

LETTER:

FIRST LETTER FROM E. A. MARTEL TO JOVAN CVJIĆ:
THE BEGINNING OF MUTUAL COLLABORATIONJasminko MULAOMEROVIĆ¹ & Jasmina OSMANKOVIĆ¹

The Archive of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art in Belgrade includes four letters, a picture postcard and a plain postcard sent by E A Martel to Jovan Cvijić. This correspondence covers the period from 1895 to 1925. Martel's communications are dated as follows:

- 29 March 1895 (letter)
- 14 January 1896 (plain postcard)
- 6 August 1897 (letter)
- 19 December 1924 (letter)
- 5 March 1925 (picture postcard)
- 11 March 1925 (letter).

As this shows, their correspondence covers a long period, and obviously the number of letters from one to the other over this period could not be counted in advance.

Three of the letters and the postcards are in French, while the first letter is in German. The content of Martel's correspondence in French has already been published (Mulaomerović 2016). His last letter is merely a list of contacts in the south of France which could be of use to Jovan Cvijić during his excursion in the spring of 1925 (Mulaomerović 2019).

This will be only a brief account of the first letter from Martel to Cvijić. It cover four pages, and was written on the letterhead of E A Martel's attorney's chambers. Translated to English, it reads:

Dear Sir,

I am delighted to have entered into correspondence with you. I have studied with great care your much appreciated book Karstphänomen and have used its bibliography for my own work Les Abîmes. I believe we are of the

same opinion as to what causes swallow-holes and subterranean waters. I have safely received your new publication on the caves ____ of eastern Serbia and thank you on behalf of the speleological society.

Unfortunately I do not understand the Slavonic language. It is only from the remarkable plans and your brief explanation in German that it is just possible to understand that there are wonderful hills in Serbia – swallow-holes through subterranean water courses.

I very much regret that your abstract will not appear in the publication of the speleological society instead of in "Annales de géographie."

I ask you in future to reserve (?) your subterranean investigations for us (as regards French publications) and in addition request that you forward abstracts in German, which I shall be happy to translate.

My aim is to centralise all subterranean explorations and affairs with this speleological society. I hope that you will not refuse to be our valued and much appreciated associate for Serbia and its neighbours.

I cannot give you my opinion until I receive a review of your paper in German or French.

My works Cevennes and Abîmes comprise almost all my earlier, separate papers, much expanded of course. I shall send you offprints the papers not included in those two works.

We shall be very happy to receive a copy of your Karstphänomen, which I myself already possess.

The first bulletin will appear in early May.

Yours most sincerely,

E. A. Martel

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15484/1891 -

TELEPHONE

Paris le 29 Mars 1891

E. A. Martel, Avocat
 Agrié au Tribunal de Commerce
 Successeur de son Père et de M. Boulroux
 Rue Nevers 3, RUE DE GRAMMONT

Das große Genosse,
 Ich präsentiere Ihnen hiermit
 meine in Vorbereitung zu dem
 Buche "L'Économie des
 "L'Économie des" "L'Économie des"
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Viel von Ihrer Publication
 über die Hygiene ist es mir
 sehr angenehm zu hören.
 Ich habe mich in dem Buch
 über die Hygiene. Und ich
 danke Ihnen für Ihre
 Bemühungen, die Hygiene
 zu fördern und die
 Krankheiten zu verhindern.
 Ich habe mich in dem
 Buch über die Hygiene.
 Und ich danke Ihnen für
 Ihre Bemühungen, die
 Hygiene zu fördern und
 die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern. Und ich danke
 Ihnen für Ihre Bemühungen,
 die Hygiene zu fördern
 und die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern. Und ich danke
 Ihnen für Ihre Bemühungen,
 die Hygiene zu fördern
 und die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern.

non soll.
 Künftig bitte ich alle Ihre
 in der Hygiene.
 Und ich danke Ihnen für
 Ihre Bemühungen, die
 Hygiene zu fördern und
 die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern.

Martel E. A.
 1) Künftig bitte ich alle
 Ihre Bemühungen, die
 Hygiene zu fördern und
 die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern. Und ich danke
 Ihnen für Ihre Bemühungen,
 die Hygiene zu fördern
 und die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern. Und ich danke
 Ihnen für Ihre Bemühungen,
 die Hygiene zu fördern
 und die Krankheiten zu
 verhindern.

Note: A line (—) or (?) indicate parts of Martel's handwriting that the translator from the German found illegible or was uncertain of the intended meaning.

As the first sentence of this reveals, this was Martel's response to Cvijić's own first letter, which he sent with his books *Karstphänomen*, published in 1893, and *Pećine i podzemna hidrografija u Istočnoj Srbiji*, published in 1895. Since the latter was in Serbian, Cvijić included with it a brief summary in German. Martel acknowledges that he does not "at all understand the Slavonic language," and that it was only from the abstract, the plans of caves and the drawings that he gleaned some knowledge of karst in Serbia and its subterranean hydrography. As regards Cvijić's doctoral thesis, or book, Martel writes that he has studied it closely, having a copy in his private library, and that he has used the bibliography to supplement his own work *Les Abîmes* (first edition published in 1894). He notes that he shares Cvijić's views on the causes of the formation of swallow-holes and subterranean waters.

Martel expresses his regret that it will not be possible to publish the abstract in German of the book *Pećine i podzemna hidrografija u Istočnoj Srbiji* in *Spelunca*, the periodical of the Speleological Society, which had recently been founded and begun to issue its own publications, as Cvijić informed him that the abstract would appear in the periodical "Annales de géographie."¹

For this reason, Martel asks Cvijić to reserve all his future subterranean research for his speleological periodical, and to become a "valued and much appreciated"

associate of the Speleological Society for Serbia and its neighbouring countries.² This offer was part of E A Martel's strategy which T Shaw (1988) called his "international strategy," since he clearly stated to Cvijić that his "aim was to centralise all subterranean explorations and affairs" with the Speleological Society.

That same year Cvijić published his paper "La Grande grotte de Douboca, dans la Serbie orientale" in *Spelunca* vol III, followed later by two more papers, "Les glaciers naturelles de Serbie" (1896) and "Brusque formation d'une doline en Serbie" (1897). Jovan Cvijić also figures as a corresponding member of the Société de spéléologie from its foundation in 1895 (Anon. 1895, Shaw 1988).

The end of the letter reveals that Cvijić was interested in Martel's papers, since Martel tells him about his books *Cevennes* and *Les Abîmes*, which include "almost all [his] earlier papers, much expanded of course," and that he will send him offprints of his papers not included in the two books.

To encourage future collaboration, Martel ends by informing Cvijić that the first issue of the periodical *Spelunca* will appear in early May. The reference is to vol. I (January-March 1895).

Though short, this letter reveals that E A Martel was well informed about speleological investigations in the Dinarics, and that he saw in Jovan Cvijić a very useful future associate for the expansion of his "international strategy." The two were to collaborate right up to Cvijić's death in 1927.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thanks to the Archive of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art in Belgrade for providing the research opportunity.

¹ Cvijić published this review under the titles "pod naslovom Les cavernes et l'hydrographie souterraine de la Serbe orientale" in *Annales de géographie* in 1895 (pp. 137-138), in the section Bibliography for 1894, without giving the date of publication of his book, which appeared in 1895.

² In 1893 Martel visited Bosnia and Herzegovina (Andre et al.1997, Kranjc & Kranjc 1988, Mulaomerović 2019), and evidently failed to find anyone he could rely on in his future investigations. Wiktor Apfelbeck, curator of the Provincial Museum in Sarajevo, was present at the inaugural meeting of the Société de spéléologie, and submitted a paper on the subterranean fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but was not among the Society's first members. Membership of the society clearly also had political conditions. The list of members for 1904 (Shaw 1988) reveals that one member was from Bosnia.

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APPENDIX:

THE ORIGINAL GERMAN TEXT OF THE LETTER

Paris, le 29 Mars (?) 189_(?)
E. A. Martel, Avocat
Agree au Tribunal de Commerce
Successeur de son Pere et. de M^eBoutroue

8 rue ____

Sehr geehrter Herr,

Es freut mich sehr viel mit Ihnen in Correspondenz zu treten. Ihres werthen Buch „Karstphänomen“ habe ich sorgfältig durchstudirt und seinen bibliographischen Theil für meine eigene Abîmes benützt . Ich glaube wir sind von ganz gleicher Sinne über die Dolinen - und unterirdische Wasser-Ursache.

Auch Ihre neue Publication über die Höhlen _____ von Ost. Serbien habe ich wohl erhalten und in Name (?) der Soc. de Speleo. danke ich dafür.

Leider die slavische Sprache verstehe ich gar nicht. Nur aus die sonderbare Pläne und ihre kleine deutsche Erklärungen kann ich kaum erklären, dass es in Serbien wunderbaren Berge - Bohrungen durch unterirdische Bäche gibt.

Ich bedauere sehr viel, dass ihr Resume nicht in die

Publicat. Der Höhlenkunde (?) Gesellschaft statt der Annales de geographie erscheinen (?) soll.

Künftig bitte ich alle ihre unterirdische Untersuchungen an uns zu reservieren (?) (in was die französische Publicat. betrifft), und darüber deutsche Resumes mitzutheilen, welche ich sehr gerne übersetzen werde.

Es ist mein Ziel, mit dieser Soc. de speleol., alle unterirdische Untersuchungen und Angelegenheiten zu centralisieren. Und ich hoffe dass Sie nicht neigen werden unser eifriger und geschätzter Mitarbeiter für Serbien und Umgebungen zu sein.

Bis ich nun deutsch oder franz. Recension ihrer Arbeit besitze kann ich nicht meine Meinung geben.

Die Cevennes und Abîmes enthalten fast alle meine vorher. Separatabdrücke, gewiss sehr erweitert.

Doch werde ich Ihnen diese Sep. Abdr. senden die nicht in die beide Werke __gedruckt sind.

Für (?) die Soc. de Speleol. werden (?) wir gern ihr „Karstphänomen“ erhalten, die ich selbst schon besitze.

Anfang Mai wird der erste Bulletin erscheinen

Hochachtungsvoll und ergebenst,

E. A. Martel