



**HRVATSKI
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KULTURE**

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Zagreb, January 27, 2014

Subject: Request for donation to support publishing “*Costumes in the Neretva Delta through the Centuries*”

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the Croatian Cultural Parliament (Hrvatski Sabor Kulture) is a longtime publisher of specialized material about the Croatian traditional heritage (dances, music, costumes, customs) and has published over 50 books on these topics. Our latest offering is the book titled “*Costumes in the Neretva Delta through the Centuries*”, which will be co-published by the Cultural Society of Metkovic, a not-for-profit organization preserving folk dance and costumes, and the Croatian Foundation in Metkovic, another not-for-profit organization focused on the culture in this region. In addition, the Croatian Heritage Foundation will participate as a promotional sponsor.

Relying on several-decades-long ethnographic fieldwork in traditional folklore and popular culture, the author provides a comparison with the relevant written sources throughout history, and substantiated a large number of illustrations selected from the sphere of historic photographs, art history and contemporary fine art (paintings and prints) as well as various publications (from maps to postcards, photographs and catalogs exhibition “Folk Handicrafts Neretva”). This methodological approach is further enriched by numerous drawings: cuts for component parts sets of costumes, dress order, etc. Specifically, the book will be of great value to any Croatian cultural and art societies as a historic document or a manual for the re-creation of the national costume in the Neretva region.

We hope we can count on you and your organization to support the publication of this book. In exchange for your donation, we will include your organization’s logo in the printed book, as well as ensure a proportionate number of books for your participation. The digital creation of the book is finalized. The next fundraising phase is focused on covering the printing cost of US\$20,000.00.

About the Book:

The significance of the book is best described by excerpts from reviews of two ethnographic institutions in Croatia -- the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb and the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research:

“*Costumes in the Neretva Delta through the Centuries*” is an important contribution to the conservation of ethnographic and folklore heritage of the Neretva region. Croatian folk literature has been enriched by a new pragmatic knowledge and skills of traditional culture and creativity for the geographic area of the lower river Neretva region in the period from the 17th until the first decade of the 21st century. A large contribution to the traditional intangible cultural heritage of the Neretva region is also the native terminology and dictionary. (From review by *Ivanka Ivkanec, the Counselor of the Ethnographic Museum, Zagreb*)

This latest work of the folklorist Prof. Radojka Bagur provides a new way of viewing the changes in the society through the centuries, particularly in comparison with research of the work of Fr. Andrija Kacic Miosic. Publishing this book would not only accomplish preserving the cultural traditions, but would also contribute to the shaping of the Croatian cultural politics. (Recommendation to publish the book by *Tvrтко Zebec, PhD, Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research*)

About Contributions:

For additional information, including instructions for the payment of donations (marked for the book “*Costume in the Neretva Delta through the Centuries*”), contact the Croatian Parliament of Culture, as well as the co-publishers signed below: the Cultural Association - Folklore Metkovic and Matica Hrvatska Metkovic. For the US-based individuals or organizations, please see the below contact for our partner organization in Boston, NEFC.

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In addition, our partner for fundraising in the USA is:

New England Friends of Croatia (NEFC)

www.friendsofcroatia.org

this 501c3 organization will provide a tax deductible note to the US-based individuals or organizations

Treasurer: Ariana Zelic, azelic@charter.net

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

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