

ZAGREB TIMES

MORNING EDITION

2020s/1800s



Visit to Penkala's shop



WITCHCRAFT AND SUPERSTITION

Paulina Dragčević and Tara Višnjovski, 2.b

Witchcraft

Witchcraft in Croatia has undergone a dramatic transformation, shifting from fear and condemnation in the 19th century to a cultural curiosity celebrated today.

Once shrouded in suspicion, tales of witches are now embraced through festivals, literature, and tourism, preserving folklore while adapting it to modern tastes.

Superstition

Romani superstitions have also evolved. In the 19th century, beliefs in animal omens, like ravens foretelling poverty, were integral to daily life. Today, adaptations include avoiding selfies in cemeteries to ward off spirits. Globalization has diluted superstition's central role in Romani communities, leaving only traces of its former influence.





Fears

Worldwide, superstitions have changed, reflecting needs to ward off the unknown. While science has progressed, modern superstitions - such as conspiracy theories - still emerge during uncertain times, showing that fear continues to breed irrational ideas.

Some fears have persisted; the number 13 is still seen as unlucky, and Friday the 13th is viewed with caution. Whereas 19th century fears of comets have shifted to seeing them as good fortune, belief in astrology and horoscopes remains strong, reflecting our enduring fascination with the cosmos.





Hypnosis

Once viewed as theatrical, hypnosis is now recognized as a therapeutic tool for anxiety, phobias, and pain. While entertainment hypnosis persists, modern practitioners focus on ethics and scientific understanding, moving away from past spectacles.

These shifts illustrate how rooted beliefs adapt over time, blending folklore, fear, and curiosity with contemporary contexts.



FROM THE BONEBRAKER TO FOOTBALL

Vice Travica, 2.b

BICYCLE

(„*velocipede*“)

The 19th-century velocipede featured a large front wheel and front-mounted pedals, whereas modern bicycles have equal-sized wheels and pedals in the middle of the frame. Early bikes were made of heavy materials like wood and steel and lacked brakes, while today's bicycles are lightweight and equipped with advanced safety features.



Velocipede in the 19th century

EXERCISE („*gombanje*“)

In the 19th century, exercise was typically linked to physical labor, while today, it focuses on health and fitness through structured training programs and advanced equipment.

Horse riding

Horseback riding has changed significantly from the 19th century. Once an essential skill and status symbol among the aristocracy, horses were crucial for transportation and farm work. Key disciplines included horse racing, show jumping, dressage, and military cavalry training.

Today, riding is a professional sport requiring significant investment, featuring international competitions and minimal amateur participation.



Horse riding in the 19th century

Ice skating

Ice skating evolved from a popular winter pastime to a professional sport. Initially, skates were simple, made of wood or metal, but now include disciplines such as figure skating, ice hockey, and speed skating. There are now international competitions, and the equipment is highly advanced. Figure skating has become a global sport with high competition.

Swimming

Swimming became popular as a sport, mainly in Europe, but without much professionalization. Competitions were informal, and the equipment was simple. Women swam in long dresses, and men wore shorts. Today, it is a highly professional sport with organized international competitions like the Olympic Games.



Modern advancements in suits and technology, such as timing devices, have significantly enhanced athlete performance and preparation.



Olympic games in the 19th century



Olympic swimming in 2024

Wrestling

In the 19th century, animal wrestling, which included battles with bulls, bears, horses, and dogs, was popular entertainment at fairs and circuses. These events attracted audiences, but they were often cruel to animals. Rising ethical concerns led to legal changes in the early 20th century that banned such practices in favor of animal protection.

Also, people once wrestled with lions that had their claws removed and muzzles put on to reduce the risk of injury.

The Olympic Games

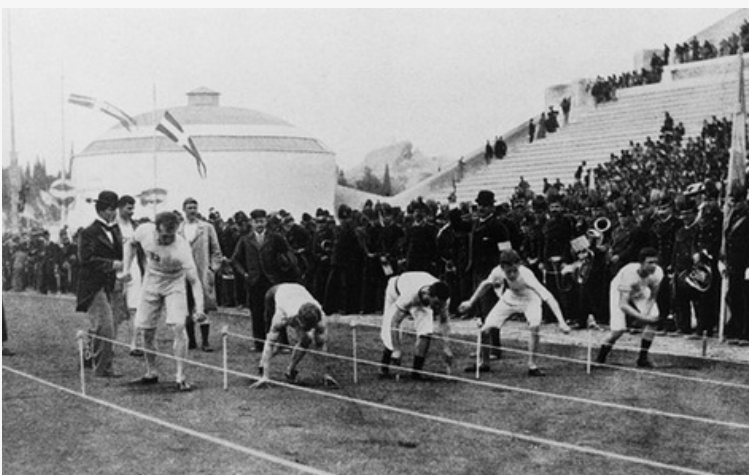
The Olympic Games have transformed since their inception in 1896, when 13 countries participated with only male athletes. Today, the Games are a global event featuring over 200 countries and both men and women across a wide variety of sports, including newer disciplines like surfing and skateboarding.



Coverage has expanded from local media to worldwide broadcasts via television and social media, reflecting a celebration of sport, culture, and unity. The 1896 Games included nine disciplines: athletics, cycling, fencing, archery, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, weightlifting, and wrestling.



The Olympic games in 2024 in Paris



The Olympic games in 1896 in Athena



EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Anika Radoš i Gabriijela Čunčić, 2.d

In the 19th century, education in Zagreb was more advanced than in rural areas, but it still had many problems. Schools lacked funding, and families had to buy expensive books. Boys and girls were taught separately, a practice that began to change only in the second half of the century. Many schools were under the influence of The Catholic Church, which started to slowly change in the 2nd half of the century.



In the 1st half of the 19th century, Latin, German and Hungarian dominated with Croatian being introduced later on. Other languages were still present, especially English and Russian. Elementary school initially had 4 grades, which later grew to 6, and children had to attend from ages 6 to 12. Subjects included reading, writing, basic math, religion, and etiquette, with more focus on history and geography beginning in 1868.

Boys went to vocational schools and gymnasiums, while girls could only attend schools focused on home skills unless they wanted to become teachers. In 1892, the first female gymnasium opened, allowing women to study more subjects.. The University of Zagreb was established in 1874 with three main fields of study: law, theology, and philosophy. The University of Zagreb was founded in 1874, with degrees in law, theology, and philosophy, but

women weren't allowed to attend until 1901. The First Gymnasium opened in 1854 on Ćirilometodska Street and later moved to Roosevelt Square in 1895 as a male-only school. By the end of the century, reforms helped Croatia improve its literacy and education system, shown by the establishment of the first female gymnasium in Croatia shortly after one in Italy. Today, we benefit from free education in our language, which is a significant achievement compared to the past.



THE EVOLUTION OF BEAUTY



Lucija Zajec (2.e), Ena Lucija Živković (2.e)

Lea Detić (2.c)

Have you noticed how perceptions of beauty change every few years? One decade, super-skinny bodies are in vogue, while the next celebrates curves. For example, in the early 2000s, skinny bodies were the standard for beauty, whereas in the 19th century, being slim was often associated with sickness and unattractiveness; fuller bodies were considered more beautiful for women.





In the 19th and 20th centuries, there was little discrimination based on race and age; if a woman was beautiful, she was admired regardless of her skin color—whether black, brown, or even if she had wrinkles or youthful features. A woman's prime age was often considered to be around 35 to 40 years old. During this time, there was significant debate about whether women should wear corsets.



Men believed that small waists created by corsets were more appealing to women than to men themselves. The opinion was that “if a woman is fully developed, she should not wear corsets to make her naturally small waist even smaller.” Women had different wardrobes for various occasions. For a stroll in the park, the attire typically included a gown with large, puffy sleeves, paired with an elaborate headpiece, usually a

hat made from fine fabric and adorned with colorful flowers and nature-inspired motifs. In addition, women had simpler sleeping gowns made from less intricate fabric, often with little to no accessories. The gown for social visits was the most luxurious, crafted from silk and featuring elaborate details and decorations. The fitted sleeves highlighted women's delicate hands, and a hat was always a necessary accessory to complete the outfit.





In terms of makeup, women would often draw on fake freckles, believing they would enhance their youthfulness. Tattooing also started to gain popularity and acceptance, particularly among the aristocracy, who would choose symbols representing their name, family, or heritage for their tattoos. Women, just like today, went to great lengths to be considered attractive.

Nowadays, both men and women often inject various substances into their faces and bodies in a quest for youthful beauty. Similarly, in the past, women sought to enhance their appeal by injecting perfume into their veins, believing it would improve their scent. Perhaps we aren't as different from them as we might think.



THE DAWN OF MODERN MILITARY

Luka Panković, 2.b

19th century

During the 19th century, the leading military powers in Europe were France and Germany. With the advent of airplanes and hot air balloons, battles began to take place in the air. Initially, these aircraft were used to drop shells and shrapnel on enemy positions, but there was also an interest in using them for observing enemy movements.





This development made aircraft an invaluable asset for military operations. The land army and cavalry struggled to engage effectively with aerial forces, prompting a push towards automating weapons capable of firing multiple precise shots in a short time without relying on gunpowder. The advancement of artillery continued, with France developing some of the most powerful cannons ever seen,

21st century

which caused widespread destruction and unprecedented horrors. Dogs were also enlisted for military duties; they were trained to locate the enemy and provide warnings of potential dangers. These dogs underwent special grooming and exercises tailored for their roles. By the end of the 19th century, the invention of a protective uniform led to the development of what would become the bulletproof vest.

In the 21st century, many military powers have risen to the level of former France and Germany, but the United States and the Russian Federation are the undisputed leaders. Today, balloons have been replaced by drones. Airplanes are primarily used for attacks, while drones now handle the role of observing enemy movements. The modern army no longer uses cavalry,





and nearly all weapons are automated. The modern army no longer relies on cavalry, and nearly all weapons are automated. Cannons have become obsolete, as they are impractical compared to contemporary weaponry. While dogs continue to serve in the military, they are now better trained and equipped with more advanced skills.

The development of impenetrable military units has also been perfected. Military advancements from the 19th to the 21st century highlight a shift from basic aerial combat and early automation to highly sophisticated drones, automated weapons, and enhanced training, underscoring the enduring pursuit of tactical superiority.



THE WACKY WORLD OF 19TH CENTURY MEDICINE

Filip Tošanov 2.b

Curing cancer with arsenic

For centuries, arsenic, a highly toxic substance, was mistakenly believed to be an effective cure for various diseases, including cancer. People would rub it on wounds, hoping for healing. Today, we understand that arsenic is both ineffective and dangerous. Instead, we use radiation therapy to treat cancer, recognizing that there is no definitive "cure."

Curing rabies with a "rabid fly"

In 1883, a Catholic family in Kosovo claimed to have found a special fly that could cure rabies. They prepared the fly in water, which was then consumed by those bitten by rabid dogs, and they believed it cured them. However, we now know that rabies has no effective cure, and vaccination is the key to prevention.



Applying flour to wounds or burns

In the past, it was common advice to apply flour to wounds or burns with the belief that it would reduce pain. Although this myth persists today, experts have indicated that flour is not an effective treatment. Instead, they recommend using cold water for such injuries.

Stopping Bleeding with Ferric Chloride

Ferric chloride, among other astringents like alum and tannin, was used historically to stop bleeding. However, ferric chloride is not suitable for this purpose as it can severely irritate or burn the skin and eyes. Inhalation can also cause irritation to the nose, throat, and lungs, leading to tightness in the chest and difficulty breathing.



CALLING BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY -TECHNOLOGY

Dora Videc, 2.a and Ema Matošević, 2.b

Many technological innovations from the late 19th century were surprisingly ahead of their time and helped shape the world we live in today. For example, Thomas Edison's phonograph was an early version of what would eventually lead to video calls and digital cameras. Another invention, a phonograph with a built-in clock, evolved into today's smartwatches.

Early radio technology, which was first used for telephones, allowed 8,000 people to listen to opera, laying the foundation for modern communication. Similarly, early ideas of videophones and flying ships predicted today's video calls, helicopters, and airplanes. Even Nikola Tesla is credited with inventing television and video calls.





Though women had limited rights at the time, they still made important contributions. They helped develop inventions like the telescope, sewing machine, and fire rescue ships, which later evolved into modern search and rescue operations using helicopters and drones. Women also helped reduce traffic noise, a concept that continues to be used today in soundproofing technologies.

Their ideas for controlling sea waves and reducing railway noise contributed to modern environmental and noise-reduction technology in transportation. In medicine, X-ray technology, despite early safety concerns, led to the development of CT scans and MRIs. Devices like the stethoscope and blood pressure monitor are still in use, now with digital features. The idea of an “automatic doctor” also predicted the rise of automated health devices.



Other inventions, like the musical bed designed to help people wake up, evolved into today's smart alarm clocks with features like sound, vibration, and light. The electrolytic fly killer became today's electronic pest control systems. The largest steamships of the time also inspired the development of modern cruise liners, which can carry thousands of people.

In summary, many 19th-century inventions were ahead of their time and laid the groundwork for today's advancements in healthcare, communication, transportation, and automation. Without these early innovations, our modern world would look very different.



*The father of X-ray
Wilhelm Röntgen*



CRIMINAL TACTICS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Adrijan Ronan Gabriš, 2.a

Crime was relatively common in the 19th century, especially compared to today. Incidents of theft, homicide, duels, suicide, and various other crimes were frequently reported in newspapers of the time. The most common punishments included imprisonment and fines, with prison sentences ranging from three months to many years.

In Austria-Hungary, capital punishment existed but was limited, as people preferred alternative options. The judicial system was much simpler and more efficient, yet it often failed to address every possible situation, providing opportunities for criminals to evade punishment. For instance, a man in London trained his dog to



steal items such as umbrellas, which the dog would then return to him. When he was caught, the man faced no punishment, but the dog was placed under police supervision. Homicides during this period were often brutal, and in certain regions, religion significantly influenced local laws. For example, Arab women could be killed simply for going outside alone.

The 19th century saw frequent crime and varied punishments, from fines to limited use of capital punishment. Justice systems were efficient but often flawed, with cultural and religious norms heavily influencing laws in some regions.



EVOLUTION OF TRAFFIC

Stipe Šekerija, 2.b

Trains

In the late 19th century, American inventor Phelps developed a method for trains to send telegrams while moving, reducing collisions. Steam-powered trains ran on single tracks, with the "Empire State Express" achieving speeds of 88 km/h. The Trans-Siberian Railway, initiated in 1891, connected European

Russia to Siberia, symbolizing Russian ambition and serving critical transportation needs. By the end of the century, electric railways were being tested in England, leading to the development of high-speed trains like Japan's Shinkansen, capable of reaching 600 km/h in testing.



Funicular

The Zagreb Funicular, opened in 1890, is Croatia's first funicular and the shortest cable railway in the world used for public transport, connecting the city's Lower and Upper Towns.



The first funicular in Zagreb, 1890

Tram

The first tram in Croatia, a horse - drawn model, began operating in Zagreb in 1891, covering an 8 - km route. Today, trams are vital for public transportation in cities like Zagreb, featuring an extensive network of over 116 kilometers.



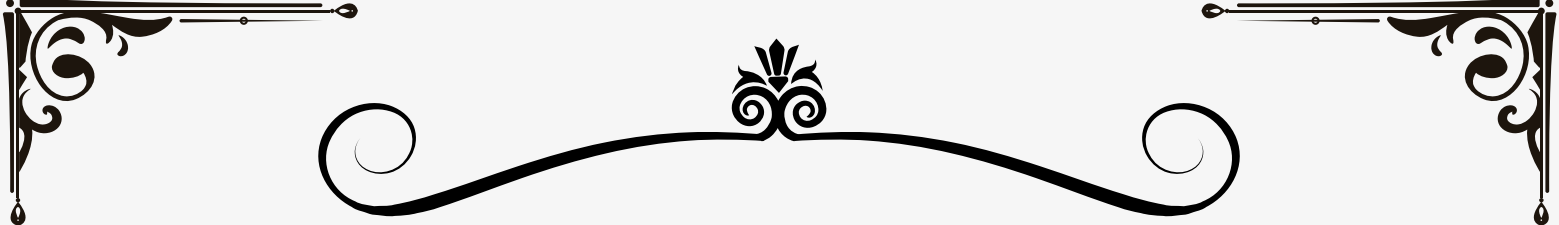


A GLITCH IN THE UNIVERSE -A SERIALISED NOVEL

Ema Završki, Anhelina Hrab and
Oleksandra Petrochenko, 2.f

It was a cold December night, and Kristina and her family were headed to a theater show at the National Theatre in Zagreb. Her mother had chosen the show, which revolved around 19th-century events and themes. Kristina didn't know much about it, and as soon as she heard it was historical, she lost interest. Like many other aspects of her life, she felt she had no say in what she wanted to do, so she agreed to attend for her mother's sake. Kristina decided to make the most of it by wearing her new jeans and boots for the first time. Once they arrived at the National Theatre and took their seats, the show began. Just ten minutes in, Kristina regretted her decision to come. The performance was so dull that she couldn't grasp the theme.





As her eyes grew heavy, she decided to close them for just a moment. No one could see her anyway, since the lights were dimmed. When she opened her eyes, the entire theater was completely strange, dark, and empty. Her family was gone. The only people remaining were two strange men dressed in navy blue coats with high collars, who had just woken her up.

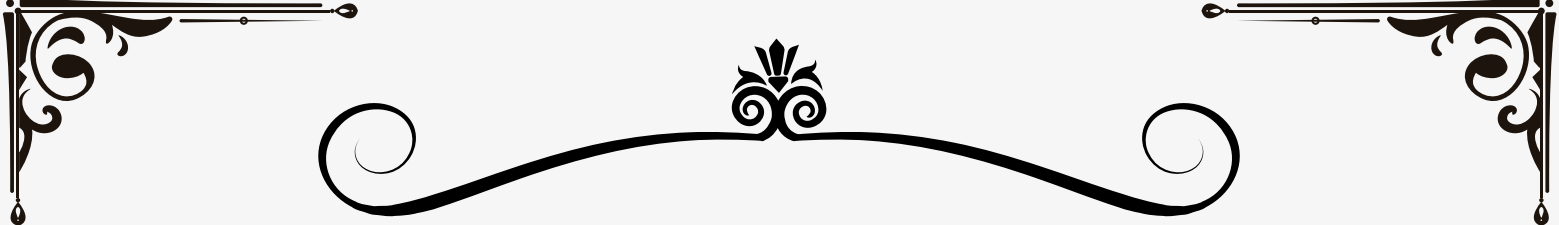
“Miss, what are you doing here?” asked the older man. Her vision was still blurry, but she could make out that they were both police officers.

“Miss, are you okay?” the younger officer inquired.

“Where am I? Where did everyone go?” Kristina asked, finally registering her surroundings.

“The show’s been over for a long time now. Could you please leave the theater?” the older officer requested again.





Kristina was bewildered but decided to go along with it. Perhaps this was all just a vivid dream - she must have fallen asleep in the theater, and now she had to face the consequences of her imagination.

She got up and headed for the door, but suddenly the older man yelled, "What are you wearing!?"

"What do you mean, what am I wearing? These are my favorite jeans!" Kristina protested.

The officers quickly grabbed her arms and pulled out handcuffs.

"Miss, you are under arrest!"

"What!?" she exclaimed.

"Women aren't permitted to wear pants. We are taking you to the police station."





At that moment, Kristina realized something was wrong. She wasn't in the 21st century anymore.

"Wait, I don't belong here. I think I traveled through time. What year is this?"

"1854. Should we take you to the psych ward instead?"

TO BE CONTINUED...





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