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**Book Review / Приказ књиге**

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**Review of the Book *Great Women in the Great War***

Приказ књиге *Велике жене у Великом рату*

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## Review of the Book *Great Women in the Great War*

### Приказ књиге *Велике жене у Великом рату*

**Author:** Slavica Popović Filipović

**Publisher:** Mali Nemo, Pančevo, Serbia, 2020

**Book volume:** 761 pages, 21 chapters

**ISBN:** 978-86-7972-124-2

A new book entitled *Great Women in the Great War* written by Slavica Popović Filipović has recently been published by Mali Nemo (Pančevo). The editors are Milan Orlić, Duško Lopandić and Danica M. Savić, the reviewer is Dr. Veljko Todorović and the designer is Jelena Basta. The book is skillfully enriched by Bob Filipovich's translations.

This outstanding publication is a result of extended research not only in the history of Serbian medicine, but in the areas of the history of the Great War, international medical missions, remembrance, cultural diplomacy, history of the suffragette movement, humanitarian and philanthropic work as well. This book is the crowning achievement of many years of research and publishing works by Mrs. Popović Filipović, who had previously published scores of her scientific papers that encompassed the above topics.

Knowing that the place and role of women in the history of World War I have been traditionally marginalized, as pointed out by the author in the Introduction, this book gives a significant contribution to our understanding of these brave women who willingly risked their own lives in order to help others in need.

This research project involved reviewing extensive archived materials, many original documents, correspondence, hand-written diaries, and photographs in various archives around the world, as well as in private collections. The author, having crisscrossed the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Pacific, has gathered and presented valuable

documentation about Serbian and foreign women doctors, British suffragettes, Scottish, American, Australian and Canadian women humanists, a French countess, a Russian noblewoman, writers, painters, journalists, titled Ladies, and heroines from faraway countries and continents.

These exceptional women shared wartime suffering with the Serbian people and its army in the midst of world war events: the typhoid epidemics in Serbia; the exodus through the Albanian mountains; the exile on the island of Corfu (Greece); the heroic battles at the Salonika front. Tunisia, Algeria, Corsica, Russian front, and Dobrudja (Bulgaria) were blessed by their presence and immeasurable help as well. This book is, therefore, a remarkable evidence of the dedicated affection and strenuous work of over 2000 women doctors, nurses, orderlies, and humanists, who served in the hospitals of the Serbian Red Cross Society, the Scottish Women's Hospitals (SWH), the hospitals of the Serbian Relief Fund (SRF), the Allied Red Cross Units, and other voluntary humanitarian organizations in Serbia itself and in exile – during the Great War and afterwards, too. Mrs. Popović Filipović has carefully selected twenty-one of them as representatives and shaped their biographies into twenty-one memorable chapters.

Thus, the book provides the reader with new information about the translator and humanist Ljubica Luković (Lukovich), President of the Serbian Women's Society "Kolo srpskih sestara" in the Balkan Wars and the First World War (Chapter 1); Dr. Anđelija Al. Jakšić (Angelia Al. Yakchitch), a woman doctor in the Balkan Wars (Šabac, Serbia) and the Great War (Kragujevac, Serbia) as well as in exile in Paris (France), who was awarded the Order of St. Sava and the French Gold Medal (Ch. 2); the Scottish surgeon and suffragette Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis, the founder and head of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (Ch. 3); Dr. Isabel Galloway Emslie, Lady Hutton, a Scottish doctor, who was awarded the Order of St. Sava and the Russian Order of St. Anna and who volunteered with SWH in France, Gevgelia

(North Macedonia), Salonika (Greece), but also in Vranje (Serbia) after the liberation (Ch.4). The sagas of extraordinary ladies continue with Honorable Evelina Haverfield, a Scottish baroness and a member of SWH in Serbia during the typhoid epidemic, who rests in peace in Serbia – Bajina Bašta (Ch. 5); Nadežda Petrović (Nadezda Petrovich), a famous woman painter, humanist and an orderly in the Balkan Wars and the Great War (Ch. 6); Delfa Ivanić (Ivanich), a humanist, bearer of the International Charity Medal Florence Nightingale (Ch. 7); Rosalie Slaughter Morton, an American doctor at the Salonika Front and a generous philanthropist in war-torn Serbia after the war, who was awarded numerous Serbian and foreign state and church medals (Ch. 8); Dame Louise Margaret Leila Wemyss Paget - Lady Paget, a British volunteer nurse in Serbia, who headed the First Unit of the Serbian Relief Fund and was granted the First Grade of the Order of St. Sava (Ch. 9); Mrs. Gertrude Carrington Wilde, a member of the SRF Committee and a great friend of the Serbian people in war and peace (Ch. 10); Mrs. Hannah Hankin Hardy, the founder of the National League of Serbian Women (in Kragujevac, Serbia, Feb. 1915) and the holder of the Order of St. Sava (Ch. 11); Helen Losanitch Frothingham, a representative of the Serbian Red Cross Mission in America and Canada during the Great War, who, together with her husband John Frothingham, organized several homes for war orphans after the war (Ch. 12); Dr. Agnes Bennett, an Australian from Sydney, the head of the America Unit of SWH at the Salonika front and after the victorious battle of Kaymakchalan (Ch. 13); Lena Aleksandra Jovičić (Lena Alexander Yovitchitch), a writer, translator and a humanist, who was following the story of her family (Ch. 14); Mabel Annie St. Clair Stobart, the head of the Third Unit of SRF in Kragujevac (Serbia) and the commander of the so-called “Flying Unit” during the Great Retreat (Ch. 15); Olive King, an Australian who wore medals instead of brooches and the Serbian cap instead of a ladies’ hat (Ch. 16); French countess Marie de Chabannes la Palice, who worked in the First Serbian Surgical Hospital at the Salonika Front (Ch. 17); Madam

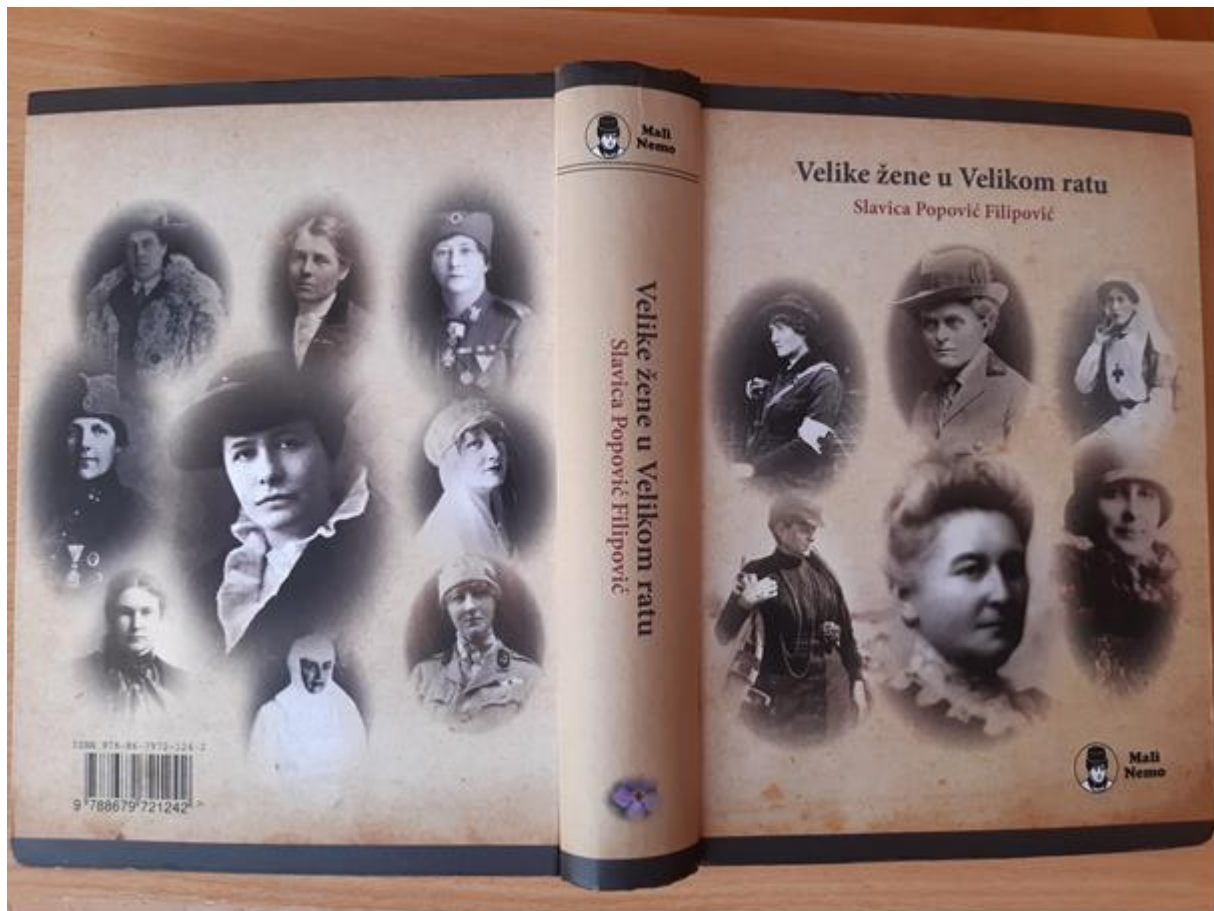
Mabel Gordon-Dunlop Grujić (Grouitch), an American – a great lady of grace, who remained with the Serbian people for years (Ch. 18); Aleksandra Pavlovna Hartvig, a Russian aristocrat in the humanitarian mission in Serbia in the Balkan Wars and the Great War (Ch. 19); Dr. Slavka Mihajlović Klisić (Mihajlovich Klisich), a woman doctor and a poet in the service of her homeland in war and peace (Ch. 20); and Dr. Harriet Macmillan Cockburn, a Canadian woman doctor in the Third Unit of SRF in Serbia, who took part in the retreat (Ch. 21).

Taking into account that the Introduction is written in English, that all chapters are followed by an extensive resume in English, that the quotations in the English language are retained in their original form and that there is also a bilingual Names Index, this reference book is readily available to a wide range of both domestic and foreign researchers. As it abounds in relevant details, it may serve as a valuable resource for many libraries and archives. A wider public and lovers of this genre will certainly embrace the opportunity to learn about the lives and deeds of the heroines from Mrs. Popović Filipović's book.

To write about the great women in the Great War is a limitless topic, and the moral obligation to save their names from oblivion should remain a constant. Their admirable energy, enthusiasm, professionalism, unselfishness, devotion and persistence can be most deeply felt by the ones who possess the same qualities. Hence, we highly recommend this book by Mrs. Popović Filipović and emphasize that nowadays and in the years to come, our gratitude to the heroines from the glorious past should always be accompanied by our gratitude to those who write about them in such a knowledgeable and warm manner.

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