School for teachers in Kastav through documents from the State Archives in Rijeka and the Archives of First Croatian Grammar School of Rijeka

Summary

The article explores the school for teachers in Kastav. Through the school’s work, one can track all problems present in the society, change of political authorities, change of educational systems and ideologies. Documents from the State’s archives in Rijeka and the archive of the First Croatian grammar school in Rijeka, the successor of the school for teachers, were used. The records from the archives are compared with the literature available. The first idea of this text was to cover just one segment of the school’s work based on the information from the archives, and to show the changes in the society through the school’s work.

The article is divided into four parts. The first describes the founding and work of the intern which had the task of preparing the students for the admission’s exam for the school for teachers in Koper (Capodistria). The lectures were in Croatian so many students attended the classes with their mother tongue for the first time. The second part describes the efforts of Kastav County to get and build a school in their town during First World War. During the war, most of the teachers and older students were drafted, and some younger students had to leave school due to hard times. The third part describes the Italian occupation, Kastav joining Kingdom of SHS and organizing classes and the subsequent cancelling the school in 1938. During that period the school started accepting girls as regular students. The fourth part describes the reopening of the school after Second World War and its work after the war, up until its move to Rijeka in 1947. After the war, due to the state’s policy of literacy, the number of students rose, and the school became too small as a result. During the entire time the school was opened, except during the Italian occupation, the classes were in Croatian. The school educated many teachers who taught many children how to read and write in Croatian.