

150 ANNIVERSARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY AT ZAGREB-GRIČ

The first meteorological measuring in Zagreb was the air pressure measuring on 15 December 1789, when Krsto Mazarović flew in his balloon over the towers of Zagreb Cathedral. Sporadic temperature measurements were published in the newspaper *Agramer politische Zeitung* in articles about a very cold winter 1829/30. The same newspaper, in the years 1841 and 1842, gave daily reports on air temperature, pressure, wind and water level of the Sava river, together with description of other atmospheric phenomena. It was obvious that the time for the beginning of the systematic meteorological measurements in Zagreb came at the same time as in other Central European countries. On the demand of hon. Danijel Stanisavljević, a financial adviser, the Academy of Sciences in Vienna sent meteorological instruments to Zagreb at the beginning of the year 1853. The meteorological station Meteorological observatory of economical society of Croatia and Slavonia was situated in Opatička Street 18. The first report on air temperature and pressure, together with description of snowfall and thunder with lightening, appeared on 18 February 1853 in the newspaper *Gospodarske novine* (Economic news). After a few years, the station was moved to Liepa ves and then to Klasična gimnazija (classics-program secondary school) on the Square of St. Catherine. At that time, teachers at that school, Antun Otokar Zeithammer and Dr.Sci. Ivan Kiseljak, were in charge of the measurements. In the summer of 1858, the Croatian writer August Šenoa, who was a student at that time, worked at the station. The station was moved again, for the last time, on 1 November 1861, to the location on Grič, where it worked as a part of Velika kraljevska realka (the royal general-program secondary school), that was lead by academician Josip Torbar.

In the following thirty years the science teacher Ivan Stožir was in charge of the work of the station, and brought it to the level of observatory. His successor was the world famous scientist academician Andrija Mohorovičić, who named the observatory Geophysical institute. Apart from meteorological measurements he developed seismological and accurate time service. At the beginning, the accurate time was announced once a day by firing the canon at noon, and later, every hour on radio station of Zagreb, 'on the third signal of the Geophysical Institute'. After the World War Two the Geophysical Department at the Faculty of Science in Zagreb (1946), the Hydrological and meteorological institute (1947) and the Seismological service (1985) were founded. Although the meteorology is a young science in Croatia and there are only about hundred meteorologists in Croatia, it is very famous with the people because it is present in all kinds of human activities.

(adapted and translated by Tomislav Kovačić)



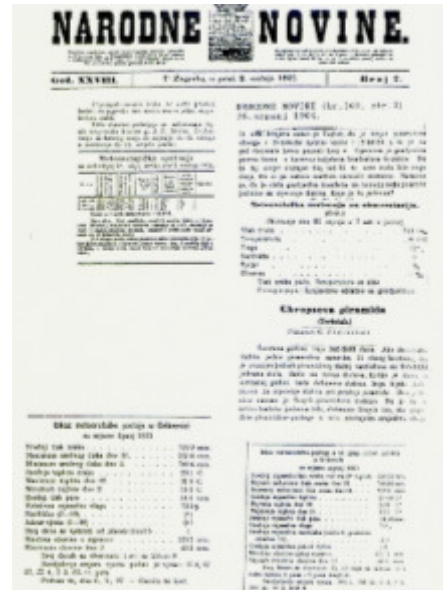
General-program secondary school in which prof. Ivan Stožir started meteorological measurements on 1. December 1861.



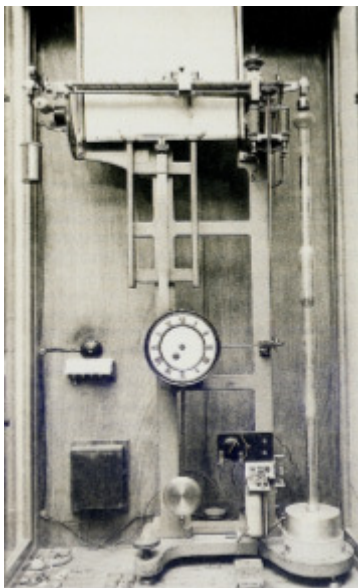
The same building after annex in 1865. From 1947 the accomodation of Meteorological and



Prof. Ivan Stožir established the accurate time service on 1.1.1877. From 1926 accurate time was announced once a day by firing the canon at noon.



Daily meteorological reports have been printed in daily newspapers (the example from 9. January 1862.)



Sprung-Fuess barograph for air pressure measuring from 1903.



First meteorological data measured in Opatička Street 18 and published together with weather description in Gospodarske novine 18 February 1853. This date is considered as the beginning of continuing meteorological measuring in Zagreb.

FAMOUS CROATIAN METEOROLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS WHOSE OPUS IS FINISHED



academician Andrija
Mohorovičić



dr.sci Stjepan Škreb



prof. dr.sci. Josip
Goldberg



prof. dr.sci. Branko
Maksić



prof. dr.sci. Berislav
Makjanić



On 1. December 2001. Geophysical Department of Faculty of Natural Science, Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia and Croatian Meteorological Society put up a memorial plaque on the wall of Zagreb-Grič observatory, to mark 140 anniversary of continuing measurements. Meteorological station Zagreb-Grič has the longest Croatian continuing meteorological data set on the same place. Prof. dr.sci. Ivan Penzar wrote the text and unveiled the memorial plaque.