

Serbian travel documents through history



Along before today's passports, existed in medieval Serbia some kind of travel documents known as *Knjiga verovana* (Latin *Littere credentials* – nowadays *Accreditive letter*), which former representatives of government in different missions carried.

Travel documents are implemented again in age of Karadjordje as approval for dukes to travel to Russia and Austria as his representatives.

It was needed for them to carry a letter called *Objavlenije* (English *Announcement*). Also, tradespeople were needed to carry *Objavlenije*, the same as others who traveled abroad. This applied, too, to travelling into a territory of *nahia* (English *District*, Turkish *Nahiye*) which were not liberated yet. If diplomatic representatives traveled to Turkey, they had to have approval from Ottoman authorities named *Teskera* (Turkish *Tezkere*), the same as its citizens whenever they traveled to Serbia.

Very early, the term passport was used for traveling to Austria, from where was accepted. In age of Duke Miloš, during 1833 – 1834, when the state border was established, passports similar to today's European travel documents were implemented. Passport, as public travel document, over the years has changed its layout. It was defined by the law what was constituted of, how should have looked, what information contained, of what deadline were issued, were they valid.

In the XIX century Serbia, Civil Code from 1844, has already regulated the question of citizenship, as the way of its acquisition, too, when it's about foreigners. By the law and regulations later implemented, issuance of passports was defined. That way, by the Law from 1850, was issued an Order, that all travelers no matter if they travel further, or only from one district to another, were needed to have passports. These were, so-called little passports. In 1865, Serbian citizens were freed of paying taxes for visas at Austrian border posts.

Serbian organization of diplomatic service, as the issuance of travel documents, too, remain the same until the end of The First World War and creation of new state - Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Then, 1919, new regulations relating to organization of Ministry of Internal Affairs were brought, and between them legislations for new travel documents. Little passports still existed, being used for travelling across the Kingdom. Later, regulations made all citizens equal, who needed to have one unique passport for travelling abroad.

After The Second World War and social order being changed, the same principle was used, but the symbols characteristic for new state and its ideology were pronounced.

After the dissolution of joint state, Serbia has got back to tradition of its own statehood, trying to implement travel document so-called biometric passport, which will be in accordance with EU Regulations.