

Napoleon's Road in Dalmatia – The Contribution of the French Administration in the Development of Road Construction in Dalmatia at the Beginning of the 19th Century

The Exhibition



The idea of organizing the exhibition originated in the State Archives in Zadar, which preserves numerous sources dating from the time of the French administration and which deal with the emergence of road infrastructure in Dalmatia in later periods. The exhibition includes historical documents, plans, drafts, specifications, budgets, official correspondence, maps and books: a total of 63 originals and reproductions are on display. The exhibition shows how the French administration in

Dalmatia initiated and realized the construction of certain sections of Napoleon's road that was to run along the entire length of the Illyrian provinces, from Ljubljana to Dubrovnik and further south. The exhibition was premiered at the French Institute in Zagreb from 18 to 30 June 2019 as part of the event "International Archives Day", and then at the State Archives in Zadar from 19 September to 20 October 2019, for the celebration of Archives Day. This year, in cooperation with the Dubrovnik

Museums, the exhibition was hosted in the gallery of the Rector's Palace in Dubrovnik from 5 May to 6 June. The exhibition opened on 5 May 2021, on the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's death. On this occasion, the introductory speech was given by French ambassador in Croatia, His Excellency Gaël Veysière, via a video link. Dr. Julijana Antić Brautović, director of the Dubrovnik Museums and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ante Gverić, director of the State Archives in Zadar gave speeches at the opening of the exhibition. The exhibition was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik, Mrs Jelka Tepšić. The exposition was curated by senior archivist Denis Martinović and archivist Karolina Ražov while Lucija Vuković, senior curator of the Dubrovnik Museums, was the coordinator in Dubrovnik.

The French, with their arrival in 1806, sought to extend their influence to the farthest borders of the newly conquered territory on their way to the East of Europe. In order to achieve this goal, it was necessary to build roads because in Dalmatia the road infrastructure was disregarded. Historical documents reveal to visitors how road construction during the French administration shaped the area of Dalmatia, determining the roads and routes that we still use today. The exhibition was set up in two gallery spaces of the Rector's Palace. Most of the exhibits are in the main gallery, divided into several chapters and accompanied by

Napoleonova cesta u Dalmaciji – doprinos francuske uprave u razvoju cestogradnje u Dalmaciji početkom 19. st.

Izložba



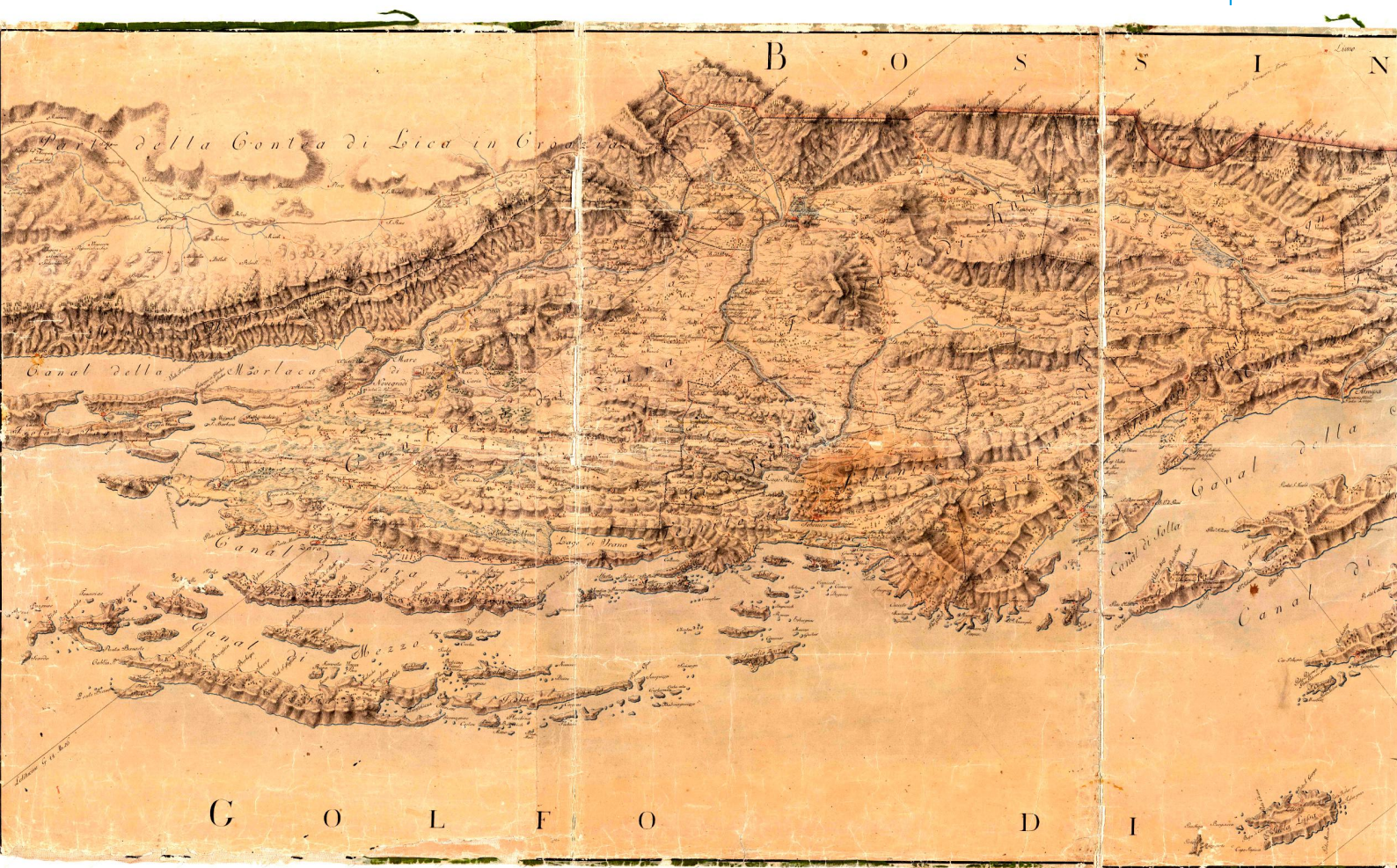
Provinces Illyriennes Serbie et Bosnie / gravé par Jean Baptiste Marie Chamouin ; écrit par Girdon, bakrorez, Zbirka Novak. Iz atlasa C. Malte-Brun, Atlas complet du précis de la géographie universelle. Nacionalna i sveučilišna knjižnica Zagreb, Kartografska zbirka: ZN-Z-XIX-CHA-1812.

Provinces Illyriennes Serbie et Bosnie / gravé par Jean Baptiste Marie Chamouin; écrit par Girdon, copperplate, Novak Collection. From the atlas of C. Malte-Brun, Atlas complet du précis de la géographie universelle. National and University Library Zagreb, Cartographic collection: ZN-Z-XIX-CHA-1812.

Ideja o organiziranju izložbe nastala je u Državnom arhivu u Zadru u kojemu se čuvaju mnogobrojni izvori iz doba francuske uprave i nastanka cestovne infrastrukture u kasnijim razdobljima. Izložbom su

obuhvaćeni spisi, planovi, nacrti, troškovnici, proračuni, službena korespondencija, zemljovid i knjige, a izložena su ukupno 63 ekspanata u originalima i reprodukcijama. Izložba prikazuje kako je francuska

uprava u Dalmaciji inicirala i realizirala izgradnju određenih dionica Napoleonove ceste koja je trebala prolaziti cijelom dužinom Ilirskih pokrajina, od Ljubljane do Dubrovnika i dalje prema jugu. Izložba je



Map of Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor with marked roads and paths in colours, 1811 by Francesco Zavoreo, HR-DAZD-383 Cartographic collection, sign 1.3.6. Zemljovid Dubrovnika i Boke kotorske s ucrtanim cestama i putovima u bojama, 1811. autor Francesco Zavoreo, HR-DAZD-383 Kartografska zbirka, sign 1.3.6.

appropriate bilingual legends in Croatian and French.

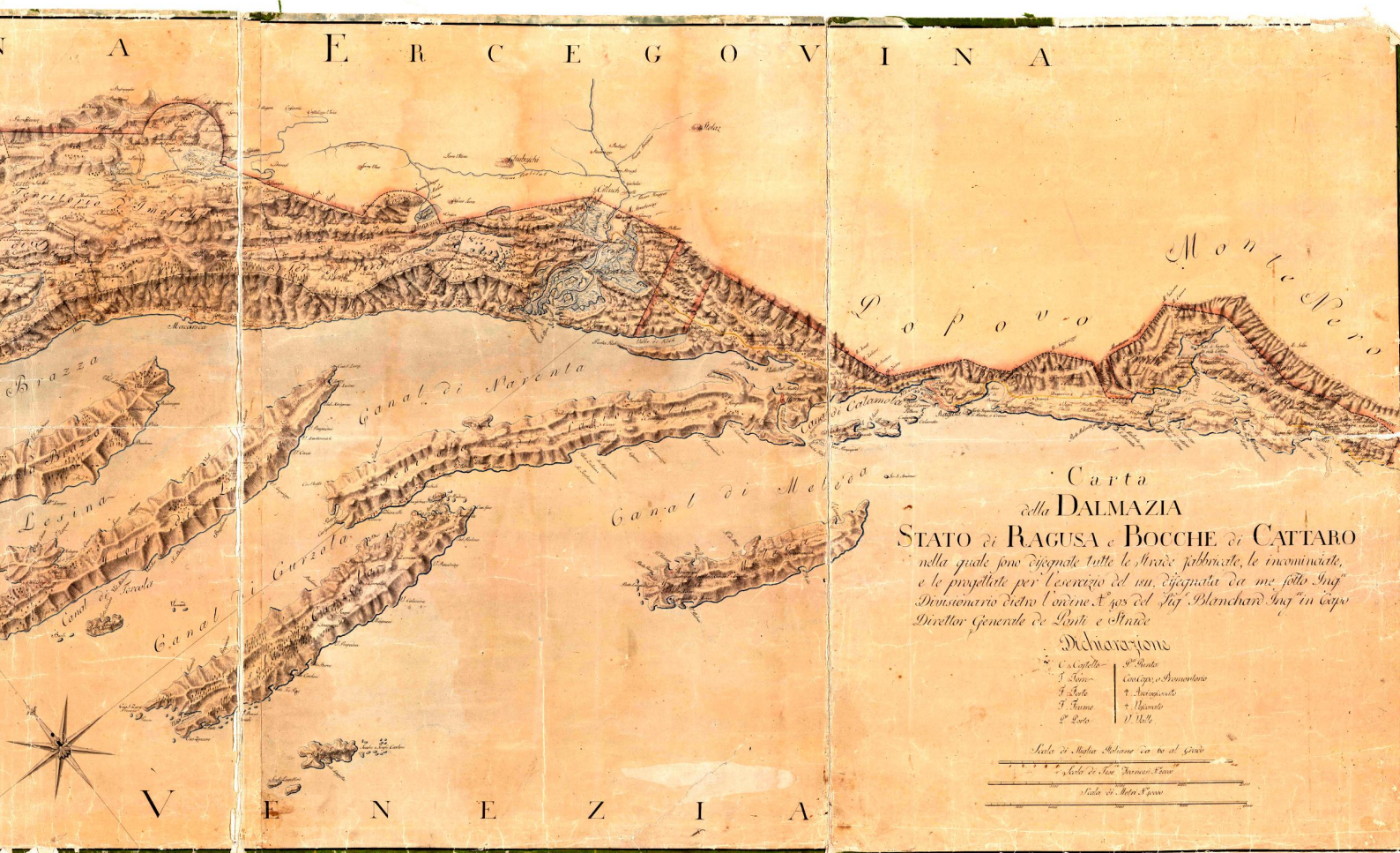
The fast and efficient road constructions in Dalmatia, at that time, was mainly attributed to the *Provveditore* General Vincenzo Dandolo and Marshal Auguste Marmont. Marshal Marmont's memoirs, his portrait and biography were displayed next to Paul Pisani's book "La Dalmatie de 1797 à 1815", which shows a portrait of Dandolo.

A series of color photo-panels, laid out like a frieze along the gallery wall, shows actual remains of two roads, one on the Pelješac peninsula and the other on Mount Biokovo, above Brela. Photos of these roads were provided by prof. dr. sc. Josip Belamarić and Mr. Ivan Viđen. Under the photo panel of the Pelješac road,

there is a reproduction of a map of the city of Dubrovnik and its surroundings which shows old and new roads. The map was provided by the Croatian State Archives.

"French roads" were built mostly with the help of the local population of the province through which the road was planned to pass. The organizers emphasized the fact that the projects of these roads were made by local engineers who also supervised the construction. A letter from the chief engineer of the Illyrian provinces, Jean-Louis Blanchard, addressed to the chief engineer in Dalmatia, Francesco Zavoreo opens the engineering chapter. In the middle of the gallery wall is a reproduction of Zavoreo's hand drawn map from 1811, which shows

Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor with its marked roads and paths. The original map is 247 cm long and printed on canvas which is today quite damaged. Various cost estimates for the construction of certain stages of the road are also on display. The Governor-General of the Illyrian Provinces, General Henri-Gatien Bertrand, a worthy successor to Marmont in 1811 and until the fall of the Illyrian Provinces, advocated the continuation of work on Napoleon's Road. His letters clearly testify to this and the name of the road under construction is highlighted: Napoleon's Road. One of the walls of the gallery is dominated by a large reproduction of the portrait of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. An anecdote associated with



bila premijerno predstavljena u Francuskom Institutu u Zagrebu od 18. do 30. lipnja 2019. povodom manifestacije „Međunarodni dan arhiva“, a nakon toga u Državnom arhivu u Zadru od 19. rujna do 20. listopada 2019., prilikom obilježavanjem Dana arhiva. Ove godine, u suradnji s Dubrovačkim muzejima izložba je ugošćena u galerijskom prostoru Kneževa dvora u Dubrovniku od 5. svibnja do 6. lipnja. Izložba je bila otvorena 5. svibnja 2021. na 200. godišnjicu Napoleonove smrti. Tim povodom uvodni govor održao je veleposlanik Republike Francuske, Nj. E. Gaël Veysière, preko videoveze. Na otvaranju su govorili ravnateljica Dubrovačkih muzeja dr. sc. Julijana Antić Brautović, ravnatelj Državnog arhiva u Zadru doc. dr. sc. Ante Gverić, a izložbu je otvorila zamjenica dubrovačkog gradonačelnika Jelka Tepšić. Autori izložbe su

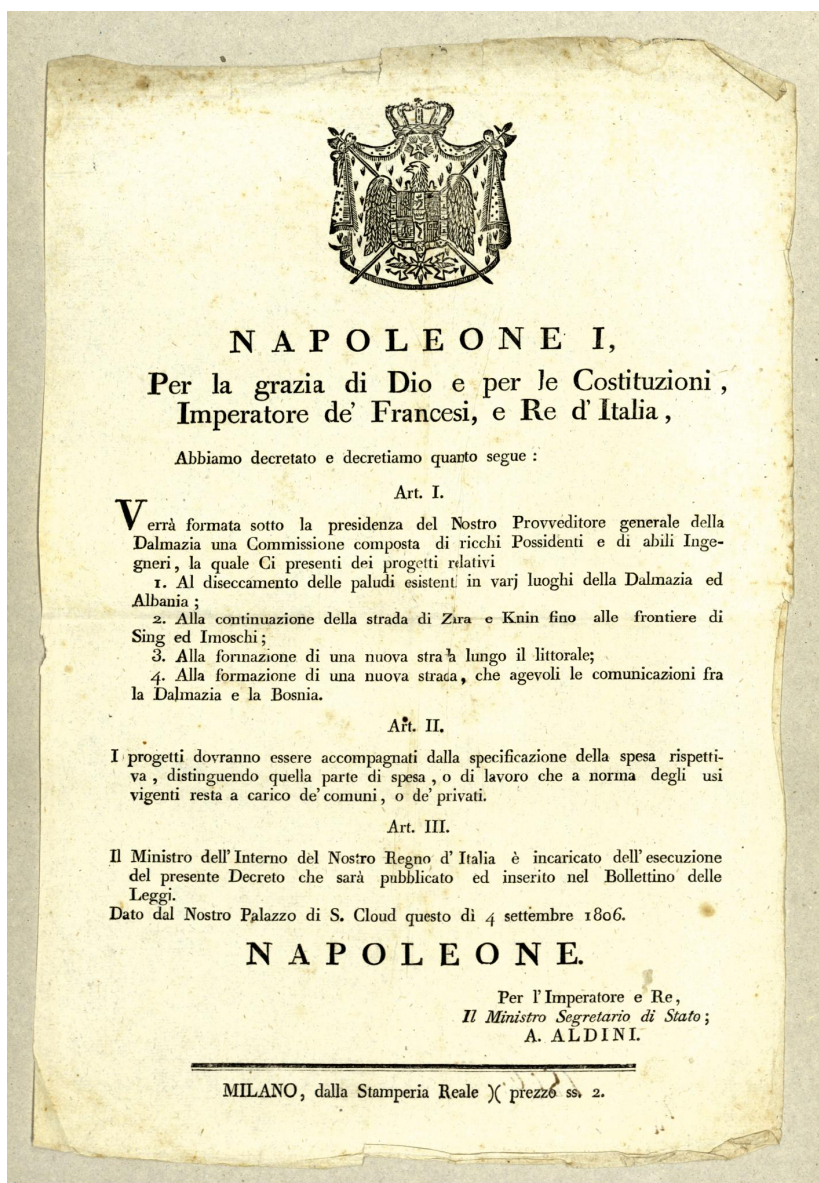
viši arhivist Denis Martinović i arhivistica Karolina Ražov, a koordinatorica izložbe u Dubrovniku bila je viša kustosica Dubrovačkih muzeja Lucija Vuković.

Francuzi su svojim dolaskom na ovim područjima 1806. nastojali proširiti svoj utjecaj do krajnjih granica novoosvojenog teritorija na svom putu prema istoku Europe. Kako bi se taj cilj i ostvario bila je neophodna gradnja cesta jer je u Dalmaciji cestovna infrastruktura bila zapuštena. Izložbeni eksponati otkrivaju posjetiteljima kako je gradnja cesta za vrijeme francuske uprave oblikovala prostor Dalmacije određivši putove i rute kojim se još i danas koristimo. Postav je smješten u dva međusobno povezana galerijska prostora Kneževa dvora. Najveći dio izložbenih eksponata smješten je u velikoj dvorani, a izložci su podijeljeni u više poglavlja i popraćeni

odgovarajućim dvojezičnim legendama na hrvatskome i francuskom jeziku.

Generalni providur Vincenzo Dandolo i maršal Auguste Marmont su u to doba bili glavni akteri brze i učinkovite cestogradnje u Dalmaciji. Uz knjigu Paula Pisanija „La Dalmatie de 1797 à 1815“, koja prikazuje Dandoloov portret, izloženi su i memoari maršala Marmonta, portret i njegova biografija.

Niz foto-panela u boji, položenih kao friz dužinom zida galerije, prikazuje današnje ostatke dviju cesta, jednu na poluotoku Pelješcu, a drugu na Biokovu iznad Brele. Fotografije tih cesta ustupili su prof. dr. sc. Josip Belamarić i gospodin Ivan Viđen. Ispod foto-panela ceste s Pelješca prikazana je reprodukcija zemljovida grada Dubrovnika s okolicom i ucrtanim novim i starim cestama koji je ustupio Hrvatski državni arhiv.



Printed proclamation of Emperor and King Napoleon I. printed in Milan on September 4, 1806 on the arrangement of swamps and the construction of roads, HR-DAZD-386 Collection of printed matter / Stampata, box 10, sign. 47/10, 1806.

Tiskani proglas cara i kralja Napoleona I. tiskan u Milanu 4. rujna 1806. o uređenju močvara i izgradnji cesta, HR-DAZD-386 Zbirka tiskovina/Stampata, kut. 10, sign. 47/10, 1806.

this portrait testifies to the vanity of the great emperor. Actually, the portrait was offered by Marshal Marmont to the Franciscan Province in 1808. In doing so, Marmont sought to calm the tension that arose between him and Napoleon which was caused by his great popularity in Dalmatia. He often stayed among the Franciscans and during his travels regularly stayed in their monasteries. The original portrait

of Napoleon was lent by the Franciscan Monastery in Šibenik for the first exhibition in Zagreb.

In the small gallery, selected exhibits belonging to the Zadar engineer Pietro Pecota were presented to the public. Pecota's beautiful hand drawn colour map showing a part of Napoleon's road above Makarska on Mount Biokovo is hung on the central wall (ink and watercolour technique). The map of

Dalmatia from 1807 by Johann Walch and the map of the Illyrian provinces from 1812 by Jean-Baptiste Chamouin which are from the holdings of the National and University Library in Zagreb are also on display.

The rest of the exhibition is dedicated to a series of impressive works by engineers who continued to work on designed roads from the French administration during the 19th century. Seven original documents from the holdings of the cartographic collection of the State Archives in Zadar complete the rest of the gallery. An impressive, printed map of the Illyrian provinces by Gaetano Palma from 1812 is presented to the visitors, next to it, the project design for a new road from Knin to the Grab of Luigi d'Emiljjs, (ink and watercolour technique). The project of restoration of two bridges in Bribir on the road leading to Skradin (ink and watercolour), drawn by Conradt, was also displayed. The 236 cm long planimetric map showing the new road from Zadar to Drniš and towards Sinj and Klis is inspiring. Visitors can see the map of the built roads, as well as those that are planned, for example the one from Imotski to Makarska (ink and watercolour). The last exhibit is a distance matrix, which shows, among other things, distances between cities in Dalmatia (ink and watercolour).

Even though the built sections of Napoleon's Road through Dalmatia did not all connect to each other, Marshal Marmont will be remembered as its initiator; Zavo-reo and Pecota as its engineers and designers, as will the many local builders, craftsmen, and stonemasons who were involved in building a unique monument amid impossible conditions. Their endeavours in Dalmatia are valuable; they represent a part of Croatian cultural and historical heritage that is left for future generations to preserve and maintain. This exhibition is a small contribution to this aspiration.

Karolina Ražov ■

„Francuske ceste“ građene su najvećim dijelom uz pomoć lokalnog stanovništva područja kojim bi cesta prolazila. Autori izložbe stavili su naglasak na činjenicu da su projekte tih cesta izradili domaći inženjeri koji su i nadzirali gradnju. Uvod u tematiku inženjerije otvara pismo glavnog inženjera Ilirskih provincija Jeana-Louisa Blancharda upućeno glavnom inženjeru u Dalmaciji Francescu Zavoreu. Na sredini zida galerije postavljena je reprodukcija Zavoreova rukopisnog zemljovida iz 1811. koji prikazuje Dubrovnik i Boku Kotorsku s ucrtanim cestama i putovima. Izvorna karta je duga 247 cm i otisnuta je na platnu koje je danas prilično oštećeno. Izloženi su i razni troškavnici za izgradnju određenih etapa ceste. Generalni guverner Ilirskih provincija general Henri-Gatien Bertrand, dosljedni Marmontov nasljednik od 1811. do ukidanja Ilirskih provincija, zalaže se za nastavak radova na Napoleonovoj cesti. Njegovi dopisi jasno svjedoče o tome, a u njima je istaknut naziv ceste koja se gradi: Napoleonova cesta. Na jednom od zidova galerije dominira reprodukcija velikog portreta francuskog cara Napoleona Bonapartea. Uz taj portret je povezana anegdota koja svjedoči o taštini velikog cara. Naime, portret je maršal Marmont poklonio 1808. franjevačkoj provinciji. Time je nastojao primiriti napetost koja je nastala između njega i Napoleona radi velike Marmontove popularnosti u Dalmaciji. On je često boravio među franjevcima i prilikom svojih putovanja redovito odsjedao u njihovim samostanima. Originalni portret Napoleona je ustupio Franjevački samostan u Šibeniku za prvi postav izložbe u Zagrebu.

U manjoj izložbenoj galeriji javnosti su prezentirani odabrani izložbeni eksponati koji su pripadali zadarskom inženjeru Pietru Pecoti. Prekrasna Pecotina rukopisna karta u boji koja prikazuje dio Napoleonove ceste iznad Makarske na Biokovu izrađena tehnikom tuša i



Fotografija ceste na Biokovu izna Brela i Makarske, završna serpentina "Francuske ceste" prema moru. Privatna fototeka Josipa Belamarića.

Photo of the road on Biokovo above Brela and Makarska, the final serpentine of the "French road" towards the sea. Private photo library of Josip Belamarić.

akvarela, izvješena je na centralnom zidu. Izloženi su i zemljovid Dalmacije iz 1807. autora Johanna Walcha te zemljovid Ilirskih pokrajina iz 1812. autora Jeana-Baptistea Chamouina iz fundusa Nacionalne i sveučilišne knjižnice u Zagrebu.

Ostatak izložbe posvećen je nizu impresivnih radova inženjera koji su tijekom 19. stoljeća nastavili rad na projektiranim cestama iz doba francuske uprave. Sedam izvornih dokumenata iz fundusa kartografske zbirke Državnog arhiva u Zadru upotpunjuju ostali dio galerije. Posjetiteljima je predložen impozantni tiskani zemljovid Ilirskih provincija Gaetana Palme iz 1812. Do njega je projekt nove ceste od Knina do Graba Luigija d'Emilija, izrađen u bojama tehnikom, tuša i akvarela. Izvješena je i projekt restauracije dvaju mostova u Bribiru na cesti koja vodi do Skradina (tuš i akvarel), autora Conradta. Izuzetan je planimetrijski nacrt dugačak 236 cm koji prikazuje novu cestu od Zadra do Drniša i prema

Sinju i Klisu. Posjetitelji mogu vidjeti plan izgrađenih cesta, ali i one koje su predviđene za izgradnju od Imotskog do Makarske, izrađen tehnikom tuša i akvarela. Zadnji eksponat je miljo-kaz, koji prikazuje, između ostaloga, cestovnu udaljenost između gradova u Dalmaciji (izrađen je u boju u tehnici tuša i akvarela).

Usprkos tomu što se izgrađene etape ceste kroz Dalmaciju nisu sve međusobno spojile, Napoleonova cesta, odnosno njezin dalmatinski dio, ostat će zapamćen po maršalu Marmontu kao inicijatoru, inženjerima i projektantima, Zavoreu i Pecoti i mnogobrojnim domaćim graditeljima, majstorima i klesarima, koji su u nemogućim vremenskim uvjetima sagradili jedinstveni spomenik. Njihovi pothvati na području Dalmacije su dragocjeni jer predstavljaju dio hrvatske kulturne i povijesne baštine koja ostaje budućim generacijama na čuvanje i održavanje. Ova izložba je svojevrsni doprinos toj težnji.

Karolina Ražov ■