

CULTURAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES IN SHKODRA, DURIN THE FIRST YEARS AFTER THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract

In the first years after the proclamation of the independence, many small cultural groups were operating in Shkodra, which later focused on forming cultural clubs and societies. The cultural clubs and societies which arose in the city of Shkodra in the time frame 1912-1920, were numerous and their activities quite rich. Chronologically it can be mentioned: Club "Albanian Language" (1912), Club "National League" (1913), the "Vaso Pasha" (1914), the "Mustafa Pasha" (1914), the "Nje tube djelmni shkodrane" (1915), the "Rozafa" (1918), the society "Vllaznija" the Company "Bogdani" (1919). They were formed by and they developed their activities at a time, when Shkodra was occupied and passed from one ruler to another and while the Albanian state was struggling in the early stages of its organization. Due to the difficulties posed by the time, they had different timeframes of activities, but they acted on a voluntary basis and they were national and secular. Their activities concentrated mainly on releasing different music genres and amateur theater, marking new achievements in quality and in the delivery of Albanian secular, civic art with professional elements supporting folk tradition according to Western world standards. These companies also recorded new grades of quality with nationwide influence. In the framework of these activities, they paid attention in order to unify and harmonize the various religious communities in the city and to establish a higher stage for spontaneous cultural and artistic activities, which were so important for the population of Shkodra. It was important to highlight that their organization and activities were of a high level. They were influenced by the experience of the Albanian Diaspora and the West. They acted in accordance to statutes and regulations, according to specific committees, with their own safe, library and press, having corresponding emblems and flags. The social basis of the members who took part in these cultural societies was wide, which gave life and colors to their activities in a large scale. Key words: cultural clubs and societies, folk tradition, the Western experience, statutes, regulations, committees, emblem, flag, the Society "Vllaznija", Society "Rozafat", Company "Bogdani", "The city of Shkodra", music, amateur theater.

Keyword: *Vaso, Rozafa, Bogdani* ,