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REVIEW

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The Most Influential Scientists in the Development of Public Health (4): Andrija Stampar (1888-1958)

Izet Masic

Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Corresponding author: Professor Izet Masic, MD, PhD, FWAAS, FIAHSI, FEFMI, FACMI. Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mis Irbina 11, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. E-mail: izetmasic@gmail.com. ORCID ID: <http://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-9080-5456>.

Andrija Stampar (Drenovac, September 1, 1888–Zagreb, June 26, 1958) was a distinguished scientist in the field of Social medicine from Croatia (Figure 1) (1-5). He enrolled at the Medical School in Vienna in 1906, which was at the time the most important medical center in the world. As a medical student, he initiated the editing of medical papers and wrote pamphlets and articles with the intention of educating people in health matters. In 1909 in Nova Gradiška he started publishing the series called Public Health Library discussing numerous topics regarding health and prevention (1). On 23 December 1911, he was awarded the title of Doctor of Universal Medicine (doctor medicinae universae). On 1 January 1912, Dr. Stampar started working at the town hospital at Karlovac and remained at this post till 8 August 1913. He enrolled in the Croatian Medical Association, an organization of physicians, and published a few articles in their journal. In 1919, he attended the Congress of Inter-Allied Countries for Social Hygiene in Paris giving a lecture on children's health. It showed at that time that he had a clear concept of organizing the public health service. Andrija Stampar is universally known as "the man of action". It was justifiable that he, although only 31 years old, he principal of the former Yugoslav Health Service in Belgrade (Beograd). Thanks to Stampar's endeavours, a special Institute of Social Medicine was founded affiliated with the University of Zagreb School of Medicine (2,3). From 1924 he was the member of several international expert committees, which through his efforts received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation. King Alexander's dictatorship suddenly put a stop to his work at the Ministry of Public Health in 1930 and, in 1931, he was put on the retired list by the



Figure 1. Andrija Stampar (1888-1958)

King's decree and came into personal conflict with King Alexander due to his refusal to enter the government. He was offered the portfolio of the Minister of the Interior, but he refused and asked for free elections as a condition. From 1931 to 1933, Stampar was permanently employed as the expert of the Health Organization (Figure 2) (5). He entered upon a new kind of work; study travels, extensive lecturing in different parts of the world, confronting health problems at the international level. From October 1931 till January 1932, Stampar was in the United States and Canada as the guest of the Rockefeller Foundation. The League of Nations also entrusted him with the task of acquainting himself with the work of a special American Committee dealing with the costs of medical care. He also spent time in China. The Health Organization sent him as an advisor to help the Chinese health administration in the control of the mass in-

