku marku u deviznom režimu valutnog odbora. Sve to vreme, koje je u političkom i ekonomskom smislu bilo bremenito učestalim potresima izazvanim unutrašnjim i spoljnim uzrocima, nosioci nacionalne monetarne i finansijske politike o kojima je napisano ovo delo, borili su se za očuvanje stabilnosti novca i državnih finansija.

Doprinos dr Vesne Matić ekonomskoj istoriji sastoji se upravo u tome što je kao ekonomsko socijalnu pojavu dugog trajanja analizirala stalnu borbu intelektualne elite u Srbiji za *iustum pondus*, pravu meru nacionalnog novca i državnih finansija. Upravo je ta borba za meru onaj zajednički imenitelj koji spaja dvanaest velikana srpskih finansija o kojima piše dr Vesna Matić. To su: Kosta Cukić (1826-1879), grof Čedomilj Mijatović (1842-1932), dr Mihailo Vujić (1853-1913), dr Laza Paču (1855-1915), Stojan Protić (1857-1923), Kosta Stojanović (1867-1921), dr Vojislav Veljković (1865-1931), Đorđe Vajfert (1850-1937), dr Velimir Bajkić (1875-1952), dr Milan Stojadinović (1888-1961), Branislav Čolanović (1922-1998) i dr Dragoslav Avramović (1919-2001). Bez obzira na to što su živeli u različitim epohama, školovali se ređe u zemlji a većinom na različitim evropskim univerzitetima, pripadali različitim školama ekonomske misli i imali različita politička ubeđenja, svima je bila zajednička svest o značaju zdravog novca i zdravih finansija za

ukupan privredni život zemlje.

O ključnim događajima iz istorije srpskih finansija već je ispisano više vrednih studija. Međutim, u dosadašnjim istraživanjima u ovoj oblasti bila je nedovoljno istaknuta spona između istorijskih činjenica o institucijama na kojima su se temeljile srpske finansije i ljudi koji su ove institucije stvarali, obnavljali, unapređivali i prilagođavali evropskim standardima. Dajući tokovima srpskih finansija ljudski lik, dr Vesna Matić se pridružila malobrojnim sledbenicima naučne misli akademika i profesora Andreja Mitrovića, velikog borca za očovečenje ekonomije i neraskidivost

društvene i ekonomske istorije. Ekonomija jeste u biti pozitivna naučna disciplina i ekonomske zakonitosti jesu univerzalnog i vanvremenskog karaktera, ali o njihovom delovanju u društvu i potrebama normativnih, institucionalnih korekcija tog delovanja zna se tek onda kada ih nauka i struka protumače. Dr Vesna Matić je pokazala da su tako i sve finansijske institucije u Srbiji tokom vremena nastajale i razvijale se kao rezultat naučnih i stručnih spoznaja sasvim određenih učenih ljudi.

Njen doprinos istoriji ekonomske misli u Srbiji je upravo u tome što je istražila i objasnila kako je dvanaest učenih srpskih intelektualaca pretočilo svoja znanja u praksu uređivanja novca i državnih finansija. U ovom istraživanju njen oslonac nije bila samo publikovana naučna literatura već i retka arhivska građa. Vredan je pažnje ovaj intelektualni napor i sigurno dugogodišnji uloženi trud.

Dr Vesna Matić predstavlja dvanaest velikana srpskih finansija kao ljude koji su ne samo bili dorasli svom vremenu nego su često koračali i ispred tog vremena. Ona nam predočava da su zahvaljujući stabilnosti koju su poneli iz uglednih porodica iz kojih su ponikli



Book written by Vesna Matić, PhD "Serbian Finances" is worthy contribution to economic and financial history of Serbia as well as to the history of economic thought in Serbia. It traces the development of Serbian finances during 125 years, from 1868, when Serbia accepted standards of coinage minting of Latin Monetary Union, until 1993, when after an unprecedented hyperinflation national currency Dinar was tied to German Mark in the foreign exchange currency board regime. All this time, which in political and economic sense was burdened with frequent shocks caused by internal and external causes, national monetary and financial policy makers about whom this book has been written, fought to preserve the stability of money and public finances.

The contribution of Vesna Matić to national economic history is precisely the way she analyzes the constant struggle of the intellectual elite in Serbia for *iustum pondus*, right measure of national currency and public finances.as economic social phenomenon of long duration. It is this struggle for good money and healthy state finances that connects twelve financial giants of Serbia about whom Vesna Matić is writing about. These are: Kosta Cukić (1826-1879), Count Čedomilj Mijatović (1842-1932), Mihailo Vujić, PhD (1853-1913), Dr Laza Paču (1855-1915), Stojan Protić (1857-1923), Kosta Stojanović (1867 -1921), Vojislav Veljković, PhD (1865-1931), Đorđe Weifert (1850-1937), Velimir Bajkić, PhD (1875-1952), Milan Stojadinović, PhD (1888-1961), Branislav Čolanović (1922-1998) and Dragoslav Avramović, PhD (1919-2001). Regardless of the fact that they lived in different eras, were rarely educated in Serbia and mostly on different European universities, belonged to different schools of economic thought and had different political beliefs, they all shared common awareness of the importance of sound money and state finances for entire economic life of the country.

Valuable studies have already been written about key events in the history of Serbian finances. However, in previous research in this area the link between historical

facts about the institutions on which Serbian finances were based and people, who created these institutions, renewed, improved and adapted them to European standards was not sufficiently highlighted. Giving human face to flows of Serbian finances, Vesna Matić joined few followers of scientific thought of academician and Professor Andrej Mitrović, great fighter for humanization of economics and indivisibility of social and economic history. Economics is essentially positive scientific discipline and economic laws are universal and of timeless character, but their impact in the society and the need for normative, institutional correction of that impact is understood only when they are interpreted by science and profession. Vesna Matić has precisely shown that all financial institutions in Serbia were created and developed over time as a result of scientific work of certain learned men. Her contribution to the history of economic thought is that she investigated and explained how twelve educated Serbian intellectuals have implemented their knowledge and skills into the practice of managing money and public finances. Her research was not only based on published scientific literature, but also on rare archival material. Worthy of attention is this intellectual effort and certainly a longtime work.

Vesna Matić presents twelve giant Serbian financiers as people who not only lived up to their time but were often in advance of that time. She demonstrates to us that thanks to stability they brought from prominent families from which they originated and knowledge they have acquired

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i znanju koje su stekli evropskim obrazovanjem, bili sigurni u sebe i svoju hrabru misiju u ekonomski zaostaloj domovini.

Poslednje decenije 19. veka obeležila su dela tri ministra finansija: Koste Cukića, Čedomilja Mijatovića i Mihaila Vujića. U vreme ministrovanja liberala Koste Cukića i Čedomilja Mijatovića, sledbenika klasične britanske škole ekonomske misli, obnovljen je u Srbiji nacionalni novčani sistem, osnovana je Narodna banka, u opticaju su se prvi put pojavile domaće banknote, izgrađene su prve železnice zbog čega su bili založeni svi značajniji izvori državnih monopolskih prihoda. Zatim je, u duhu katedarskih socijalista nemačke istorijske škole, Mihailo Vujić uveo u Srbiju elemente državnog protekcionizma. Protekcionistička politika je imala blagotvorno dejstvo u zemlji koja je tek bila započela svoju ekonomsku emancipaciju. Državni monopoli su otkupljeni od stranaca i izvršena je konverzija državnih dugova. Budžetski deficiti, koje su prouzrokovali veliki državni dugovi, bili su sanirani.

Vreme početka 20. veka, do izbijanja Balkanskih i Prvog svetskog rata obeleženo je u Srbiji nasilnom smenom dinastija na vlasti i ministrovanjem tri radikala: Laze Pačua, Stojana



dr Vesna Matić

Protića i Koste Stojanovića. Među ministrima finansija - ekonomskim teoretičarima, obreo se lekar dr Laza Paču koji je budno čuvao red u državnim finansijama pa tako omogućio da se popravi kredit Srbije na inostranim finansijskim tržištima. Zatim su Stojan Protić i Kosta Stojanović, kao ministri finansija i privrede, uspešno izveli Srbiju iz carinskog rata koji je protiv nje vodila umiruća Austrougarska monarhija. Pred Balkanske

ratove, dinar je bio konvertibilna valuta i državne finansije u ravnoteži.

Za očuvanje nacionalne valute tokom ratnih godina i neposredno posle Prvog svetskog rata zaslužna su tri velikana srpskih finansija o kojima piše dr Vesna Matić: Đorđe Vajfert, Vojislav Veljković i Velimir Bajkić. Privredniku i bankaru Đorđu Vajfertu, pripada zasluga što je za vreme Prvog svetskog rata, kao guverner Narodne banke Kraljevine Srbije u izgnanstvu, uspeo da sačuva konvertibilnost dinara. Francuski đak koji je doktorirao na Sorboni, dr Vojislav Veljković, kao ministar finansija posle Prvog svetskog rata, zaslužan je za uspešno i efikasno sprovedenu valutnu reformu u Kraljevini Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, a Velimir Bajkić, jedan od najvećih srpskih ekonomskih teoretičara liberalne provincije, za kreiranje



Dr Kosta Cukić



Grof Čedomilj Mijatović



Dr Mihailo Vujić

through European education, they were sure of themselves and their brave mission in economically backward country.

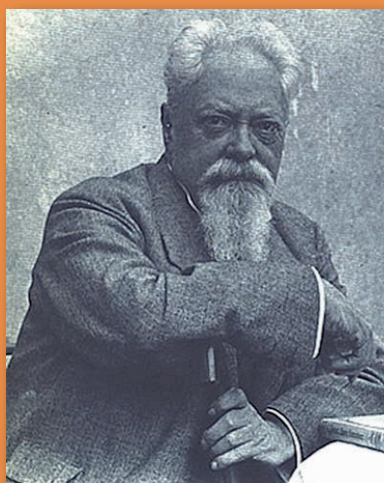
The last decades of the 19th century was marked by the work of three ministers of finance: Kosta Cukić, Čedomilj Mijatović and Mihailo Vujić. At times of ministerial work of Kosta Cukić and Čedomilj Mijatović, followers of classical British school of economic thought, national monetary system was renovated in Serbia, National Bank was established, domestic banknotes appeared in circulation for the first time, first railways were built for which all significant sources of government monopoly revenues were pledged. Then, in the spirit of departmental German Historical School, Mihailo Vujić introduced elements of state protectionism in Serbia. Protectionist policy had beneficial effect in a country that had just started its economic emancipation. State monopolies were redeemed from aliens and in Serbia the government debts were rescheduled. Budget deficits, which caused huge government debt, were overcome.

In the period between early 20th century until the outbreak of the Balkan and the First World War, marked by a violent change of Serbian dynasty in power, ministers of finance were three radicals: Laza Paču, Stojan Protić and Kosta Stojanović. Among the ministers of finance - economic theorists, there was a physician, Dr Laza Paču who vigilantly guarded order in state finances and thus made

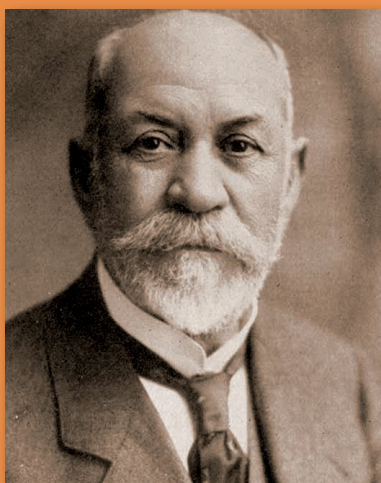
it possible to improve creditworthiness of Serbia on international financial markets. Then, Stojan Protić and Kosta Stojanović, as ministers of finance and economy, overcame successfully the customs war which Austro-Hungarian dying Monarchy led against Serbia. In the eve of Balkan wars, Dinar was convertible currency and government finances were in balance.

Then, Vesna Matić writes about three giants of Serbian finances: Đorđe Weifert, Vojislav Veljković and Velimir Bajkić who were given credit for the preservation of national currency Dinar during and immediately after the First World War. Businessman and banker Đorđe Weifert, as Governor of the National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbia in exile, succeeded in managing to preserve convertibility of Dinar during the First World War. French student who earned his doctorate at the Sorbonne, Vojislav Veljković, as finance minister after the First World War, was given credit for successfully and efficiently carried out a currency reform in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Velimir Bajkić, one of the greatest Serbian economic theorists of liberal provenance, for creating a modern law on the Privileged National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

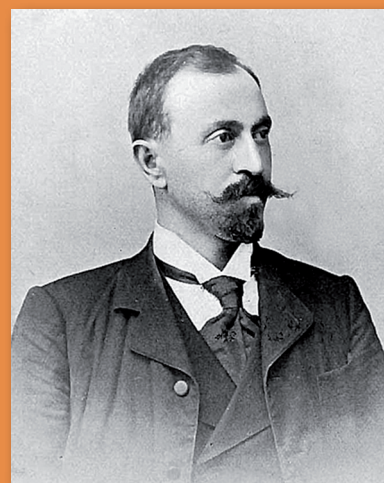
Period of liberal capitalism ended up in the Kingdom of SCS in 1929, when King Alexander introduced dictatorship. The period of dictatorship coincided with the period of the Great Depression. Exit from the



Dr Laza Paču



Stojan Protić



Kosta Stojanović

tada modernog zakona o Privilegovanoj narodnoj banci Kraljevine SHS.

Vreme liberalnog kapitalizma završava se u Kraljevini SHS uvođenjem diktature Kralja Aleksandra 1929. godine. Period diktature poklopiće se sa periodom Velike svetske ekonomske krize. Izlaz iz krize bio je obeležen uvođenjem državnog kapitalizma u Kraljevini Jugoslaviji. Milanu Stojadinoviću, doktoru javnih finansija, školovanom u Srbiji i Nemačkoj, predsedniku vlade Kraljevine Jugoslavije u godinama pred Drugi svetski rat, pripada zasluga za oporavak državnih finansija i nacionanog novca od kriznih poremećaja. Dr Vesna Matić podvlači da je uspeh Stojadinovića da izvuče zemlju iz krize bio rezultat primene mera kejsnijanske ekonomije tražnje, gde su značajnu ulogu odigrali javni radovi.

Sa Drugim svetskim ratom završava se višedecenijski period uspešne borbe za konvertibilnost nacionalne valute i uravnotežene državne finansije. Ekonomija socijalističke Jugoslavije bila je drugo ime za monetarnu i finansijsku nestabilnost. Ipak, dr Vesna Matić u ovom periodu nalazi jednu epizodu zdravog novca i relativno zdravih finansija u kojoj je glavnu ulogu imao privrednik i uspešan bankar Branko Čolanović. Kao guverner Narodne banke Jugoslavije od 1972. do 1977. godine, zaslužan je za osnivanje i početak rada deviznog tržišta, kratkotrajan uspešan period eksterne konvertibilnosti

dinara uz primenu režima fleksibilnog umesto režima fiksnog deviznog kursa. Konačno, među velikane srpskih finansija dr Vesna Matić svrstava dr Dragoslava Avramovića, dugogodišnjeg stručnjaka Svetske Banke u Vašingtonu i guvernera Narodne banke od 1994. do 1996. godine, kome se pripisuje zasluga za uspešnu remonetizaciju monetarnog prostora Srbije i Crne Gore posle razorne hiperinflacije iz 1993. godine.

Knjiga dr Vesne Matić nema zaključak, ali se on pažljivim čitanjem nameće. Tek sumirajući okolnosti u kojima se dvanaest velikana srpskih finansija borilo tokom posmatranih 125 godina za zdravu meru novca i državnog budžeta, postaje jasno koliko su nas svi oni zadužili. U ovom, u istorijskom smislu kratkom periodu, stabilnost nacionalnog novca i državnih finansija bila je gotovo u svakom trenutku ugrožena zbog: ratova, čestih promena privrednih i političkih sistema, proširivanja i sužavanja monetarnog prostora nacionalne valute usled teritorijalnih promena, dejstva raznih oblika ekonomskih sankcija, kao i jakih egzogenih i endogenih privrednih kriza koje su se manifestovale kroz deflaciju, inflaciju i hiperinflaciju. Kada se ovo ima u vidu jasno je da bi bez jakih, obrazovanih, stručnih i uglednih ličnosti na rukovodećim funkcijama u ministarstvu finansija i centralnoj banci borba za zdrav novac i državne finansije bila samo rat protiv vetrenjača. Ova činjenica bi se mogla tretirati kao važna pouka iz prošlosti.



Dr Vojislav Veljković



Đorđe Vajfert



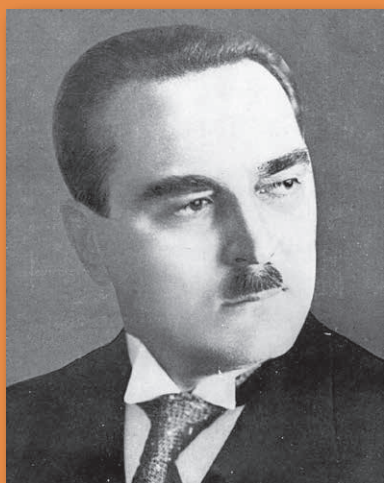
Dr Velimir Bajkić

crisis was marked by the introduction of state capitalism in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Milan Stojadinović, educated in Serbia and Germany, who earned PhD degree in public finances, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in the years before the Second World War, deserves credit for the recovery of national currency and state finances from crisis disorders. Dr Vesna Matić emphasizes that the success of Milan Stojadinović to bring the country out of the crisis was the result of the implementation of Keynesian measures of demand side economics, where the important role had been played by public works.

With the Second World War ends a decades-long period of successful struggle for the convertibility of the national currency and balanced state finances in Serbia. The economy of socialist Yugoslavia was another name for monetary and financial volatility. However, Vesna Matić found in this period one episode of stable national currency and relatively healthy government finances in which successful businessman and banker Branko Čolanović had the leading role. As Governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia from 1972 to 1977, he deserves for the establishment and initial operation of the foreign exchange market in Belgrade and for short-lasting successful period of external convertibility of Dinar with the use of a flexible exchange rate instead of a fixed exchange rate regime. Finally, among the

greats of Serbian finances Vesna Matić includes Dragoslav Avramović, a longtime expert of the World Bank in Washington D.C., and Governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia from 1994 to 1996, who is credited with the successful re-monetization of the territories of Serbia and Montenegro after the devastating hyperinflation of 1993.

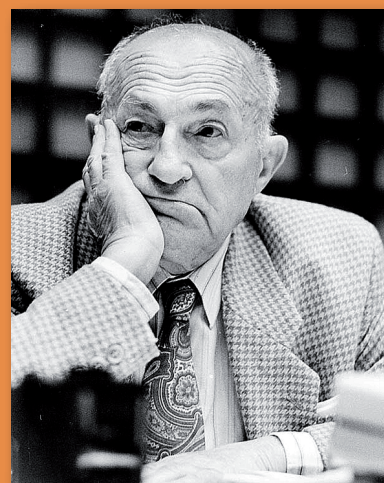
The book written by Vesna Matić has no conclusion. However, after a careful reading, it imposes one. Summarizing the circumstances in which twelve giant Serbian financiers struggled during these 125 years for a healthy measure of money and the government budget, it becomes clear how much we all are indebted to them. In this, in a historical sense short period of time, money public finance were almost at any time compromised due to: wars, frequent changes in economic and political systems, expansion and contraction of the monetary space of the national currency due to territorial changes, the effects of various forms of economic sanctions, as well as strong exogenous and endogenous economic crises that emerged through deflation, inflation and hyperinflation episodes. When this is taken into account it is clear that without strong, educated, professional and distinguished personalities in leadership positions in the finance ministry and central bank struggle for money and healthy public finances would have only been a war against the windmills. This fact could be treated as an important lesson from the past.



Dr Milan Stojadinović



Branislav Čolanović



Dr Dragoslav Avramović

Promocija knjige

U Udruženju banaka 20. marta ove godine održana je promocija knjige *Finansije srpske* dr Vesne Matić specijalnog savetnika za poslove banaka sa privrednim sektorom u zemlji. Ovo je njena druga knjiga nastala nakon *Operativnih rizika*. Knjigu koja sadrži 12 priča o velikanima naših finansija na engleskom i srpskom jeziku izdalo je Udruženje banaka a štampala Čugura Print.

Na promociji o knjizi su govorili: generalni sekretar UBS dr Veroljub Dugalić koji je i recenzent knjige, ex Viceguverner NBJ i član Odbora izvršnih direktora MMF-a za Jugoslaviju Žarko Trbojević, takođe recezent *Finansija srpskih*, potom Dragana Gnjatović, profesor ekonomije i član Redakcionog odbora časopisa Bankarstvo i na kraju sama autorka Vesna Matić. Nakon toga, usledio je razgovor prisutnih sa autorkom kada su istaknute pohvale za odabir ličnosti u knjizi i značaj za našu ekonomsku istoriju.



Promotion of the book

On 20 March 2015 the Association of Serbian Banks organized the promotion of *Serbian Finances*, the book by dr Vesna Matić, ASB Special Advisor for Domestic Corporate Banking. This is her second book, written after *Operational Risks*. The book contains 12 stories about the great men of the Serbian finances, written both in Serbian and in English. It is published by the Association of Serbian Banks, and printed by Čugura Print.

The people who spoke about the book at the promotion are: dr Veroljub Dugalić, ASB Secretary General, as a reviewer, Mr Žarko Trbojević, former Vice-governor of the NBY amd a member of the IMF Executive Directors Committee for Yugoslavia, also a reviewer; Ms Dragana Gnjatović, professor of economics and a member of *Bankarstvo* Journal Editorial Board and, finally, the author itself, dr Vesna Matić. This was followed by a discussion with the author, during which the participants commended her selection of personalities in the book, and underlined the importance of this book for the Serbian economic history.



Velikani srpskih finansija

Dvanaest priča, dvanaest biografija o ličnostima koje su u finansijskoj sferi bojili period u kojem su živeli i radili. Čitajući njihove biografije mnogima će se nametnuti misao da su ovi velikani Srbije nedovoljno priznati, ili bolje reći nedovoljno poznati, našoj javnosti, pa čak i onima koji su studirali ekonomske nauke ili se u poslu bavili finansijama.

Priče o njima, osim biografskih podataka, potkrepljene su i citatima iz brojnih stručnih izvora i njihovih radova. Ispričane su lepim jezikom, obogaćene anegdotskim ili drugim interesantnim crticama iz života ličnosti kojoj je priča i posvećena.

Očigledno je da je dr Vesna Matić bila inspirisana biografijama ovih velikana jer kroz njene priče struji uvažavanje, divljenje, razumevanje, čak i za njihove eventualne greške i promašaje u životu i radu. Ona ih u svom kazivanju ne kritikuje zbog toga, već ih samo registruje kao podatak iz biografije, a mnogo više se posvećuje događajima i podacima o njihovim doprinosima i zalaganjima za boljitak Srbije.

Ideju da bude autor ove knjige dr Vesna Matić, specijalni savetnik, dobila je na Savetovanju koje se svake godine održava u organizaciji Udruženja banaka Srbije pod nazivom "Bank FinIng".



Great Men of the Serbian Finance

Twelve stories, twelve biographies of people from the world of finance, who left a mark in the period in which they lived and worked. Reading their biographies, many people will be surprised to realize that these great men of Serbia have been insufficiently recognized, or, better yet, insufficiently known, to the general public, even to those who studied economic sciences or worked in finance.

The stories about them, other than purely biographical facts, contain the quotes from numerous professional sources and their own works. Told in a beautiful language, they are enriched by anecdotes or other interesting scenes from the lives of portrayed personalities.

It is more than evident that Dr Vesna Matić was inspired by the biographies of these great men, given that her stories exude deep respect, admiration, understanding, even for their potential mistakes and blunders in life and work. In her narrative, she does not criticize them, but only registers those occasions as biographical data, devoting much more attention to the events and information concerning their contributions and efforts to the benefit of Serbia.

The idea to write this book Dr Vesna Matić got at the "Bank FinIng" symposium organized every year by the Association of Serbian Banks, prepared and moderated by herself. In her presentations she would always leave some time to tell a story about a famous person from the world of finance. As their number increased, the idea about this book was born.

dr Veroljub Dugalić

Amanet mlađim generacijama

Pažljivo odabrani finansijski stručnjaci, njihov život i delo, ispričani su na način koji čitaocu drži pažnju i budi želju ne samo za spoznajom istorijskih činjenica, već i o kakvim je ličnostima reč. Naslovljene maštovito, priče već na samom početku slikaju glavne karakterne crte velikana srpske ekonomske istorije.

Ova knjiga je amanet mlađim generacijama, jer ostavlja otvorenim stranice istorije na kojima su ispisani životi i dela graditelja finansijskog sistema Srbije. Posebno onih, koji su to činili u novijoj istoriji, obzirom da skoro i nema pisane reči o njihovom delu i radu.



Bequest to Younger Generations

The life and achievements of carefully selected financial experts are portrayed in such a manner as to grab the attention of the readers, fueling their desire to learn more not only about the historical facts, but about these personalities as well. Owing to their imaginative titles, already at the beginning these stories depict the major character traits of the great men in the Serbian economic history.

This book is a bequest to the younger generations, due to the light it sheds on the pages of history concerning the lives and achievements of those who built the financial system of Serbia. Especially those who have been doing so in recent history, given that there are basically no written records about their work.

Žarko Trbojević



Motiv

Dok sam ispisivala redove ove knjige zaista sam bila snažno motivisana osećajem ponosa, ali i željom da te divne i velike ljude predstavim široj javnosti. Zbog svega što su učinili za Srbiju, s pravom možemo da kažemo da je ekonomska i finansijska civilizacija u Srbiji počela od najstarijih likova iz ove moje priče. A priča počinje davno, negde u prvoj polovini XIX veka. Naglašavam vremensku dimenziju, jer je Srbija u to vreme još uvek bila u poluvazalnom položaju u odnosu na Tursku, potpuno uništena, osiromašena i sa skoro 100% nepismenim stanovništvom. Takva Srbija iznedrila je velike ljude, koji su imali neverovatnu snagu da se dignu iz ovakvog okruženja, da svoje obrzovanje dovedu do visokog nivoa - skoro svi su svoje školovanje završili na najprestižnijim evropskim univerzitetima i odbranili doktorske teze, i da se vrate u Srbiju, sa željom da pomognu i nešto dobro urade za svoju zemlju. Zato su oni zaslužili da potpuno otresemo prašinu sa njihovih biografija i dela i da ih trajno zapamtimo.



Dok sam pisala knjigu, sve vreme sam imala potrebu da pored potrebne mere istorijskih podataka, ostavim dovoljno prostora i za emociju koju sam nosila u sebi i koju sam želela da prenesem čitaocima moje knjige. Osećaj ponosa i spoznaja o veličini ovih ljudi bili su snažan motiv da osim dela, osvetlim i ličnost ovih velikana - njihov lični i profesionalni profil. Zbog svega toga, knjigu sam pisala jednostavnim jezikom, sa željom da bude zanimljiva za čitanje i za čitaoce koji nisu ekonomske struke. Motiv je bio samo jedan - da široki auditorij, a posebno mlađe generacije, saznaju koliko razloga imaju da budu ponosni na svoje korene, koji su zaista sjajni. Imali smo divne, velike i uspešne ljude.



Motivation

While I was writing this book, I was strongly motivated by a feeling of pride, and a desire to present all those wonderful and amazing people to the general public. Bearing in mind everything that they did for Serbia, we can rightfully say that the economic and financial civilization in Serbia commenced with the oldest characters from my story. And the story began long time ago, in the first half of the XIX century. I am underlining the time dimension, because at that period Serbia was still in a half-vassal position in relation to Turkey, completely devastated, impoverished, and with almost 100% illiterate population. Even so, that Serbia nurtured great people, who possessed the unbelievable strength to rise above such an environment, to perfect their high-level education - almost all of them graduated from and defended their doctoral thesis at the most prestigious European universities - and return to Serbia, fuelled by their desire to help and do good for their home country. This is why they deserved that we sweep off the dust from their biographies and permanently remember their life achievements.

While I was writing this book, I was constantly overwhelmed by the need to leave sufficient room, in addition to the required measure of historical data, for the emotions that I cherished and wanted to convey to my readers. The feelings of pride and recognition about the greatness of these people were a powerful motivation to shed light not only to the works, but also the personality of these great men - i.e. to create both their personal and professional profile. For all these reasons, I wrote the book in a simple language, with a view to making it interesting even to the readers outside the economic profession. The motive was one and only - i.e. for the general public, especially younger generations, to learn how many reasons they have to be proud of their roots, which are truly amazing. We really did have wonderful, brilliant and successful people.

dr Vesna Matić