

### Summary

#### **FOUNDATION AND WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY „KNJEGINJA LJUBICA” IN LESKOVAC AREA FROM 1901 TO 1903**

The foundation of the society „Knjeginja Ljubica” was related to a difficult position of the Serbian people in the Old Serbia and Macedonia. Only two years after the foundation of this society in Belgrade, in December 1901, its subcommittee in Leskovac was founded, one of the first in the south of Serbia. The subcommittee covered the territory of the former districts of Leskovac and worked very well at the time. A few months after the formation of the subcommittee in Leskovac, a subcommittee of the society „Knjeginja Ljubica” in Lebane was formed during 1902. The subcommittee in Lebane was the first subcommittee on the territory of Jablanica district. However, the following year, in 1903 two more subcommittees on the territory of Jablanica district were formed. These were the subcommittees in Medvedja and Retkocer.

On the basis of the available sources, we can conclude that during 1902 and 1903 the subcommittees of the society „Knjeginja Ljubica” in Leskovac area had a significant role in the development of education and culture in the south of Serbia. According to the activities and number of their members, they had a significant place in the complete work of the society „Knjeginja Ljubica”. This observation is confirmed by the fact that at the beginning of 1903 the annual general meeting in Belgrade was attended by the representatives from Lebane and Leskovac. As for the work of the subcommittee in Medvedja, except a constituent assembly, which is mentioned in the documentation of society „Knjeginja Ljubica” we do not have any available sources of its work. Revenues from this subcommittee are not mentioned anywhere in the cashbooks or in the society financial statements. It is possible that this subcommittee due to its inactivity during 1903 acted as a part of the work of the subcommittee in Retkocer or Lebane.

**Keywords:** *Society Knjeginja Ljubica, Leskovac, Lebane, Medvedja.*