

MINUTES

Inaugural Assembly of the Croatian Writers' Society held in the Main Hall of the Zagreb Youth Theatre in Zagreb on Saturday the 19th October 2002 at 10 a.m.

The Inaugural Assembly of the Croatian Writers' Society was opened by the President of the Preparatory Committee for establishing the Croatian Writers' Society, Velimir Visković; he thanked all those present for attending. He said the new association would not get involved in politics except in cases where basic democratic rights were jeopardised, especially the right to the freedom of expression and he added that although not everyone was in attendance 170 writers had expressed interest in becoming a member. He said, further, that following chauvinistic incidents at an electoral meeting in June part of the membership of the Croatian Writers' Association (CWA) has decided to establish the CWS (Croatian Writers' Society). By that they expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation in the CWA, with the emergence of dilettantism and political instrumentalism within the society. Those writers were joined by many younger writers who pointedly didn't want to join the CWA. They all gathered at the Inaugural Assembly intending to establish a new Society, less bureaucratic and more effective in the fight for guild and unionised rights of writers, a society which didn't give in to the pressures from radical political streams.

After the welcome and introductions he pronounced the Inaugural Assembly open.

Ad. 1

Election of Working Bodies

The President of the Preparatory Committee proposed members of a Working Presidency of the Inaugural Assembly:

Vlaho Bogišić
Jozefina Dautbegović
Branimir Donat
Sibila Petlevski

The proposal of the Preparatory Committee to assemble a Working Presidency of the Inaugural Assembly was accepted unanimously. **Mirna Cvetnić** was unanimously elected to take the Minutes and **Velimir Visković** and **Vlaho Bogišić** were elected to be the Certifiers.

Vlaho Bogišić confirmed the **agenda**:

1. Election of working bodies
2. Report of the President of the Preparatory Committee of the CWS
3. Discussion of the Programme
4. Credentials Committee Report
5. Preparing a Statute
6. Nomination procedure
7. Elections

8. Decision on the authorisation of representation
9. Initiating the procedure for registration in the Register of Associations.

The proposal of the agenda of work of the Inaugural Assembly was adopted unanimously by public vote.

Ad. 2

The Report of the President of the Preparatory Committee of the CWS

Velimir Viskovic submitted a report on the activities of the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the CWS during the period from 11 September, when the Preparatory Meeting was held, until this Inaugural Assembly (the report is attached these Minutes).

Ad. 3

Discussion of the Programme

Sibila Petlevska took over the lead of this point, and introduced speeches by Branimir Donat, Marko Grčić, Zoran Ferić, Roman Simić, Drago Štambuk, Borivoj Radaković, Zoran Kravar, Miloš Đurđević, Ivo Brešan, Drago Pilsel and Ante Zemljar.

Branimir Donat insisted on a unionised approach of writers calling attention to the disproportion of literary fees with the fees in other branches of art. He advocated initiating an institute in which older writers would help younger writers. He also advocated for the right of writers to have their own studio along the lines of a painter's atelier. He stressed that the CWS would try its best to establish a fund for translating works abroad and try to provide stipends and study trips for its members. Finally he proposed that writers receive a royalty for their books borrowed from libraries.

Marko Grčić added that a change in terminology from author to writer was very important both culturally and strategically because in the mass media of recent years not only young writers but also authors of older generations had been greatly acknowledged.

Zoran Ferić considered that the CWS needed to look into the question of school programmes and recommended reading lists. He was concerned that children were daunted by the reading lists and he suggested that contemporary writers should be included.

Roman Simić suggested that the effort put in was recognised and valued.

Drago Štambuk was saddened by the rift that had occurred. He announced that he will join the new society but would remain in the old one and that his wish was that one day «writers» and «authors» would become literati.

Borivoj Radaković suggested the establishing of a literary copyright agency representing their interests in the market. He stressed the need for establishing a syndicate within the CWS.

Zoran Kravar mentioned that while establishing a new society the things that were wrong with the old society should be kept in mind.

Miloš Đurđević spoke about the necessity of establishing a new literary organisation completely different from the existing CWG.

Ivo Brešan said that he will have dual membership and then mentioned the fact that the new society should be selective in accepting new members because they don't want to be inundated with a stampede of writers with only 2 or 3 published books.

Drago Pilsel offered the CWS space for their work in the Kaptol Cultural Centre in Nova Ves.

Ante Zemljak looked back on the negative legacy of the CWG over the last decade.

Ad. 4

Credentials Committee Report

Vlaho Bogišić informed the assembly that the Preparatory Committee had sent 126 invitations. Of the 126 invited 81 members replied. Around 20 members who couldn't come to the assembly sent an application form. Therefore 81 members who joined were present at the assembly and they could participate in making decisions.

The assembly accepted the 81 members who joined and who had submitted application forms.

Ad. 5

Preparing a Statute

Miloš Đurđević declared that the society will be that which the members make it. He explained the basis of the statute to those present. The CWS should have an Inaugural Assembly and three basic parts:

1. Annual Assembly
2. Presidency
3. Management Committee.

Viskovic informed those present that the statute had been discussed many times at meetings of the Preparatory Committee; legal advice was taken and he advised that they accept the Statute in its present shape..

Ad. 6

Nomination procedure

Vlaho Bogišić nominated members for the Credentials Committee of the Inaugural Assembly of the CWS.

As members of the board the following were unanimously elected:

1. Borivoj Radaković, President
2. Sibila Petlevski, member
3. Miroslav Kirin, member

For nomination the following candidates were nominated:

1. Ballot paper – PRESIDENT OF CWS

- a) Branimir Donat
- b) Velimir Visković

Following the proposal Branimir Donat withdrew his candidature on health grounds. Surprised by this declaration by B. Donat, Visković declared that he didn't want to be the only candidate and asked the assembly to nominate one more candidate, so that voting could take place.

The candidature was accepted by Zvonko Maković.

The proposal to the Preparatory Committee on the change of member's names on the list was unanimously accepted and confirmed.

2. Ballot paper – VICE-PRESIDENT OF CWS

- a) Ivo Brešan
- b) Zoran Ferić

The list of candidates was unanimously confirmed.

3. Ballot paper VICE-PRESIDENT OF CWS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

- a) Miloš Đurđević
- b) Nenad Popović

The list of candidates was unanimously confirmed.

4. Ballot paper – SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR CWS

- a) Miloš Đurđević
- b) Robert Naprta

The list of candidates was unanimously confirmed.

5. Ballot paper – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consisted of 25 candidates from which 9 were to be chosen

- 1. Benčić-Rimay Tea
- 2. Bošnjak Branko
- 3. Bogišić Vlaho
- 4. Brešan Ivo

5. Čačinović Nadezda
6. Dautbegović Jozefina
7. Donat Branimir
8. Ferić Zoran
9. Galović Alen
10. Goldstein, Albert
11. Grčić Marko
12. Jergović Miljenko
13. Katunarić Dražen
14. Maković Zvonko
15. Maleš Branko
16. Manojlović Sonja
17. Paić Zarko
18. Pogačnik Jagna
19. Radaković Zorica
20. Rešicki Delimir
21. Simić Roman
22. Tomić Ante
23. Visković Velimir
24. Zima Zdravko
25. Zlatar Andrea

in 26th place Ljiljana Filipović was nominated.

The list was accepted unanimously.

Ad. 7

Elections

The Credentials Committee mentioned above withdrew to count the ballot papers. Counting began at 13.00 hours and the results announced at 14.30. In front of the members present the results were announced by the president of the Credentials Committee, Borivoj Radaković. The board established that the of 81 valid application forms, 69 members voted.

Velimir Visković was chosen as **President of the CWS**

Miloš Đurđević was chosen as **Secretary of the CWS**.

Zoran Ferić was chosen as **Vice-president of the CWS**

Nenad Popović was chosen as **Vice-president of the CWS for International Cooperation**

For the Management Committee the following were chosen:

1. Ivo Brešan
2. Miljenko Jergović
3. Dražen Katunarić
4. Zvonko Maković
5. Branko Maleš
6. Jagna Pogačnik
7. Ante Tomić
8. Andrea Zlatar
9. Vlaho Bogišić
10. Zdravko Zima

Of the 26 candidates on the list, two had the same number of votes: Bogišić and Zima; Bogišić withdrew his place on the committee in favour of Zima.

Ad. 8.

After the end of voting and the publication of the results the Inaugural Assembly unanimously ratified the decision on the representatives of the CWS. The society will in the future be represented by a President and a Secretary of the CWS. Therefore, the society is represented by **Velimir Visković** as the first President and **Miloš Đurđević** as the first Secretary of the CWS.

Ad. 9.

Finally a unanimous decision was taken to start the procedure for registering the **Croatian Writers' Society with the seat in Zagreb**, at the office in charge of the Register of Associations.

With that the Inaugural Assembly of the newly established Croatian Writers' Society closed at 16.00 hours.

Zagreb, October 19, 2002.

Minute taker:

Mirna Cvetnić

Certifiers of the Minutes:

1. Velimir Visković _

2. Vlaho Bogišić _