THE FALCON MOVEMENT IN SMEDEREVO
UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR
(1912-1941)

Summary
Basic ideas and characteristics of fundamental falconry are disseminated also in the Kingdom of Serbia, ideas of fellowship, releasing of Germanization influence and strengthening of national and cultural conscience. Gymnastics associations accepted the idea of overall Slavic falconry exercising, and added to their names title “Falcon”, as in Czech Falcons, and introduced Czech “Falcon” exercising system, instead of German one. Also Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association in the course of time chose the falcon exercising system. The aim of this research was to find, systemize and critically analyze data about the falconry in Smederevo, about the falcon association “Dusan Silni” (Dusan the Mighty), which as a successor continued the activities of the previous association – Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association. The basic assumption was founded on the expectation that data from the archive, periodical sources and ex falcon legacy would provide a satisfying base for reconstruction of Falcon Association history, i.e. appearance and development of the Falconry in Smederevo. During the research historic, causal and descriptive methods were used. Research results for the reference period, show that despite complex political, social, economic and cultural situation in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Falcon Association of Smederevo played a significant role in spreading and development of the falcon movement and promotion of Yugoslav national thought. Large number of data showed that activities of this falcon organization were extremely versatile. Well organized training programs, numerous participation in falcon rallies and competitions, as well as health, educational, cultural and other forms of acting of the Association, had great influence on social and cultural transformation of the town of Smederevo as well as of the nearby villages and rural population, for which falcon foremen took most credit.

Key words: FALCON RALLIES / FALCON IDEA / FALCON ASPIRATIONS / FRONTMEN

INTRODUCTION

During research of the history of the Association for Physical Education “Partizan” in Smederevo (Vukašinović, 1996), it came to our attention that activities of Partizan had been deeply engrained in pre-war falcon movement. Beliefs of the ex falcon members were that there were little saved and available data for research of Smederevo falconry. It was believed that there were no original Association documents saved. It was not clear whether prior to the occupation the concealed documentation had perhaps vanished in war ashes, since Smederevo suffered two war destructions at the beginning of the Second World War - during the April bombing in 1941, and during the dreadful ammunition explosion in the Fortress on June 5, 1091, or it was lost in the course of allied bombing from June 11 to June 16, 1944.

Despite that, sentimental feelings gathered during the time and changed relationship of society towards this, for such a long time, suppressed phenomenon of falconry, invoked an old wish of Asso-
association members to find new traces in its further history. At the moment of reconstruction of Smederevo falconry, in 2007, very little was known about Falcon Association, a few names of founders, unclear date of place and year of foundation, a few photographs and memories, paled in time. The history of Smederevo Falcon Association hasn’t so far been researched, and it was not possible to analyze it without basic knowledge from the history of Belgrade, Serbian and Yugoslav falconry.

Basic ideas and characteristics of fundamental falconry are founded on libertarian ideas and principles of civil society arisen from French democratic revolution “Freedom, equality, brotherhood”, as well as the philosophy of the ancient Hellenes – “gymnasion was not just a place where one could occasionally stop to exercise, but also an educational institution, which nourished culture of body and spirit (Ioanndis, Stefanović, Koriou, Šiljak, & Mijatović, 2008). In spirit of liberalism, democracy, altruism and tough discipline, the creator and founder of falconry, a philosopher Dr. Miroslav Tirs and his associates created the falcon movement and body exercising organization where the idea of unity, release of Germanization and strengthening of national and cultural conscience was propagated. Tirs’s idea that moral and body rebirth is a skeleton of falcon activities, led to extreme development of the falcon movement and large interest for this organization outside of Czech, Moravia and Slovakia.

Belgrade Gymnastics Association, added to its name a title “Falcon” in accordance with Prague Falcons (1891), and it first accepted the idea of overall Slavic falcon exercising, to be introduced instead of German exercising system. Therewith, establishing similar associations in the Kingdom of Serbia began in Kragujevac, Sabac, Nis... (Ilić, 2008; Ilić, & Mijatović, 2006). Decision to name the gymnastics associations “Falcon” in Serbia, caused strong reaction and disagreement among its members. This dispute led to the founding of a new association named Citizen Gymnastics Association “Dusan the Mighty” (1892), whereas later the name was changed to the Knight’s Association “Dusan the Mighty”. Its members supported the idea of relying the work of the association on Serbian history, with hallmarks of Serbian tradition and statehood. While members of Falcon Associations were abandoning the Association and going over to “Dusan the Mighty”, in entire Serbia affiliations of “Dusanovac members” were found-ed (Trujić, 1967; Petrović, 1983; Ilić, & Mijatović, 2006). Misunderstandings, unsportsmanlike rivalry and splitting of falconry membership lasted for 18 years, until its uniting in 1910, and therefore Serbian gymnastics and falconry were in serious crisis.

Gymnastics associations in province had a tough job to decide which association to join. Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association (founded in 1885) maintained cooperation with both Belgrade associations, respecting the choice and commitment of members, while retaining its own name. This is supported by data in regards with Association activities and cooperation which Smederevo maintained with both Belgrade Associations. In those years, at the end of the 19th century, while our organizations were in dispute, The Second and The Third Overall Slavic Rally were held in Prague, Czech country (XV Všesokolsky slet, 150 let v pohybu, 2012). These rallies became more and more popular, number of participants climbed to 5000 and audience to 30 000. Serbs, Slovenes, Croats and Poles participated in the procession.

In the history of Serbian Kingdom and later Yugoslav Kingdom, social and political events happened quickly, dynasties Obrenovic and Karadjordjevic swop the throne, a constitutional battle with willful rulers was led, Constitutions were adopted and abolished, non-democratic regimes were abolished, social and economic reforms initiated, crises, state bankruptcy... The same situation was in the period when old century was replaced by the new one – assassination of Aleksandar Obrenovic (1903), social and economic changes with Petar I Karadjordjevic, soon the imposed Customs war by Austro Hungary (1906-1910), and the Balkans war (1912-1913), as an introduction to the First World War and other events until the beginning of the Second World War, created occasions that significantly influenced life of an ordinary man, social relationships, and even development of falcon movement, because a Falcon shared destiny of his state and people.

The aim of this research was to find, systemize and critically analyze data about the founding and development of the Falcon movement in Smederevo, in the period from 1912 to 1941, bearing in mind context and reflex of overall social and historic events for the reference period.

The basic assumption was founded on expectation that data from the available archive, legacy and recollection of a few ex falcon members should en-
able reconstruction of the origin and development of the Falconry in Smederevo, i.e. Falcon Association in Smederevo that would continue activities of the previous Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association.

METHOD

Historic, causal and descriptive methods were applied in the research. In frames of heuristics the widest fact oriented material was consulted: monographs, falconry periodicals, funds, repertoires, annuals, reports, minutes, brochures, rules, photo-documentation, and legacies of ex falcons. The collected data from historic sources was classified, analyzed and compared with different aspects that characterized the development of falconry in time period from 1912 to 1941, depending on situation in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Positive changes in Serbian gymnastics and falconry, after combining falcon and knight unions, contributed to maturing of the Association for Gymnastics and Combat members’ idea for changing the name of their organization. That was ongoing at the time of arrival of 9 Czech falcon gymnastics teachers appointed by the Government of the Kingdom of Serbia (starting from March 1911) and appointed to 9 Serbian towns (Ilić, & Mijatović, 2006). The Czech foremen provided great contribution by working in Grammar Schools, Falcon Associations and Military Academy.

The falcon association “Dusan the Mighty“ was founded in Smederevo in 1912. The precise date is not available, though it is assumed that the founding was taking place till the beginning of the first Balkans war (October 8, 1912). Since falcon association activities were reduced or ceased during the Balkans wars (Obradović, 1912; 1914), the annual reports for 1912 for the Union of Falcon Associations “Dusan the Mighty“, as well as Reports and chronicles of Smederevo Grammar School (where falconry was propagated) and therewith, specific founding data of Falcon Association “Dusan the Mighty“ in Smederevo was not issued. In the next, 1913 year, after the end of the Second Balkans War (from June 16 to July 10, 1913), Smederevo Falcon Association was registered into the Union of Falcon Associations. Otherwise, it was usual to have falcon associations, prior to their founding, submit a request to Belgrade Falcon Parish in the course of one year and receive approval – decision in the following year. Therefore, as confirmed in the researched data from a dozen of reliable sources, - in periodicals and statistical reports (Report on Work of Smederevo Grammar School for the School Year 1913-1914; Obradović, 1914), as well as reports about Belgrade Falcon Parish (Reports for the Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade, March 13, 1932; The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1936; The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1937; The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1938), as well as manuscripts from remnants and remembrance of falcon frontmen and members (Stojanović, 1994), date of Falcon Association in Smederevo founding and the beginning of the falconry is linked both to 1912 and 1913 and is often cited as “school year 1912/13“.

It is known that, till the beginning of the Balkans Wars, activities of Falcon Associations in Belgrade Falcon Parish were very dynamic. In that year Serbian Falcons participated in The Sixth Overall Slavic Rally in Prague. Few events are connected with occurrence of falconry in Smederevo from the end of 1911 and further on, that preceded foundation of Association, and were in the Report on Work of Smederevo Grammar School and school chronicle. Grammar school pupils showed great interest in body exercising and falcon activities that were propagated. Then, a teacher, Ahilo Kalman, known as a proponent of gymnastics and founder of Gymnastics and Combat Association in 1885, held a speech on St. Sava’s day about the importance of the falconry exercising (Report on Work of Smederevo Grammar School for the School Year 1910-1911). Further on, at the end of March 1912, a lecture about “Behaviour in Falcon Association” was held and on that occasion the falconry brochure was issued by Svetislav Petrovic, an owner of a printing office in Smederevo. And in the end, Minister of Education Ljuba Jovanovic (a famous Belgrade falcon) visited Grammar School in August 1912 and probably that occasion acceler-
ated founding of the Association (Report on Work of Smederevo Grammar School for the School Year 1910-1911; Pavlović, Bulatović, & Paunović, 1971), especially when he met there a teacher Radivoje Ristic as well as his old acquaintance from the period of the work of the Gymnastics and Combat Association, the teacher Ahil Kalman. All of it had happened prior to the beginning of the First Balkans War.

The founding assembly was held in the café of a reputable hotel “Laf” on the Danube riverbank. The hall of the café from the yard side had movable inventory, so after the assembly it was used as a gym. Association founders were grammar school pupils who were attracted by the idea of falconry (Mladen Milic, brothers and sisters Pandurovic, brothers Ciric, brothers Konstantinovic, M. Djoric, N. Dimitrijevic and older practitioners, already active in the existing association Mihajlo Balzareno, brothers Nikola and Djordje Nicota, Tosa Jeftic and Dragisa Nisavic). This initiative was supported also by Grammar School teachers Ahilo Kalman and Radivoje Ristic, active from the past time in the Association for Gymnastics and Combat, a supplement teacher Moljub Todorovic, as well as the mentioned printer Svetislav Petrovic. The first head of the Association was a reputable Smederevo citizen, bank officer Dragisa Nisavic, and the first chief was Mihajlo Balzareno (Stepanović, 2008).

Data in connection with activities of Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association from 1904, 1908 and 1911 (The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1936), confirmed the assumption that it was about the continuation of the Association activities, which means it was reorganized and renamed to Falcon Association “Dusan the Mighty”. It is interesting that Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association was one of the oldest Gymnastics Associations in the Kingdom of Serbia and in Smederevo Danube basin, founded in 1885 (Spernjak, 1931; Petrović, 1983; Ilić, & Mijatović, 2006). The expert work in this association was carried by certain gymnastics teachers in Smederevo Grammar School and officers, who were appointed by the Ministry. Their dedication to organize gymnastics marked the pre-history of Smederevo Falconry.

Falcon training classes started to take place in the mentioned hall, in the beginning only gymnastics was exercised: simple exercises, exercises on a wooden loom, iron bar that was carried by taller practitioners, on their shoulders such as shaft and also they were lifting cannonballs. Also, “French” boxing was trained (hitting both with hands and legs). When swords had been purchased, they started with sword-play. The inventory was getting richer by purchase and its hand making, such as climbing rope and tug rope, etc. (Stojanović, 1994). In probably one of the oldest photographs from the falconry frames, one of bunch of exercising events at that time was saved, and that was the Falcon Rally in Smederevo Fortress, held in 1914, just before the start of the First World War.

Picture 1. Falcon rally in Smederevo fortress, 1914
In working with younger Falcon membership typical was the attention paid to four things that determined the essence of falcon idea, which was manifested through: body and moral (spiritual) upbringing, as well as upbringing of national, patriotic and democratic spirit. Falcon union influenced the work of association and enlightened the membership in spirit of falconry through the falcon press. Activities were suddenly interrupted because the First World War began, membership was drastically lost or lessened or it was prosecuted because of the patriotism, and many of them applied to the military. In Smederevo county, when comparing male population in 1910 with the number from 1916, loss of male population due to bombing, war operations or detention camps was around 8,500 or 37,20% (Popović, & Popović, 1995).

In the new, united state, Falcon Movement of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (June 1919) was formed and a principle “one state, one nation, one falconry” was then established. This union was renamed into Yugoslav falconry union since August 1920 (Mijatović, 2006). After making decisions on the first Falcon Assembly in Novi Sad (June 1919), Falcon Unions were dissolved and Falcon Parishes were established that will bear the name on the territorial basis (Belgrade Parish in its title will retain the name “Dusan the Mighty”). Based on the decision of the 2nd Falcon Parliament in Zagreb (August 1924) Falcon Societies in their name will erase national and historical attributes (Serbian will delete name “Dusan the Mighty”) and will carry the name of their village or town.

The Association work was restarted by Grammar School director Rudolf Biklovic in 1924, who was then appointed head of association and the chief was Ivan Oblak, gymnastics teacher working in Grammar School (Sokolska župa Beograd, 1937). First two years were especially difficult in renewing of falconry in Smederevo and till the end of 1928 work and assumptions for organizational strengthening of Falcon Association Smederevo consolidated slowly and painfully.

Thanks to the kindness of Municipality and Board - consisting of most reputable Smederevo citizens, membership of falcons got a space for work – gym of falcons on the first floor of the building “Zaduzbina” of the late benefactor Steva Kuzmanovic, a building that with its architectonic decision could be compared with beauty of the Catholic Church and the Court building in Smederevo. Older falcons were
giving various interesting data about the falconry in
Smederevo, one of which was that the association
possessed a cinema of falcons. The expensive pro-
jector was donated to the falcons by a benefactor Jo-
van Kodzas in order to overcome a financial crisis.
Movies were projected from the hall’s balcony and
the income was used for purchase of cinema inven-
tory, movies’ purchase and payment of utilization and
maintenance of the gym. The house of falcons was lo-
cated on the first floor of “Zaduzbina” where it had a
spatial main and auxiliary gym, accompanying prem-
ises, falcon library and reading-room. In the gym of
falcons, besides exercising the following was organ-
ized: dances, public classes, lottery, and collection
of voluntary and humanitarian donations at falcons’
evenings.

Belgrade Parish tempted to establish strong in-
fluence on falcon associations. It managed to enforce
that by strong organization and deployment of asso-
ociations in parishes, by influencing the planning and
accomplishment of their mandatory activities and
cooperation between the associations. It had a con-
stant insight into the work of associations through its
delegates and was receiving periodical reports from
them.

From the middle of 1928, when the Union ap-
pointed for Smederevo Association Ante Tadic as a
head, a dynamic teacher and falcon front man edu-
cated in Prague, dynamic and versatile work of Sme-
derevo falcons was established. His arrival to the As-
sociation enabled Smederevo falcons and population
finally to experience all valuable characteristics of
falconry. Early in the first year of his engagement in
Smederevo, he managed to enlarge membership in all
categories, especially female. He formed the second-
ary school falcon branch, gathered ex practitioners to
the front man’s board to work with the youngsters, he
introduced regularity in organizing falcon manifesta-
tions and actions, public classes, academies, rallies,
different celebrations with performances “kermes“
(dances), establishing various funds, purchase of
gymnastics devices... In the same year Tadic found-
ed small falcon expert library with a bookstore and
city orchestra (1928) and he started cooperation with
other falcons’ associations. Pupils, students, workers
and other citizens who studied and worked or lived
outside of Smederevo started getting back to better
organized and stronger Association.

Organizational consolidation of Smederevo
Association was based on extremely strong person-
alities – fore men, initiated by Tadic’s arrival to Sme-
derevo. Their energy and love towards gymnastics in
general, also the emphasized moral and work abilities
in building of a strong falcon collective and influence
on individuals, today from a distance of one century
is simply fascinating. The newly elected head who
was entrusted by the Belgrade Parish to “conduct reorganization from a technical side” (Kujundžić, 1928), in spite of very short time period spent in Smederevo (1928-1932, matches with his service in Grammar School), undertook decisive steps and left deep traces in the Association that became a guide to other falcons in further work of falcon organization.

The society had such a rhythm of regular training, cultural and educational activities that number of members rose to 600. With the activities such as lectures, short speeches (short lectures in front of practitioners), country parties, public classes, festive and gymnastics academies, summer holidays on the Adriatic coast, organizing falcon evenings where pupils’ orchestras played, falcons’ choir sang, recitation of its members, pledge on a statehood day, forming village brigades, puppet and athletic sections, Russian falcon section, as well as other forms of cultural development, put on motion an inert village mentality of the town of Smederevo.

Falcon cultural influence in Smederevo strengthened during the time, so falcons always had their place in programs in various town celebrations. And different performances where thematic lectures, concerts, movie projections, or poetry recitals were conducted, almost always were followed by falcon exercising, the so-called gymnastics academies or public exercising classes. These celebrations were visited by the most reputable persons from the district. Organizing manifestations for important religious holidays, Easter, Christmas or Vidovdan, brought large popularity to the Falcons because on such occasions more citizens gathered. Some academies would be preceded by festive processions as announcement and the beginning of the academy program. The academies were held most often in falcon gym or Municipality Hall, and public classes with gymnastics exercising in open space, summer falcon gym.

The framework of program activities in falcon branch was gymnastics. Simple exercises were trained, exercises on devices, rhythmic, exercises with requisites, group rally exercises. Federal falcon organization prescribed contests (“games”) with easy athletic contents, and soon other sports disciplines were accepted, too.

Program of professional development of membership in falconry system of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was ambitiously set. Advanced practitioners were sent to periodically organized front men courses, mostly parish ones, in Belgrade, and rarely the federal ones. Social front men courses were organized by experts and experienced front men. Front courses were not easy; those would last for 2, 3 or 4 weeks. A front man title was gained after having passed theory and practical part that enabled them for work in falcon associations, but also for teaching in primary and secondary schools. The individuals attending the course had at their disposal literature with different, overwhelming physical contents (Brozović, 1930).

The association was active in the initiative of founding village brigades which extremely well influenced the social and cultural transformation of the village environment. The first falcon brigade was founded in Lozovik 1929 and was the most successful one. Then, the brigades were formed in Milesevac (1931), Osipaonica and Lugavcina (1934), Radinac and Saraocr (1936) and Vodanj in 1939. (The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1937).

In the period between the two world wars, but also in the earlier past of Smederevo, in the 19th century, there were many humane people in Smederevo, benefactors and donors who were helping the Association and there were also citizens organized through falcon humanitarian activities, usually on the occasion of various festivities. The festivities were given great importance to. State holidays, birthdays of the King and members of the King’s dynasty, various historic and other anniversaries, state and falcon jubilees were celebrated. One of the central festivities in the frames of falcon activities was “Falcon’s Peter’s fifth year”. That was an important educational, cultural and advertising project of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia falcons that was symbolizing loyalty and love towards the King and his heir to the throne. In celebrations of Peter’s five years, the Yugoslav falconry was morally obliged – plighted to work in the five-year period for the benefit of their country and population by fulfilling useful tasks, because “sports in the course of its historic development was often depicting the economic, social and political dimension of the society” (Šiljak, Mijatović, & Parčina, 2013). The most important pledge of Smederevo falcons was to collect as much money as possible for building of falcon house that would be named “King Peter II”.

Falcon rallies were public manifestations which had vast role in spreading falcon idea – ideology (Ćuk, 2013). Falcon union was attempting to have three parts within the program despite the level, and those were: falcon parades through the town at the beginning and the end of rallies, then falcon competitions (games) in exercising on devices and other disciplines and falcon manifestations where mass training by large number of participants was shown including various cultural contents. According to the structure of falcon organization in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia county, parish and province rallies were held (they were also named federal or state because of open participation of cities). Falcon association in Smederevo participated in large number of rallies and competitions by organizing them as a host or a guest to other associations and unions after having qualified for those. Smederevo was well-known as a good rally host. The past of the town and the ancient fortress on the Danube riverbank were interesting for guest falcons for sight-seeing prior to competitions. Guests were arriving to Smederevo by boat or train, which itself was interesting for competitors.

Besides district, generational and parish rallies, Smederevo falcons had participated since 1926 in almost all biggest rallies (Ђрзовић, 1930; 1935). Those were: The 8th Overall Slavic Rally in Prague (1926), The 6th Province Falcon Rally in Skopje (1928), The First Overall Falcon Rally of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in Belgrade (1930), The First Province Rally in Ljubljana (1933), The Second Province Rally in Sarajevo (1934), The Third Province Rally in Zagreb (1934) and The Eighth Rally of Bulgarian Heroes in Sofia (1935). Especially interesting was the Fourth Province Rally in Subotica (June 1936) where department for female generation won the 1st place and a title of state champion and was honored with silver wreath of Belgrade Parish (The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1937). Smederevo generation group was representing Yugoslavia falconry in the following year due to the great success in the State Rally in academies organized in Belgrade at Kolarac and in Sofia, in the National Theatre (1937).

The overall Slavic and overall falcon rallies were parades of technical readiness in exercising and grandiose mass performances. Appearance of Smederevo falcons in The 10th Overall Slavic Rally in Prague (1938) was noticed as well as the appearance of pupils from secondary schools of Smederevo. A year later, Smederevo falcons, amongst 7000 Yugoslav participants, participated in The 9th Rally of Bulgarian Heroes in Sofia (1939), too. Only Belgrade Parish had 1150 participants for whom two train compositions were necessary for transportation.

**Picture 4. State champions of generation of Smederevo, Subotica 1936**
At the end of twenties and the beginning of thirties of the last century, when falconry was extremely strong in all fields of its acting, new sports activities in physical exercising and competitions started being accepted. Sports spirit was always developed in Smederevo, so the mentioned changes in relations of sports and falcon unions were easily accepted. Smederevo was an example amongst towns for that. Thanks to the versatile orientation in the program of activities of the Association in Smederevo, it was highly ranked in Belgrade Falcon Parish (The Annual Reports for Main Assembly of Falcon Parish Belgrade Work for the Year 1937). Smederevo falcons showed except gymnastics a great interest for other sports. They developed those and as the promoters represented especially handball, football, rowing, volleyball, athletics and cycling. Later on, they became active as sports officials in sports associations and clubs.

Besides the falcon gym, since 1935 the association possessed its summer gym. This gym was spatial, located adjacent to the Danube and it was utilized till the beginning of the Second World War. It was a favorite place because it significantly unloaded work of the falcon gym and because people were gathering there to see attractive falcon skills.
The association got all gymnastics devices in time. Even those were not the most modern ones, they served its purpose and suffered often destructive energy and escapades of the performers. Besides the gym devices, the Association also possessed a pianino, which was used for dancing and rhythmic exercising. A janitor was in charge of order in falcon gym and technical issues.

In Falcon Association Smederevo, deep trace in front man work left excellent front men, especially heads which were elected as most experienced amongst themselves. At the beginnings of Smederevo falconry there were Radivoje Ristic, Frankl Buhovec, Ivan Oblak, Bogic Danilo, Jovica Spasojevic, Petar Donic, Ante Tadic, Kolarov Djordje, Josip Kocmut… Later, thanks to them, their pupils grew into successful competitors and versatile sportsmen and became members and front men: Budimir Stojanovic, Svetozar Toza Konstantinovic, Djordje Ciric, Bozidar Prokic, Miodrag Mitrovic...

When by the law, the Falcon of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was pronounced a state institution (1929), it had great influence on creating curriculum for military and schools (Mijatović, 2006). But since social occasions were becoming more complex, conditions for falcon activities were becoming more difficult. There were more situations where falcons were morally tested to confirm their values with their behavior. Future times should show how deeply falcons believed in character, moral, wellbeing for a man and his freedom in a mutual country. Besides the internal separatism and nationalism, a danger from external enemy started growing. Yugoslav falconry was a first social organization that unconditionally mobilized all its forces for the country defense.

Exercising activities in Smederevo were replaced by defensive trainings, and special attention was paid to shooting and bike riding. Courses for easy orientation in field were organized, for connection – telegraphic, phone and first aid, as well as a course for protection from poisonous gases. Shooting training – handling and shooting from a rifle, first aid and strangulation were realized in the Fortress and in the Shooting range. During the March demonstrations, the falcons supported population by participating in protests (falcons management did not organize those protests), where insubordination towards the enemies lasting for centuries was expressed.

Since majority of falcons ran in front of the occupiers or was mobilized, the falcon gyms closed one after another, because the falcon organization ceased the work. Wishing not to extinct the values of this sports movement and to be able to revive, after the war, falcon spirit in the Danube town, a group of Smederevo falcons made sure to keep, i.e. hide, features and devices of the Association (Vukašinović, 1994). During the occupation it was dangerous to be a falcon, the work of the organization was forbidden.
by the occupier and the falcons were persecuted and arrested. The older Smederevo falcons were joining the partisans, because of that. A few members were captivated and sent to German detention camps, some of them never returned, and some were shot at the Jezava in Smederevo, in 1944.

After the Second World War had been finished, the dissolved falcon organization was not forbidden or cancelled, but also it wasn’t restarted. One of the reasons was consistency in decision not to get involved in politics, and since 1945 restarting of sports and physical culture was not possible without political influence. So the falconry stayed a memory for its ex members, and in population memories, it was an overall Slavic organization that used to promote Yugoslav and national thought, and strengthened an individual physically, spiritually, morally, intellectually and culturally.

Very soon a new gymnastics movement was formed all over the freed country, again formed on the principle of unity, brotherhood of all nations and nationalities. And as it usually happens, again sports movement and exercising, as known and tested means will connect all the nations in one country. The history is repeating, and already seen tragic fate of an ordinary Yugoslav man, condemned to suffering with deterioration of unity illusion, will repeat again after half of a century.

Smederevo sportsmen will, thanks to the falcon past and experience - the same falcon members who were front men during the thirties - quickly organize and in 1946 form a new gymnastics association – GA ”Unity” (Vukašinović, 1996).

CONCLUSION

The Falcon Association “Dusan the Mighty”, later named The Falcon Association “ Smederevo“ (1912) continued the activity of Smederevo Gymnastics and Combat Association (1885), and it remained its successor, same as it was with other gymnastics associations in Smederevo from 1910. The activity of this falcon organization strongly influenced social and cultural transformation of Smederevo and its population, as well as the surrounding villages and their population. Plenty of the held activities influenced cultural, educational and pedagogic content of the everyday life of the multinational community. The falconry made strong impression on population and made their lives better, more interesting and meaningful. The association accomplished good results in all fields and in one shorter period of time also, excellent competition and revue results.

Hymn, falcon uniforms, oath beneath the Association’s flag, performances, travels, summer holidays, work in sections, sweating in falcon’s gymnasium and summer polygons, friendship, learning and education, all that left an indelible trace in lives of members. Therefore the falcon generations have never forgotten the falcon values. The Falcons influence grew so much, that it attracted the most reputable Smederevo citizens to the membership. Such influence and reputation of a sports organization will never happen again in Smederevo.

The Second World War terminated highly developed falcon activities in many fields, and great number of activities and manifestations, activated by new government after the war were based on the ideas, experience and practice of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia Falconry. It was not too hard to recognize copied solutions, falcon ideas and methodology in mass rallies, programs, in exercising organization, idea of Yugoslavia, brotherhood and unity, five-year plans, identification of the youth with the ruler...

In its being, falconry possessed undoubtedly values that were respected by Smederevo population, so the Association was highly respected. Hard-working, experts and experienced foremen were certainly one of those values. The falcon association in Smederevo was lucky, so to say, thanks to the fact that it was a multinational town, and to its wish to have around famous experts who were not born in Smederevo. Young Smederevo population learnt a lot from those foremen, developed themselves into experienced foremen and started and carried the work of the Association in time after the war. In its leading work, they were emissaries and apostles of the falcon thought and strivings, which was to bring up an individual who would be like a falcon – an extraordinary, strong and resistant bird, morally on high level, brought up in overall Slavic and liberal spirit, patriotically and nationally oriented towards Yugoslavia. They set up standards for that time very high, which in some aspects could never again be repeated. That was rich inheritance passed on to the younger ones, to be transferred further on.
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