

Ten years of *L'Homme. Z. F. G.*: A view from Croatia

The view of Vienna from Zagreb has often been the one of admiration and awe. The Croats were seldom indifferent to the siren's call of the Viennese. Be it in politics, culture, literature or architecture, for many centuries Vienna has been setting pace in what was considered to be fashionable and progressive. Croatian students studied at the University of Vienna, Croatian journalists tried to publish their articles in the Viennese press, and the architects learned their trade learning from the Viennese colleagues.

This tradition persisted during the times of the Communist Yugoslavia, when Austria with its capital was one of the few easily accessible countries. My first visit to Vienna happened in April 1984. My friend Lydia Sklevicky and I attended the 5. *Historikerinnentreffen* organized by a group of Austrian feminists and historians. It was my first experience at an international conference, and the one that was intended to discuss the issues of women's history. This was a new and exciting concept, which I hitherto understood from the literature, but seldom had a chance to exchange views about it with the foreign colleagues.

At the highest point of the conference we met Professor Gerda Lerner, a legend of women's history in the USA. Born in Vienna, she emigrated to the USA in 1939, and came back to her 'home town', after a lifetime of work in women's history. It would be difficult at this point to reproduce the excitement I felt while listening to her lecture entitled *A Feminist Theory of History*. It was an inspiring contribution that stuck in my mind for years to come.

A few years later, *L'Homme. Z. F. G.* appeared with its clear, white covers and a serious academic stand, and it immediately caught my attention. It had a large advisory board of prominent members in the field of women's history and women's studies, and I gladly became a part of it. It offered a variety of topics ranging from religion, intellectuals, to those of violence and citizenship. One volume appeared as a reaction to immediate dangers of the war in the neighborhood. The articles were competent, well-informed and inspired discussion. They were written in the great tradition of scholarship, meticulous and simultaneously informed by novel and inspiring ideas about history, feminism and society at large. The journal itself did a lot to enhance the development of the feminist research in the areas beyond Austria.

At the occasion of its tenth birthday I would like to extend my very best wishes to the editors and the editorial board of *L'Homme* with a particular wish: to include into their programs more comparative research done about and by women in diverse areas of Europe and beyond.

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