



Response to “Contribution of Dr. Laza Popović to the development of Serbian and Yugoslav Sokol movement”

Odgovor na „Doprinos dr Laze Popovića razvoju srpskog i jugoslovenskog sokolskog pokreta“

Dear editors,

With great interest, we read an article in your esteemed journal about Laza Popović¹, one of the doyens of Croatian Radiology. As Popović founded the Central Roentgenology Institute at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, his picture still hangs on the wall in our central lecture hall at the University Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, University Hospital Center “Zagreb”.

Related to the article, we would like to point out an incorrect fact, which we hope appeared only as an unintentional erratic fact, without any ideological forethought. It is stated in the paper that “As an outstanding Serb, a Yugoslav, and a member of Sokol, he had to flee from Zagreb to Belgrade in 1941”. This statement is historically inaccurate as Professor Popović was elected in 1939 for the Senate of the still-existing Kingdom of Yugoslavia and moved to Belgrade in the summer of 1940^{2,3}. As additional evidence for our statement, we suggest reading the article in Belgrade’s

newspaper “Politika” from June 14, 1940. In that article, Dr. Milorad Dragić writes about planned public health action of lung X-ray screening for all school children in Belgrade. He starts the article with the following sentence: “He now came to Belgrade and became our permanent fellow citizen. Dr. Laza Popović, a professor at the Zagreb University, is a famous, respectable, and popular national and cultural worker”⁴. A few months later, Professor Laza Popović published two articles in the same newspapers about his role in the turbulent November days of 1918 as he continued to live in Belgrade until 1945, where he died in, for us, unknown circumstances^{5,6}.

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