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CENTERS OF BOROUGHS CENTRAL PART OF THE WESTERN SERBIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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Abstract: The boroughs of the central part of Western Serbia (Užice, Bajina Bašta, Požega, Kosjerić, Arilje, Ivanjica and Rogačica) originate in the early 19th century. The three towns are newly founded by urban plans: Požega 1832, Rogačica 1839, Bajina Bašta 1858. Two settlements were reconstructed after the fire: Užice (1863,1891) and Ivanjica (1846). Spontaneously built settlements are regulated by plans as a condition for obtaining the status of the boroughs (Arilje 1880, Kosjerić 1892). The paper analyzes the settlement center based on: the influence of the historical development of the settlement, the cultural influences, the role of the settlement, the geometric characteristics and the form, the characteristics of the square of the square and the environment, the relationship between the center and the street network, the objects that form the center, the communal equipment of the center. The paper gives the historical development of the boroughs and brings the plans, photographs, and drawings.

Key words: Arilje, Bajina Bašta, towns in Serbia, Kosjerić, the emergence of settlements in Serbia, Požega, the development of towns in the 19th century, Rogačica, Užice, urbanism of Serbia in the 19th century.

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Introduction

The central part of western Serbia from the north is bounded by the massive mountain "Povlen"; From the east by the mountain "Maljen"; from the west by the Drina river and from the south by the mountain "massif" of Golija and Javor. It consists of today's municipalities of Užice, Bajina Bašta, Požega, Arilje, and Kosjerić. The timeline of this paper begins with the First Serbian Uprising and ends at the end of the 19th century, i.e. beginning of the First World War in 1914. The emergence of modern boroughs in southwestern Serbia is related to the liberation from the Ottoman occupation at the beginning of the 19th century. Although the first articulated efforts to regulate the settlement began during the First Serbian Uprising, systematic work on the organization of the territory began after 1830. Since 1830, the elimination, relocation of existing ones and the establishment of new settlements are intensively planned.

The system of settlements in southwest Serbia, which existed until 1830, was based on the needs of the Ottoman authorities: large rural areas gravitated to a small town (Užice), while the urban concept was not based on development. Therefore, after the liberation, it was necessary to develop a system of settlements that would be devoted to the development of space, and servicing the needs of the population. As a solution, a system has been adopted with the settlement as the gravity point for the villages located around it, and the distance between the settlements (newly established or existing) is adapted to the possibilities of available means of transport.

The literature on the topic of this paper was produced successively from the second half of the 19th century. Most importantly, the papers of Stojan Obradović (Obradović, 1858), Felix Kanic (Kanic, 1985), Ljuba Pavlović (Pavlović, 1925), Jovan Cvijić (Cvijić, 1931), Dragiša Pantelić (Pantelić, 1936), Oto Dubislav Pirh (Pirh, 1983), Arnold Archibald Paton (Paton, 1845), Joakim Vujić (Vujić, 1902), Maksim Evgenović (Evgenović, 1877), etc. Publications in the 20th century were made by architects and historians: Branislav Kojić (Kojić, 1949), Branko Maksimović (Maksimović, 1962), Novak Živković (Živković, 1981a; Živković, 1981b; Živković, 2000), Vladimir Macura (Macura, 1983; Macura, 1984), Ivan Zdravković (Zdravković, 1990), Nadežda Pešić-Maksimović (Maksimović-Pešić, 1974; Maksimović-Pešić, 2015), Duško Kuzović (Kuzović, 1998; Kuzović, 2013a; Kuzović, 2013b; Kuzović, 2013v, Kuzović, 2014a, Kuzović, 2014b), etc.

The aim of the paper is to analyze the centers of the settlement: the position in the settlement, the functional and traffic significance, the geometric characteristics of the public space, the objects and the ways of the urban composition, the communal equipment of the center (arrangement of public areas, water supply, hygiene maintenance, etc.). The paper will analyze the origins and cultural habits of the population have formed settlements. The result of the work should

help in understanding the causes of the creation of centers of settlement, inter-connection of the center and settlements, as well as the impacts that are changed / developed by the centers of towns. Knowledge should contribute to better urban planning of townships.

Documentation and discussion

Borough centers and cultural habits of the population

At the beginning of the 19th century, in the towns and boroughs of Southwestern Serbia, the Christian population was a minority. The changes occurred since 1832 (planning of Požega) and in 1863 (decision to leave towns-Užice). However, despite the population changes, the economic and political importance of Užice, as the most important urban center in the region, did not drop significantly: it was still the main economic center and played an important role in the settlement system. [Illustration 01]

Illustration 01. *Nahija of Soko (left), Nahija of Užice (right)*

In terms of economy, the urban population has been engaged in the craft and trading activities. With the departure of the Muslim population from the towns, there was an empty space in which the Serbian population moved. However, the newly settled population was originated from the village, and had no experience in crafts and trade (according to the Ottoman regulations the Serbian population was forbidden to deal with a large number of occupations, especially trade and crafts). The Serbian population is gradually starting to move from the villages to boroughs. [Illustration 02]

Illustration 02. Distribution of settlements in Serbia 1814 (left) and 1910 (right)

Centers of settlement and cultural change in society

The borough's immigrants can be classified into two categories: the group that moved into the central parts of the settlement (engaged in crafts) and the the group that settled the periphery (dealing exclusively with agriculture). However, both groups of residents kept agriculture as a subsidiary activity of their household. The large presence of the agricultural mode of production resulted in deurbanization, making it from the former large urban areas, such as Užice, settlements like towns. Old tradesmen and craftsmen could not sustain the urban way of life that he had previously ruled in the settlement. In Užice, as the most important urban center, the inherited city organization has existed for centuries (characterized by a strict division into the business and residential areas. The rural village population did not have experience in the behavior and way of organizing life in a urban city, so it continued to behave identically as in the entire takeover of the responsibility for the development of Užice occurred in the seventh decade of the 19th century (after a great fire in which the entire construction fund was burnt out). At that time, the towns of this part of Serbia were under several decades of development.

After the First Serbian Uprising in Užice, the Serbian population settled in Christian mahalas (approaching the central city zone). The configuration of the terrain, the material and the way of constructing the buildings, have made the city fire gradually destroy the construction fund. Although, after the fire of 1863 in Užice the Serbs were taken over by the administration, the transfer of ownership of construction plots was slow. At the same time, the local administration decided to approach the regulation of the settlement which center was completely destroyed by fire.

Illustration 03. *Center of Užice 1737 (left), 1784 (right)*

The urban matrix (characterized by irregular streets) was rearranged in the following way: geometrisation of street fronts, widening of street profiles, and functional organization changed. The central zone (čaršija) remained an important factor in the economic life of the settlement. However, after the liberation, the form of a business-residential building was introduced in the central zone of the settlement. This is the abandoning tradition of the use of only business facilities in the center of the settlement, which was applied until then. It should be said that the division, in essence, followed the cultural norm of family life. [Illustration 03]

At the beginning of the 19th century, in this part of Serbia, only existed borough Požega (on the right coast of the river Skrapež). From the old site, the state administration has evicted the population and settled in a new location for which the plan was prepared. The population of the new Požega was initially originally local and later they joined Užice. Namely, they respected the decision of Prince Miloš, made after the rebellion in Užice, the entire Christian population leave the city of Užice and move to Požega, beginning the economic blockade of the city.

Center of settlements and urban planning

After 1830, the state administration paid attention to the arrangement of the settlement. Some settlements have been completely reconstructed, partially reconstructed and some settlements have been established. Urbanism of the first half of the 19th century in western Serbia is characterized by the geometric shape of public corridors (streets and squares). Blocks arise as a result of a traffic network. In the period 1827-1863 plans were established for boroughs: Poreč 1827-

1831, Loznica 1833, Raška 1835, Lešnica 1836, Aleksinac 1839, Gornji Milanovac 1855, Bajina Bašta 1855, Negotin 1868. Plans for reconstruction of parts of existing settlements were made to: Požarevac, 1827, Brusnica 1839 (Macura, 1983: 33-34), Paraćin 1860 (Maksimović, 1962: 113) and the city of Užice 1863 (Kuzović, 2013: 68-73). In March 1832, jurist Lazar Zuban is staying in Požega for “...*planning purposes ... setting up the signs where the houses and shops will be built*” at the place defined by the prince for the new settlement.

Illustration 04. *Urban Plan of borough Rogačica from 1839, author Јелусеј Вукајловић*

The regulation of the borough Rogačica, on the right bank of the Drina River, was done in 1839 by the plan of Jelisej Vukajlović. However, due to a number of problems (property, influential individuals) the establishment failed. The regulation of the settlement was initiated by habitants (later made the most problems in regulation). According to the plan, it can be seen that several existing buildings, could not have been planned for demolition, influenced the plan, causing later failure. An additional negative impact was by the topography, forcing the inadequate settlement form. After this failure, as a new local center, Bajina Bašta was founded, a few kilometers upstream from Rogačica. During 1858, the State Commission resides in the village of Pljeskovo (today Bajina Bašta) for the purpose of measuring and assessing the land. After the measurement, the Ministry of the Interior has developed an urban Plan. The purchase of land was made in 1859. The National Council adopts the “*Resolution on the settlement of the township and the sale of plots on the auction*”. [Illustration 04]

The role of the center

After urban plan, the settlement center was given the most important role in the life of the settlement. In it was the market day (once in the week), the buildings on the square formed the economic center of the settlement, the center was the place of public gathering, on the square were planned the lots for public buildings, churches and schools. A special feature of the market are mixed business-residential buildings. They made it possible to change the way of family life. Therefore, the function of the center defined three basic types of centers: 1. the center in the form of a square, 2. the center in the form of the main street, 3. the center as a combination of square and street.

Settlements with the center in the shape of the square have plan-based towns: Bajina Bašta and Požega. The central city square (110m in Požega, 75 * 135m in Bajina Bašta) by treating of the floor surface, the volume of the building is emphasized (in relation to the rest of the settlement), the center is the main economic, political and cultural center of the settlement. There are fairs / beverages on the market. In the second part of his reign, Prince Miloš made the decision that the boroughs should organize market and trade fairs outside the settlement, in a specially devoted space. (Kojić, 1970). Thus, the centers lost an important part of their role in the life of the settlement. [Illustration 08]

Settlements where the main street is also the center of the settlement. In this group are spontaneously formed settlements: Kosjerić and Arilje. Along the main street there is a group of business-residential buildings. They were the center of the borough and the region. The place for the trade fairs was on the street or special devoted lot connected to the main street (the church in Arilje, borough hall Kosjerić). [Illustration 08]

Settlements with a complex center. Užice was a highly developed urban, demographic and economic settlement. In Užice, the center of settlement developed along the main street building, along with free block spaces or side streets, small squares. To the small squares was given a unique function: "Wood market", "Brandy market", "Grain market", etc. In relation to the width and size of urban spaces in Užice, after the Urban Plans from 1863 (Kuzović, 2013b) and 1891 (Kuzović, 2013v, Kuzović, 2014), the position of the squares in the city remained identical. The squares have changed geometry of the space. [Illustration 05]

Geometric characteristics of the center: public space and plots

In addition to being an economic center, the center was also the gravity point of the settlement. Urban plans was used to the benefit of the balanced development of the settlement from the center to the periphery. Therefore the settlements have a form that is very similar to the circle, with the center of the

Illustration 05. Geometry and spatial characteristics of the center of Užice in 1863

Illustration 06. Distance of the center and periphery of the settlement: Požega, Bajina Bašta, Arilje and Kosjerić (distance of circles 100 meters)

square or street. At the end of the 19th century, the distance of the settlement peripheral points in relation to the center was about 400 meters, both in the planned and in the after regulated settlements. In the case of the city of Užice, the distance was larger and uneven (400-1000 meters), due to the long history of the city and specific topography (narrow river valley limited by high hills). [Illustration 06]

The development of center - neighborhood relationship of the settlement can be traced in two phases. In the first as a unit of neighborhood there is a „mahala“, while in the second phase similar role took over the street. The „Mahala“, was widely present in the organization of Užice (before 1863) and Požega (before 1832). The „mahala“ was organized around religious buildings as centers with freestanding buildings and high fences around the plot. Also, the „mahala“ were monofunctional. Namely, the area of the settlement was divided into two zones: business („čaršija“) and residential („mahala“). In the second phase, after the planned regulation, the area of the settlement is divided into geometrically shaped blocks. According to the new urban principles, the buildings were built on the construction line. Also, mixed function buildings were built in the center of the settlement. In this way, a gradual transformation of the old partition of settlements (housing / work) has been changed into mixed housing - business blocks was carried out. [Illustration 07]

The geometric properties of the plots in the center were not uniform. In the Urban Plan of Požega (1832), the plan defined the construction, retained the geometry they had before the regulation. Simply, the plan of public areas in the settlement (square and streets) was made and applied on the existing parcel division of the (agricultural) land. Therefore, the angle between the street front and the sides of the plot is 75-80°, limiting the utilization of the plot and the organization of the house. The mentioned mistake was partially corrected during the regulation of Rogačica (1839), with the parcels defined for both (public and private) needs. In the urban plan of Bajina Bašta (1859), all the plots foreseen by the plan (within the construction area) are in the correct shape with pages that lock the angle 90° between each other.

According to the geometry of the center space, two basic categories are distinguished: 1. Incorrect shape, 2. The geometrical shape. The irregular shape of the center is characteristic for spontaneously built settlements. In the group of streets and free space from one of the blocks that are being put on the street, they build the center of the settlement. Thus formed form of public space is intended for maintenance of market days and fairs (Kosjerić, Arilje). The surface for this purpose ranges from half to one hectare. Otherwise, the space allows for the accommodation of a much larger number of people than is usually collected on fairs. The correct form of the center of the settlement is characteristic of planned settlements (Bajina Bašta, Požega). The central square is foreseen by

the settlement plan. The shape of the center is round (Požega, diameter 110) or rectangular (75*100, Bajina Bašta). The streets leading to the square are crossed in the center of the square and the market is open for traffic. (Kuzović, 2014b)

Illustration 07. *Along the main street in Užice, squares specialized for the sale of specific products have been formed, which geometry gives the impression that they are part of the street and not independent urban spaces*

The geometry of the center influenced the geometry of the plots, the shape and the internal organization of the buildings around the center. On the other hand, the size of the square and its purpose had an additional influence on the design of the object (the larger the area is conditioned by the higher storey of the objects). In terms of the dimension of the plot, there is a great variety. The square in Požega were broad in 6 fathoms and deep, 10, 20, 30 and 46 fathoms (depending on location). The plan is foreseen for a new construction of about 100 land plots.

The Bajina Bašta urban plan (1859) foresees that the two main transit roads (Užice-river Drina, Rogačica-Rača) are intercut at right angles, a rectangular square is formed at the crossing point. On the square, is the economic center of the borough, has been grouped shops and crafts facilities. All the other streets in the borough are parallel and interchangeable also at right angles. In the depth of the building plot is possible to raise gardens and orchards.

Center and street network

In the plan of borough Požega (1832), the streets have a priority role and are related to the circular square (diameter 110m). The blocks in the plan are defined only by the outer dimensions. The plot within the blocks was not worked out. This is evidenced by the existing plots have inherited from the land (agricultur-

al) before the plan is applied on the ground. The boundaries of the plot are set at an angle in relation to the street front, have a small width of the street front and an extremely large depth. A large number of plots have a disproportional depth and at the same time an exit to two streets that negatively affects the street front and blocks. The plan of public spaces (square and streets) is applied to the existing parcel of agricultural land without defining geometry of the plot.

Illustration 08. *The street network: Bajina Basta, Pozega, Arilje, Kosjerić and Ivanjica*

The general characteristic of street networks on plans (made in the first half of the 19th century) is the centrally located square around which a geometrically shaped traffic network has been developed. The streets are crossed at right angles by producing the correct blocks. The streets are of different widths (in line with the ranking in the settlement). Urban plans operate with a relatively small number of streets (Aleksinac 2, Loznica and Lesnica 4, Pozega 6, Raska 8). At the same time, the size of the block, in the mentioned settlements, varies several times. [Illustration 08.09]

Center and facilities

The form and function of buildings, built on parcels border with the center, depend on the way the town is formed. In the planned townships (Pozega, Bajina Bašta, Ivanjica), the planned floor space of the facilities at the center (ground

floor + floor) is larger than on other plots in the settlement. In the spontaneously formed towns (Arlje, Kosjerić), the level of buildings in the center („čaršija“) is identical to that in the peripheral parts of the settlement (ground floor). In the second phase of the development of spontaneously built settlements, old objects are removed (first at the corners of the blocks and then in the middle of the street front) and build higher-rise buildings (ground floor + first floor). [Illustration 09]

Illustration 09. *The street network in Užice (after 1891)*

The biggest problem in all cases of boroughs were funds, because they did not have money for the new construction. During this period, the price of human labor was low, the trees were abundant in the surrounding forests, so the biggest expenditure on construction was for wages and iron. In addition, there was a shortage of skilled labor (brick workers, roof tile workers, stonemasons and masons). The labor shortage was attempted to repair the masters from region of Osat (East Bosnia), and Macedonia. The buildings were covered with boards and shingles, and this type of roof covering was used until the third decade of the twentieth century. Also, the buildings built by prominent national leaders have further influenced the increase in the storey of buildings in the center with their function: house M. Nedeljković in Požega was used as a borough hall, Jevrem Obrenović house as a public building, and Jovan Mičić house as a han.

In Požega, on the cross-section two times (Kosjerić-Arlje and Užice-Čačak) there is a square with the inns, shops, craft shops, and market around. On the directions of the roads, the Government assigns plots to the immigrants to build houses and shops. Mostly new buildings were small with 1 or 2 departments. Only later on, houses are built upstairs. Houses with a stone ground floor and a brick floor were the “*Transval*” café and the house of Radomir Bogradnović.

Jovan Obrenović's had "...the upper floor was something brought above the street, and the lower inward drawn." (Group of Authors, 1989: 277-278). [Illustration 10]

Illustration 10. *The characteristic street profiles of the settlement*

In Bajina Bašta, the price of the plots for sale was formed depending on the distance from the main street and the square. The salaries that were in front of the Pilica river were not sold in the first auction, as they were exposed to floating. The biggest interest was caused by plots next to the square and two main streets (Ignjić, 1986). When selling placements in Bajina Bašta, for the first time in the history of Serbian urbanism, the question (which lives even today) was posed:

is it possible to sell newly-formed plots to third parties (in multiple pieces) for the sake of further sale? On February 23, 1861, the competent Ministry gave the opinion that the plots should be primarily sold to those who intend to build houses and shops, and when these people who are in charge were bribed the rest of the land can be sold on the market according to their value (Ignjić, 1986).

Communal equipment of center

Models for the formation of the settlements were taken from central Europe, who planned a church and a town hall in the city center. However, urban-regulated settlements in the squares of settlements are business-residential and administrative facilities. In Užice, exclusively by the historical circumstances, there is one sacral object on the public square, and one after the settlement of the settlement, reached the corner of the city block. The presence or absence of public buildings was influenced by the level of utility equipment and the processing of public space. [Illustration 11]

Illustration 11. Utility equipment of Užice beginning of 20th century: the square at the Gymnasium, the fountain at the District office building, Primary School and city park

Town squares, in terms of urban mobility and urban equipment, were poorly equipped for a long time: the St. Sava Square in Užice was completely disordered, and the squares in Požega / Bajina Bašta covered with cobblestones. Construction of water supply and sewage systems in settlements began in the early 20th century. The supply of the settlement by water was via the city fountains in which the water was brought by pipelines or built at source sites: in Požega, Užice, Bajina Bašta, etc. Greenery in the regulation zone, as an articulated part of the ambience, began to be introduced at the beginning of the 20th century. Based on the numerous elements of urban equipment that lacked the rural atmosphere, all urban settlements in the central part of western Serbia were characteristic.

Conclusion

The settlements of the central part of Western Serbia (Užice, Bajina Bašta, Požega, Kosjerić, Arilje) began development in 1830. Then, the existing structure of the settlement was established and their articulated reconstruction begins. Požega was planned in 1832, Rogačica 1839, Bajina Bašta in 1858. Ivanjica was planned to be reconstructed in 1846 (after a great fire that destroyed the whole settlement) and Užice in 1863. Spontaneously settled settlements were regulated on the basis of the obligation from the Decree of the proclamation in borough (Arilje 1880, Kosjerić 1892). In this way, the entire 19th century went into the construction of a settlement system that exists today. The location of the settlement and gravity areas, which feed the towns, are adapted not only to topographic characteristics, but also to the cultural, economic and historical heritage of the area. The preservation of towns as urban centers is a necessary condition for the proper development of Serbia.

Origin of the illustration

Illustration 01. Обрадовић, С., (1858). *Описаније округа ужичког*. Ужице: Историјски архив.

Illustration 02. Којић, Б., (1970). *Варошице у Србији 19. века*. Београд: ИАУС.

Illustration 03. Поповић, М. (2004). *Ужички град*. Ужице: Народни музеј.

Illustration 04. Живковић, Н., (1984) *Окружје ужичко половином 19. века*, Ужице: Народни музеј.

Illustration 05-10. Author.

Illustration 11. Archive: M.Poznanović Užice / M.Iskrin Užice

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