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Sokolski dom in telovadišče Sokola I na Taboru

IZVLEČEK

Avtor v prispevku osvetljuje proces postavitve sokolskega telovadišča in doma telovadnega društva Sokol I na ljubljanskem Taboru, ki je potekal v obdobju med svetovnima vojnama. Pri tem se je drugo ljubljansko sokolsko društvo že od samega začetka soočalo s precejšnjimi težavami, katerih izvor je bila predvsem politika. Kljub preprekam pa je z domom Ljubljana dobila takrat največji sokolski dom v državi in še eno delo v nizu mojstrovčin arhitekta Ivana Vurnika.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Sokol I, Tabor, sokolski dom, telovadišče, Pavel Pestotnik, Ivan Vurnik, šport

ABSTRACT

SOKOL GYMNASTICS CENTRE AND SOKOL I GYMNASIUM AT TABOR

In this article, the author sheds light on the process of constructing the Sokol gymnasium and the seat of the gymnastics society Sokol I at Tabor, Ljubljana, which took place in the interwar period. In doing so, the second Sokol society in Ljubljana had from the very start faced significant problems, most of which were of political nature. Despite the obstacles, Ljubljana eventually obtained what was at the time the biggest Sokol gymnastics centre in the country, as well as one of many architectural masterpieces designed by Ivan Vurnik.

KEY WORDS

Sokol I, Tabor, Sokol gymnastics centre, gymnasium, Pavel Pestotnik, Ivan Vurnik, sports

Šafarič, Aleš: *Prepletenost politike in telesne kulture na Slovenskem v letih 1891–1914 in 1918–1929*, doktorska disertacija. Ljubljana: Filozofska fakulteta, Oddelek za zgodovino, 2016.



S U M M A R Y

Sokol gymnastics centre and Sokol I Gymnasium at Tabor

The Ljubljana-based gymnastics society Sokol I was founded in 1907, by a small group of young Sokols that broke away from the Ljubljana Sokol society on the initiative of grammar school teacher and Liberal politician, Dr Pavel Pestotnik. The group was unsatisfied with the conditions in the leading Slovenian Sokol society and the direction in which it was headed under Dr Viktor Murnik, the reformer of the Sokol movement at the turn of the twentieth century. Pestotnik's circle wanted to focus their work on wider masses and youth, and particularly on improving educational work with physical education. While the new society prospered and grew, it also confronted problems resulting from lack of adequate facilities for their activities.

After the First World War, the society managed to purchase land at an opportune moment and a favourable price in the suburbs of Šentpeter, a part of Ljubljana that was successfully restored and rebuilt after the devastating earthquake in 1895. The plot of land, which was to remain a green space, was envisaged to host outdoor sport facilities and eventually a Sokol gymnastics centre. However, the very first obstacle to their plans was a thwarted attempt

to close the land purchase in light of sharp opposition from the Catholic political camp, which regarded the Sokol organization as one of the main pillars of its political opponents – the Liberals. This was in a way a continuation of the so-called cultural struggle between the above-mentioned political camps, which spread with the emergence of political parties in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the so-called “division of souls” in nearly all fields of social engagement. Sokol I nevertheless succeeded in opening its sport facilities on 15 August 1921, which also included a running track, grandstands, and service facilities for gymnasts.

Even greater tensions were created by the construction of the gymnastics centre, which was contracted to be completed in 1924. After many delays in the construction due to strained economic conditions and its dire financial situation, it was ultimately the political pressure that forced the Sokol society to bring the project to full realization. The biggest Sokol gymnastics centre was thus built at the end of 1926 and officially opened in June 1927. The building was the work of the renowned Slovenian architect Ivan Vurnik, who designed the exterior in line with the Sokols' ideals of Slovenian and Slavic identity, respectively, and carefully adapted the interior to the society's demands. The building provided adequate facilities for gymnasts, a number of educational departments and administration, as well as residential capacities, business premises, and a public bath. The initial enthusiasm, however, was soon dampened by financial difficulties, which compelled what was otherwise a well-organized society that received much support from its members and adherents, to remediate the gymnastics centre. The remediation was enabled by a generous loan from the Czech Sokol Union. The Sokol society awaited the occupation during the Second World War with a healthy balance of accounts.