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Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH

04 DEC. 2018

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¹ Vinicije B. Lupis graduated in 1992 the double-major program in history and archeology in Zadar. For the second time, he graduated in 1995 in the field of history and theory of art, also in Zadar. He received master's degree in 1998 with the theme of Liturgical silver of Stone until 1600 and a PhD in 2004 with the theme of Dubrovnik cathedral reliquary. His work in the field began in 1992 as a conservator archaeologist at the Regional Office in Split, and the following years, he was working as a conservator, an art historian at the Institute for the Protection of Dubrovnik. In 1992 he worked as an archaeologist conservator of the Regional Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments - Split and led archaeological excavations at the site of St. Petra in Makarska and Sv. Jure in Tucepi. In its capacity as conservator of art historians in the State Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Dubrovnik in 1993 he headed the list of movable heritage and archaeological research on feb top on the island of Sipan. In 1993 he attended Dubrovnik medeavelistic workshop and in 1995 he passed the state examination of archival. In the National Archives in Dubrovnik he was archivist specialist and head of the new material from 19th and 20th century. Throughout his interdisciplinary work, which is required in modern science, he connects more humanistic fields: history, art history, archeology and archival. Since 2007 he workes at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, and from 2008 he is head of the Regional Center of Dubrovnik Institute. He has published hundreds of scientific papers and several books on the topic of religious heritage, history and art history of Dubrovnik region and the Bay of Kotor. He is editor of several journals and books, and as a subcontractor HRT gave his contribution to a number of documentaries on the history and heritage of Dubrovnik. He is the author of a number of notable exhibitions in Dubrovnik. He received plaques of Company Dubrovnik Antiquities in 2000. The yield for the study of the history of Dubrovnik , the same year he won the praise Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra for successful collaboration and contribution to the promotion of his work . He won the Golden Charter Nuts Croatian book of religious heritage Stone and surrounding areas in 2002, and silver Charter from Matica hrvatska in 1997 for the book Trembling of Ston. In 2002 he received a diploma of Orebić for several years of working on research and publishing history peninsula. Also, in 2006 he was awarded the Dubrovnik-Neretva county 's achievements in culture. In 2010 he won a silver Charter from Matica hrvatska Croatian contribution for

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Mr. Tim Curtis,
Secretary of the 2003 Convention

Madam, Sir,

With reference to information from local Montenegrin portals on acceptance of the nomination of the Boka Navy submitted by the Republic of Montenegro for inscription on the UNESCO list of intangible heritage, I take the liberty to turn your attention to the fact that the proposed text of the nomination is neither true nor correct.

I will briefly inform you that the subject of my scientific interest and work among others is the topic of Boka Kotorska (*bokeljistika*), so that two decades of my engagement in the field of Boka Kotorska have resulted in a series of books, essays and scientific articles, as well as in editing thematic anthologies: *Živo Bolica – Visitations of churches in Kotor of the St. Cross Fraternity and to the first Saint Cross (Pohodjenja crkava koje su u Kotoru od Bratstva sv. Križa i prvom svetom Križu)* (2007), *Bishop Marko Kalogjera on the 120th anniversary of death – Anthology of works of the conference held in December 2008 in Blato* (2009), *Heritage topics of Boka (Baštinske teme Boke)* (2013), *Memorial of the 600th anniversary of the church of the Nativity of Mary in Gornja Lastva (Spomenica 600. obljetnice Crkve Male Gospe u Gornjoj Lastvi)*(1410 – 2010), *Kotor and Dubrovnik Bishop Pavo Butorac - The life and work – Anthology of the roundtable held in June 2016 in Kotor, monograph Franciscan Monastery of St. Clara in Kotor* (2012), and worth mentioning in the literary opus a cycle of poems *Boka themes (Bokeljske teme)* in the collection of poems *Volemen legis* (2016). For years I have been publishing essays on the theme of Boka, recognizing the gravity of lack of caring and of having a national cultural programme of preservation of national culture outside the borders of the

the book Peter Kanavelić's contribution to Croatian passion heritage, written in cooperation with Hrvojkja Mihanović – Salopek and The iron spirit: contribution of Jaketa Palmota Dionorić to Croatian literature and heritage. Municipality Blato awarded him in the 2011 with silver emblem for achievements in the field of research on the history and culture of Blato. He is an active member of the Matica hrvatska Presidency - an offshoot of Dubrovnik, the Grand Council of the Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities, Croatian Archaeological Society, the Association of Croatian Art Historians, Croatian Mariological Institute, the Committee on Culture of the Croatia - Austrian Society Dubrovnik and Croatian -Armenian society in Dubrovnik and Assosiation of Croatian writers.

Republic of Croatia. This long-standing publicist and scientific work was guided by the leading thought of constant monitoring and research of the Croatian cultural heritage of the Croatian national corps on its millennial hearths.

The Boka Navy, as one of the oldest fraternities in the Mediterranean (based on honourable word of mouth, was founded with the coming of the relics of St. Tryphon to Kotor in 809), and also as one of the bright examples of the tradition of Boka Croats, is the subject of my scientific interest. Therefore, I deem it necessary to get involved in contesting the nomination of the Boka Navy proposed by the Republic of Montenegro. The nomination does not properly define: the significance, the meaning, the content and the bearers of this good. The Boka Navy is a fraternity of religious type, which belongs to the tradition of the Catholic Church in the Croatian national corps. The *kolo* (chain dance) of St. Tryphon is not a folklore expression, but part of the mass celebration performed only in honour of St. Tryphon. It is a tradition of Boka Croats living nowadays in Boka Kotorska, therefore outside the Republic of Croatia (today Boka Kotorska is within the territorial borders of the Republic of Montenegro), and a tradition, which by huge immigration of Boka Croats, has spread to the territory of the Republic of Croatia and belongs to Boka people living in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Pula and Dubrovnik, i.e. to the internal diaspora of Croats.

Hence, a paradigmatic first cultural recognizable symbol of Croats of Boka Kotorska is the cult of St. Tryphon as a communal cult of one of the cities – states under the "autocracy" of the Croatian-Hungarian Plantagenet Dynasty (Zadar, Dubrovnik, Kotor), of which only Dubrovnik achieved full and lasting emancipation. At first the cult of St. Tryphon also had a symbolic meaning of statehood for the Kotor commune, his face being on money, stamp and flag, but it became a cult that gathered Kotor people, who as Catholics, declared as Croats in the national process of creating a nation, and as such frequented the Institute of St. Jerome - then the Croatian Papal Institute. This process, by frequentation of the Croatian Institute of St. Jerome in Rome in the 16th century, was clearly recognized in that century, bearing witness to the clear national determination of Boka Croats and the prominent nobility of Kotor.

The Boka Navy is one of the symbols of that communal army and one of the inextricable components of preservation of the cult of St. Tryphon.

The term of fraternity (lat. confraternitates, fratiliae, scholae, or chakavian braščina, skula), implies a social and religious association of layman. A fraternity is considered to be an association of laymen united for certain causes, piety or worship, which has legal personality and joint ownership. So, by its habitus, the Boka Navy is precisely a fraternity of religious type.

The Boka Navy, of which we will not speak here through the prism of its historical background, is one of the oldest Croatian fraternities with a long and troubled history. According to glorious word of mouth, on 13 January 809 the Kotor/Boka Navy transferred the powers of St. Tryphon from Rose to Kotor, which event is also considered the birth of the Boka Navy. This fraternity was also called the Fraternity of St. Nicholas of Seamen and also had the eponymous church of St. Nicholas in Kotor. In a document dated 1493 it is called the Fraternity of St. Nicholas of Seamen in Kotor (Confraternitas Sancti Nicolai marinariorum de Cathero). The oldest preserved statute of the Fraternity Liber Fraternitatis Sancti Nicolai marinariorum de Cathero dates back to 26 June 1463. The Statute stipulated the rights and obligations of seamen and regulated their mutual relations, as well as the relations between the fraternity and the secular and ecclesiastical authorities. It should be noted that such a fraternity with an even older statute existed in the city of Split and its statute from the 15th century is kept today in the Franciscan Monastery of the Order of the Friars Minor in Dubrovnik.

In more recent times, the Boka Navy was abolished on several occasions, and after its second abolition by the Austrian authorities, it was re-established in 1859 under the name of Noble Body of the Boka Navy, primarily through the efforts of Kotor Bishop, Marko Kalogjera, and so was founded solely as a fraternity of the Catholic Church, which is the character it still has today. Also, Croatian civil societies in the 19th and 20th century would leave their property, in case of abolition, to the Noble Body of the Boka Navy, making the national imprint of this fraternity very clear. The nomination of the Republic of Montenegro does not even mention the Kotor diocese as the bearer of this good, let alone Bishop Marko Kalogjera without whom this tradition of Boka Croats would not have been preserved. But this is not the only shortcoming; in the list of literature, there is not a single word about highly valuable scientific articles and authors writing about the Boka Navy precisely as a fraternity of religious type. On this occasion I enclose hereto a list of literature pointing to a list of authors and works related to the Boka Navy.

The Boka Navy is an ordinary communal fraternity in the Croatian Middle Ages, combining the religious significance along with a defence segment, as a form of national army, the so called "forza territoriale". This link between the national army, which was deployed in the battles against the pirates and the Turks, is precisely the feature connecting: the Alka of Sinj, the Knight's society Kumpanija of Blato and the Boka Navy. This form of maintaining combat readiness of the Croatian people in the struggle to preserve their millennial hearths has shaped a special spirit of knighthood in accordance with European civilization standards. And this tradition has been cultivated and recognized in the 20th century.

The heritage of the Boka Navy is mainly a paradigm of the Croatian tangible and intangible cultural heritage, which remained outside the national borders, but represents its essential component. It is a crucial factor of recognisability of the Croatian national corps, which is in its ethnic historical region, but which is now reduced to the status of national minority. The Boka Navy today does not have any attribute of a military unit, its lining up in traditional uniforms with ancient weaponry is a memorial to the glory days, but of course has no connection whatsoever to military units.

Similarly, the Boka Navy is a tradition present in Croatia for 150 years (the first celebration of St. Tryphon was in Split in 1873) as an integral part to the tradition of Boka Croats living today on the territory of Croatia, who have faithfully transferred the tradition from their homeland (Boka Kotorska).

Croatian knight's societies, the Alka of Sinj, the Kumpanija from Blato on the Island of Korčula and the Boka Navy have already in 1934 set the foundations for fraternization. Those are the fraternities of religious character with the national army of Croatian regions. Since fraternisation did not occur then, it was realised in 1995 between the Alka of Sinj, the Kumpanija from Blato and the Croatian Fraternity Boka Navy 809 (at the time headquartered in Zagreb), therefore an organization from Croatia and not from Kotor (Montenegro). This is also a natural sequence when one knows that Boka Navy Admirals (Dr Karlo Radoničić and Admiral Vladislav Brajković) as two of the last six navy commanders, have commanded the navy from Zagreb. It is worth pointing out that prominent Croatian lawyer from Perast, Dr Vladislav Brakovic, with his legal skills, has won over for the Croatian people the Island of Palagruža with surrounding territorial waters, at the time part of the former state configuration. I enclose hereto the correspondence and photo documentation of this event in order to establish credibility as a confirmation of the continuous work of the organization in Croatia and

confirmation of it belonging to the Croatian people. It is worth mentioning that the then leaders of knight's associations on the Island of Korcula are Dr Juro Arneri, a descendant of the renowned Kotor Croatian Bizanti noblesse and Dr Rafael Giunio of the Boka Navy, member of an ancient Croatian noble family from the Island of Korcula.

Infallibly essential for the inclusion of this phenomenon, its research and protection, is the fact that in recent times, the cult of St. Tryphon has spread in Croatia precisely thanks to the Croatian fraternities of the Boka Navy 809, with the celebrations being marked by dancing the *kolo* (dance) in honour of St. Tryphon. The *kolo* is danced by members of the fraternity in traditional uniforms with the participation of the „little admiral. It is also worth mentioning that the oldest relic of St. Tryphon preserved in its original form is kept in the reliquary of the Cathedral of Dubrovnik (17th/18th century); it is a relic of a hand, a valuable work of Dubrovnik Romanesque goldsmiths (inventory number XXIV.), and that a few medieval sites of St. Tryphon are located on the Dubrovnik territory.

Particularly worth mentioning is also the musical part of the heritage – while dancing the *kolo*, which belongs to the inseparable part of the Croatian musical heritage and communal dances. It is the work of a Croatian composer on the traditions of Baroque musical heritage preserved in the great musical codex of Gregori Zarberini in Zmajević's seminary in the City of Zadar.

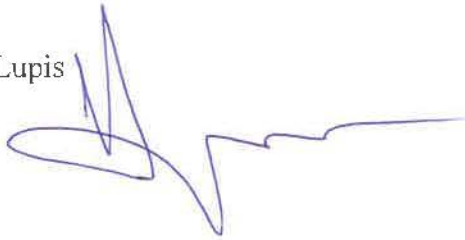
So, if those facts would not be accepted, the Boka Navy would have been ripped out by force from the corps of the Croatian people, while Boka people living in Croatia would be deprived of the tradition, their tradition and culture thus being attributed to some other peoples, which would be characterised as murder of culture. Moreover, it is unclear how a church fraternity can be nominated to whatever body without its bearer, the Kotor diocese, which is what the Montenegrin nomination attempted. In particular, because Admiral of the Boka Navy, Dr Milos Milošević, clearly stated in the church celebration programme in 1995, that the Boka Navy was inextricably linked, since its very beginnings, to the cult and praise of a communal saint – St. Tryphon, and that a nomination should have been made as per the model of the nomination of the Festivities of St. Blaise in Dubrovnik, in all its intangible cultural heritage fullness.

Therefore, I call upon you with this letter to prevent: 1. the murder of memory (destruction of historical awareness of the members of a minority nation, their traditions, ethnographic and ethnological heritage), 2. the murder of culture (proclaiming the cultural heritage of a minority the heritage of the majority people and 3. the murder of language (extermination of the mother tongue of a minority) which would happen with the nomination of the Boka Navy submitted by the Republic of Montenegro.

To conclude, Boka Croats and their cultural heritage with their great heritage and tradition should be a bridge between the states of Montenegro and Croatia. The tradition of Boka Croats should be preserved in a way as to keep it in the communities, which have been preserving it in Croatia too for over 150 years (the first celebration of St. Tryphon was in Split in 1873), and therefore the nomination by Montenegro should be considered together with the nomination submitted by Croatia for the Tryphon Day (*Tripundan*) Festivities and the *Kolo* of St. Tryphon, as bearer of the Croatian Fraternities of the Boka Navy 809. Only this kind of approach would achieve full affirmation and recognition of this phenomenon, its study and sustainability, not only in Boka Kotorska, but also in Croatia, where it has spread and concurrently develops and survives.

Sincerely yours,

Vinicije B. Lupis

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'V' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal tail.
