

Blagoje Isailovic

*Embassy of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in Argentina – Buenos Aires 1928-1945
(Historic note)*

Summary

Having inherited the duties and the competences of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in Buenos Aires, the Embassy of the Kingdom of SHS – Kingdom of Yugoslavia, ever since its establishment in February 1929 until 1935 acted under very specific political, diplomatic, economic and social conditions as the sole representative of the Yugoslav state's interests in the South American continent. Faced with numerous immigrants, largely of Croat extraction, scattered all over the continent, the Embassy laid emphasis in its work on spreading and promoting the Yugoslav idea and the idea of a common state and on suppressing the activities of the anti-Yugoslav and anti-state organizations. A particular segment of its engagement was its work in the fields of culture, education as well as social welfare and legal protection of immigrants. In an effort to strengthen its activity among immigrants, the Embassy initiated the development of a network of honorary consular representative offices of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia that, particularly after 1928 spread throughout South America and which it administered until the establishment of the Embassies in Chile in 1935 and in Brazil in 1938.

The archival records of the Embassy include abundant information on political developments and circumstances among Yugoslav immigrants and their response to the developments in Yugoslavia both in the period between the two World Wars and in the course of the World War II. It is particularly important that they make it possible to study the social life of immigrants in a broad spectrum of topics and from many different aspects and attest to the activities of the Embassy in Buenos Aires relative to these issues. The records also include valuable monthly reports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on political developments in the rest of the world as well as expert papers on particular foreign policy problems besetting the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.