



GREAT WOMEN IN THE GREAT WAR

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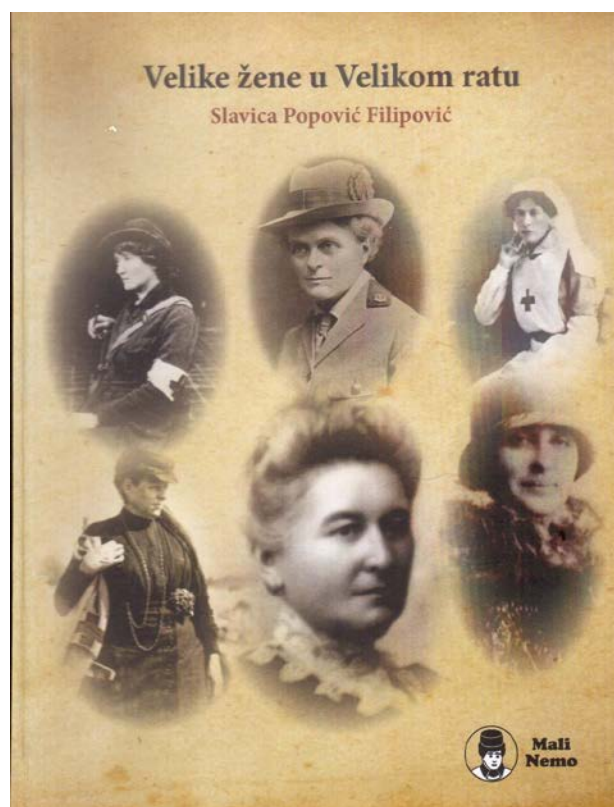
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A new book by Slavica Popović Filipović entitled *Great Women in the Great War*, reviewed by Dr. Veljko Todorović, PhD, was published in September 2020 by Mali Nemo in Pančevo. The Publisher has been promoting it as a capital work, an impressive opus created as a result of many years of research in the field of culture of remembrance, history of World War I (with special reference to the history of Serbian medicine and Serbian medical corps), cultural diplomacy, history of the suffrage movement in Europe and Serbia, and humanitarian and philanthropic activities. This book is the crowning achievement of the author's research work conducted over many years; she had already published a large number of her works on the history of Serbian medicine, foreign medical missions, and philanthropy during World War I.

In order to preserve the saga of humanity in the most difficult times of the war, and following her attitude towards

the national history and the history of other peoples, the author collected and researched numerous archives, original documents, correspondence, manuscripts, and photographs preserved in archives on several continents, in libraries in different parts of the world, and public and private testimonies. The book *Great Women in the Great War* in a multi-layered view is dedicated primarily to women and their participation in the following activities: treating and healing war wounds in the great sufferings of World War I; treating a large number of patients with typhoid, relapsing, and spotted typhus in military surgical hospitals in Serbia; the operation of hospitals in occupied Serbia; the Serbian exodus through Albania; exile on Corfu, the Salonica Front, Corsica, North Africa, on the Russian Front, and in Dobrudja. The heroines are not shown only through their personal destinies, but they are also portrayed as the bearers of broad missions of the following organizations: the Serbian Women's Society (*Kolo*

srpskih sestara), the Serbian Red Cross Society, the Scottish Women's Hospitals, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Serbian Aid Fund, the St. Petersburg Slavic Charity Society, the First Serbian Surgical Hospital in Dragomanci, and other medical and humanitarian missions. The heroines were together with the Serbs in Serbia, with the Serbs in exile, and with the Serbs in rebuilding the destroyed and ravaged country.

Over the years, the author has collected valuable testimonies on women from all allied and friendly countries - bright and lesser-known examples of dedicated Serbian women, humanists and volunteer nurses, early Serbian and foreign doctors, Russian nobles, British suffragettes, Scottish women, French philanthropists, Canadian and Australian humanists. They were trained doctors, teachers, journalists, writers, painters, ladies, and heroines from all around the Mediterranean, across the Atlantic and the Pacific, all of them in a common mission for humanity, in the intertwined war drama of the world during World War I.

The chapters are dedicated to the following heroines: Ljubica Luković, the president of the Serbian Women's Society *Kolo srpskih sestara*, a volunteer nurse and war victim; Dr. Angelia Al. Yakchitch, a volunteer doctor in the Balkans and the First World War; Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis, a doctor and surgeon, the founder and manager of the Scottish Women's Hospitals; Dr. Isabel Emslie, Lady Hutton, a doctor of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France, Gevgelija, Salonika, and Vranje; Scottish Baroness Honourable Evelina Haverfield, a member of the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia, on the Russian Front, and Dobrudja, after the War in Serbia; Nadežda Petrović, Serbian heroine, painter, and humanist, a volunteer nurse in the Balkans and World War I, fallen in the war; Delfa Ivanić, a teacher, co-founder of the Serbian Women's Society *Kolo srpskih sestara*, a volunteer nurse and humanist with a large and broad mission; Dr. Rosalie Morton, an American doctor at the French-Serbian Hospital in Sedes on the Salonica Front, a great philanthropist in war and peace; Margaret Leila Wemyss, Lady Paget, a volunteer nurse in Belgrade in 1912, and the head of the First Unit of the Serbian Relief Fund in the First World War, faithful to the Serbs to the end; Mrs. Gertrude Carrington Wilde, a longtime member of the Serbian Relief Fund, in the mission for the Serbian people and Serbian children; Mrs. Hannah Hankin Hardy, a volunteer nurse at the Second Reserve Hospital, founder of the National League of Serbian Women in Kragujevac; humanist Jelena Lozanić Frothingham, representative of the Serbian Red Cross, in a joint mission with Michael Pupin and John Frothingham in America and Canada; Dr. Agnes Elizabeth Lloyd Bennett, an Australian doctor, the head of the Scottish Women's Hospital

in Ostrovo, and her compatriots on the Salonica Front; Lena Alexander Yovitchitch, a Serbian-Scottish writer and translator in the humanitarian mission for the Serbian people, author of great testimonies; Mrs. Mabel Annie St. Clair Stobart, a suffragette and volunteer nurse, the head of the Third Unit of the Serbian Relief Fund in Kragujevac and the founder of seven dispensaries throughout Šumadija; Miss Olive Kelso King, an Australian, a member of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, a sergeant in the Serbian army, and a great philanthropist; French Countess Marie de Shabannes la Palice, a volunteer nurse and philanthropist, who helped to establish the First Serbian Surgical Field Hospital on the Salonica Front; Madame Mabel Gordon-Dunlop Grouitch, an American humanist and Serbian daughter-in-law, promoter of the Serbian struggle in Europe and America; Russian noblewoman Mrs. Alexandra Pavlovna Hartwig, a humanist and volunteer nurse, who contributed to the formation of numerous Russian hospitals to help Serbia, personally delivered the medical mission Russian Pavilion in Niš; Dr. Slavka Mihailović-Klisić, a Serbian doctor, the only doctor at the Belgrade General Hospital after the Great Exodus, who left a diary of Belgrade's suffering in the Great War; Dr. Harriet Macmillan Cockburn, a Canadian humanist and doctor, a doctor in the Third Unit of the Serbian Relief Fund in Kragujevac and the head of the dispensary in Lapovo, but also her colleagues from the homeland of the maple tree, who treated Serbian soldiers in Serbia and on the Salonica Front.

This book impresses by its universal message, a wide ranging work, and the way it is presented. At the same time it is a work of special artistic design, written in 21 chapters on 761 pages, with the introduction in Serbian and English, each chapter having a summary in English, with extensive literature, and finally an index with thousands of names, a note on the author, and her gratitude to numerous associates, friends, and collaboration team, especially the reviewer Dr. Veljko Todorović, translator Bob Filipović, and publisher Milan Orlić, PhD.

According to Dr. Todorović, *"following the mentioned heroines, the author brings the mission of one of the hospitals or humanitarian organizations on different fronts of the Great War closer to each saga. It shows the strength and unity of intellectual elites, who stood on the right side in the first war of planetary proportions in history, who were not selfishly isolated but completely tied to ordinary people and small nations, guided by the principles of freedom, justice, and equality."*

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