

## Sinj Alka Games

### Croatian transcript:

U Dalmatinskoj zagori, u gradiću Sinju svake godine održava se viteški turnir, ljeti, kada dakle ti sinjski vitezovi znači moraju biti sudionici tog turnira; moraju bit građani Sinja, odnosno rođeni u Sinju. Natječu se u toj jednoj viteškoj igri koja se zove alka. Vitezovi, znači<sup>1</sup>, su u biti konjanici koji imaju veliki, kako reć... Koji imaju, znači, koplje kojim osvajaju taj jedan karakteristični prsten, i dakle, cilj je tim kopljem, znači, skinuti taj prsten koji visi na jednom užetu. Nije svejedno hoće... Znači, naravno boduje se to da li ste skinuli prsten, i u koji dio tog prstena ste dakle uboli i na taj način ga skinuli.

### English translation:

In Dalmatinska Zagora<sup>2</sup>, in the town of Sinj, a knight tournament takes place each year in the summer, and the Sinj knights<sup>3</sup> have to participate in this tournament. They have to be citizens of Sinj, meaning that they have to have been born in Sinj. They participate in a knight's game of *alka*. The knights, I mean, are basically horsemen who have a large, how should I say this... Who have a lance which they aim at this specific ring, and so, the goal is to hit the ring and take it off a rope from which it hangs [and keep it on the lance]. It matters whether... I mean, of course, points are given depending on whether you took down the ring or not and which part of the ring you drove your lance through and thus took it down.

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<sup>1</sup> *Znači*: (lit. trans. “meaning”) A filler more common in South Serbia and northern Montenegro than in Croatia. In this transcript, it was translated as “I mean” to clearly mark it as a filler in English as well. Please note that this word has other meanings, and that it sometimes might be difficult to discern whether it is a filler or a regular part of speech.

<sup>2</sup> Dalmatinska Zagora is a region in the south of Croatia which links Dalmatia with inland Croatia. It is an administrative part of Dalmatia.

<sup>3</sup> Although there is no formal knight’s title in Croatia, a formal body which organizes the Alka, called “Knights’ Society of the Alka” does consider its members to be knights. This is, however, particular only to Sinj. It might be interesting to note that the Sinj Alka was added to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO in 2010.

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