

A NEW MUSEUM WITHIN THE CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS AND THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN CROATIA: THE CROATIAN MUSEUM OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

NOVI MUZEJ U SASTAVU HRVATSKE
AKADEMIJE ZNANOSTI I UMJETNOSTI I PRVI
TAKVE VRSTE NA PODRUČJU HRVATSKE:
HRVATSKI MUZEJ MEDICINE I FARMACIJE

Silvija Brkić Midžić*

SUMMARY

One decade has passed since the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts initiated the foundation of the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, providing it with the location of 300m in Gundulićeva Street 24 in Zagreb. The foundation of the Museum was the Collection of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy which was in safekeeping of the Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb for more than fifty years. It was put together by combining the materials from two collections: the pharmaceutical-historical collection in Zagreb, which subsequently became the collection of the Institute for the History of Pharmacy, and the one of the Croatian Medical History Museum, which was established in 1944 within the Croatian Medical Association. During the 1960s, the Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts took over the materials from both museums. Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy was officially established by the decision of

* Correspondence address: Silvija Brkić Midžić, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, Gundulićeva 24, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia. E-mail: hmmf@hazu.hr.

the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia issued on 7 July 2014. The mission of the Museum is documentation and promotion of Croatian biomedical sciences and practice based on material and immaterial heritage; as well as continued cooperation with Croatian medical and pharmaceutical institutions and companies. Since the establishment of the Museum, many donations have contributed to the enrichment of its holdings. The concept of arranging the standing museum holdings is being prepared, and plans exist to apply for financing the project for Museum premises. The principal strategic goal of the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy is to open the Museum to the public by the year 2020.

Key words: *Collection of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy; Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy – foundation; Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Zagreb, Croatia.*

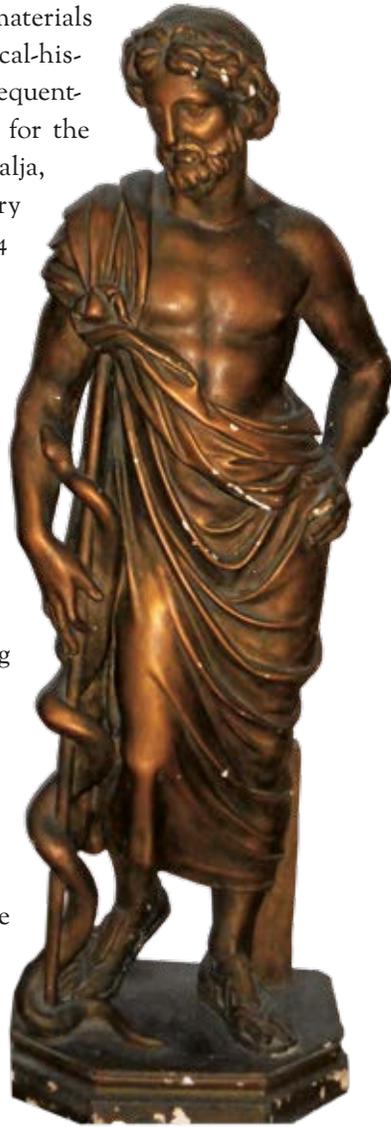
INTRODUCTION

One decade has passed since the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts had launched the establishment of the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy. In the year 2006, Prof. DSc Stella Fatović-Ferenčić, Director of the Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, started the initiative, which was gladly adopted by the Academy Department of Medical Sciences led by the then Department Secretary, Zvonko Kusić, Fellow of the Croatian Academy. The Initial Board for the Establishment of the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy eventually decided upon establishing the Museum at the meeting of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts held on 16 May 2011 and chaired by the Department Secretary, Marko Pećina, Fellow of the Croatian Academy. Stella Fatović-Ferenčić authored the preliminary Museum programme and the first promotion material. The mission of the Museum was defined – documentation and promotion of Croatian biomedical sciences and practice within national, European and global context, based on material and immaterial heritage; as well as continued cooperation with Croatian medical and pharmaceutical institutions and firms.

THE COLLECTION OF THE DIVISION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AS THE BASE FOR THE CROATIAN MUSEUM OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

The Collection of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy has been in safekeeping of the Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb for more than fifty years.

It was put together by combining the materials from two collections: the pharmaceutical-historical collection in Zagreb, which subsequently became the collection of the Institute for the History of Pharmacy led by Hrvoje Tartalja, and the one of the Croatian Medical History Museum, which was established in 1944 within the Croatian Medical Association thanks to the efforts of Vladimir Čepulić, Luj Thaller and the first Museum curator, Stanko Sielski, epidemiologist and collector of heritage items. During the 1960s, the *Division for the History of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts*, which still has them in its safekeeping, took over the materials from both museums. The Collection numbers around 2,000 various items ranging from natural, technical and documentary material to artworks and works of applied art; around 6,000 book volumes; 50 boxes of photographs, and many legacies. The legacy of the Croatian Pharmaceutical Society includes the collections of Hinko Brodjovin, mag. pharm., Prof. Dr. Julije Domac, the family of Eugen Viktor Feller, and others, while the medical legacies include the donations of the following families: Dürriegl; Durst; Dogan; Špišić; Florschütz, etc.



Aesculap, plaster cast, Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, Zagreb

The collection comprises a wide spectrum of items belonging to medical and pharmaceutical heritage: material from the Palaeolithic site near Krapina – diverse animal bones; works tackling the data on the diseases of the Krapina population (Dragutin Gorjanović Kramberger, Miroslav Čačković); pictures of Roman aqueducts, fountains, cisterns, baths and thermal spa; illustrations of old Roman surgical instruments; pictures of gravestones



Hygieia, plaster cast.

of Roman physicians; photographs and casts of statues, reliefs, altars; votive plates with inscriptions related to the Asclepius cult; casts of the New-Renaissance Asclepius column in Dubrovnik; cast of the figure of Marko, physician from Šibenik, from the 15th century; photographs and votive items related to saint protectors from diseases; pharmacy emblems; photographs and archives of the oldest medical institutions; surgical and other medical instruments, instruments and cupboards from various medical institutions; presentations of the consequences of diseases; house homeopathic pharmacy dating mid 19th century, from the legacy of Dr. Josip Zlatarović; material on: folk herb healing, blood releasing and treatment against hydrophobia, folk physicians, surgeons, herbalists, tools used by folk surgeons; amulets, votives, talismans and notes; travel pharmacies from the 19th and the 20th centuries; photographs of lazarettos, quarantine hospitals,



Museum Board, Academy Department of Medical Sciences, Zagreb, 2015.

original manuscripts on the history of epidemics, disinfections, etc.; circular letters, orders and sanitary instructions related to combating infectious diseases and data on their prevention; photographs and posters related to public health, health awareness raising and hygiene; miniatures, portraits, reliefs and photographs of physicians and pharmacists; their dissertations, diplomas, rewards, etc.; pharmaceutical collections of stands, utensils and the accompanying archival materials; pharmaceutical utensils from early 20th century with original stands from the period 16th–20th ct.; utensils and art paintings related to the history of medicine and pharmacy; old and rare medical and pharmaceutical books; old pharmaceutical herbarium; a painting on glass built into the pharmacy shelf entitled *Zdravstveni krajobraz Kraljevina Hrvatske i Slavonije* (*Health landscape of the Kingdoms of Croatia and Slavonia*) dating early 20th century; and numerous other valuable heritage items.



Old Pharmacy furniture with original containers for drugs from 18th and 19th century.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUSEUM AND THE FIRST YEAR OF WORK: MARCH 2015 – MARCH 2016

Thanks to the efforts of the Division for the History of Medical Sciences and the Initial Board, and with full support and expert advice rendered by the Croatian Museum Council, the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy was officially established by the decision of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia issued on 7 July 2014. The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts has provided for the Museum premises covering approximately 300 square meters on the ground floor of the back building in Gundulićeva 24. A new position was opened, so that Silvija Brkić Midžić, senior curator, was appointed Museum director, and she has held this post



Public health map of Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia, 1916.

since 2nd March 2015. Marko Pećina, Fellow of the Croatian Academy and Secretary of the Academy Department of Medical Sciences, was elected Head of Museum. Furthermore, pursuant to the new Museum Act, members of the Museum Board were appointed: Marko Pećina, Vjekoslav Jerolimov and Slobodan Vukičević, Fellows of the Croatian Academy; Prof. DSc Stella Fatović-Ferenčić; Prof. DSc Nikola Kujundžić; Marina Štancl, LLB; and Silvija Brkić Midžić.

The Museum started operating immediately after the new director took over her post. The Initial Board held a meeting; there, the draft work plan was proposed and the first steps regarding the establishing of the museum operation were arranged. The first formal and administrative tasks that were carried out were the following: entering the Museum into the Records of Museums of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia; entering the Museum into the Registry of Croatian Museums, Galleries and Collections of the Museum Documentation Centre; and publishing basic information on the Museum on the web portal of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Moreover, activities related to the establishment of the basic museum operation have commenced. Pursuant to the Museum Act, the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy is obliged to collect, keep



Sets of homeopathic drugs, 19th century.

safe, document, exhibit and publish Croatian medical and pharmaceutical heritage. In order to ensure the minimal preconditions for fulfilling these obligations, the initial operational tasks were carried out: office equipment acquirement (PC; printer/scanner/fax machine; digital camera); installation of the program for the processing of the museum material (M++); temporary storeroom equipment acquirement (archival cupboard for sensitive material, hygrometer and thermometer, metal combination shelves, archival cupboards). These acquirements were realised thanks to financial support rendered by the initial Museum donors.

The draft plan for the temporary storeroom was drawn up, and premises were provided where the museum material would be accessible for the purposes of reviewing, photographing and entering into the inventory. Following, the plan of the protection and restoration of the materials according to the level of their sensitivity and endangerment was drafted. Conservators-restorers were consulted, and provided guidelines for handling the museum material. Due to paper material being exceptionally sensitive and endangered, it was decided that the preventive protection of the collection of diplomas and charters ought to be performed first. Conservators-restorers gave instructions for diplomas and charters found in frames to be



Saints Cosmas and Damian, plate with relief portraits, 19th century.

removed from the frames, coated in acid-free paper, and stored in the archival cupboard. In the course of these procedures, the materials were photographed and entered into the inventory; the entire collection of diplomas and charters was hence entered into the Registry of Movable Cultural Goods kept by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.

The implementation of the restoration plan of the most endangered paper material was initiated. The

highest priority was given to the old pharmaceutical herbarium (Lipik, 1828), pharmacy practice diploma of the pharmacist Gustav Porschinsky (1886), and the professional diaries of Dr. Lujo Naletilić (promotion issue of the *Kaštel* factory, three volumes from the 1940s).

In order to enable the establishment and running of the museum documentation, and to carry out the review of the initial collection, the old inventory of the Collection of the Institute for the History of Pharmacy, which had previously been managed by the Division for the History of Medical Sciences, was reformatted into a *Word* document in table form, and fully scanned. The data from the preliminary list of selected items, drafted by Prof. DSc Stella Fatović-Ferenčić and DSc Martin Kuhar, were converted into the M++ computer base, and the updates were performed accordingly. Alongside the review work, museum items are continually photographed and entered into the computer inventory within the M++ program.

Since the establishment of the Museum, many donations have contributed to the enrichment of its holdings. The initial donors of the Museum material are: MSc Goran Ivanišević; MSc Stanko Staničić; MD; Petar Lojić; MSc Tomislav Gojmerac, MD, and Mirjana Gojmerac, MPharm; the Naletilić family; Children's Hospital Zagreb; Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic of the Hospital Centre Zagreb; Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče; Marija Furković, DMD; and Srećko Budek. The fact that enthusiastic persons, institutions



H. G. Geiger. *St. Sebastian. Ex voto pro avertenda peste Parochia sub cura parochi reverendi domini Ioannis Kobbe fieri fecit 1679.*, *ex voto* painting, Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, Zagreb.

and firms ready to provide expert services is very stimulating for the work of the Museum.

Cooperation was established with Croatian medical and pharmaceutical institutions, societies and firms. Initial donations of financial support for the Museum were rendered by Croatian Society for Calcified Tissues, Croatian Medical Association, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatian Medical Chamber, Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of Croatia, Croatian Pharmaceutical Society and Belupo. First sponsor of the Museum was Pliva.

The concept of arranging the standing museum holdings is being prepared, and plans exist to apply for financing the project for Museum premises.

The principal strategic goal planned to be realised by the year 2020 is for the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy to be open to the public.

In the meantime, the Museum will present its activity to the general public in guest exhibitions that will be mounted in other facilities. The first exhibition – a study exhibition of the unpublished holdings materials – was opened on November 18th 2016 at the premises of the Croatian Academy Library. The title reads “Kaštel” na vrhuncu - Oglašavanje i ambalaža lijekova tvornice „Kaštel“ u Zagrebu 1930-ih i 1940-ih (Kaštel at its Peak - Advertising and packing of medicines produced by the Kaštel factory in Zagreb in the 1930s and 1940s).

Regarding its mission, the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy is unique in Croatia, since so far, our medical and pharmaceutical heritage has been presented only fragmentarily or as part of occasional exhibitions. The permanent exhibition at the future Museum premises, as well as occasional exhibitions, will be intended for the widest audience, ranging from professional and scientific community, pupils and students, to citizens of all age groups.

We kindly invite all interested parties to provide support to the Croatian Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy.

SAŽETAK

Prije deset godina Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti pokrenula je inicijativu za osnivanjem Hrvatskog muzeja medicine i farmacije, namijenivši mu prostor od 300 m² u Gundulićevoj ulici 24 u Zagrebu. Temelj Muzeja činila je Zbirka za povijest medicine i farmacije, koja je nastala objedinjavanjem građe dviju zbirki: farmaceutske-historijske zbirke u Zagrebu, koja je kasnije prerasla u zbirku Instituta za povijest farmacije, te zbirke Muzeja za povijest zdravstva u Hrvatskoj, koji je osnovan 1944. pri Zboru liječnika Hrvatske (danas Hrvatski liječnički zbor). Šezdesetih godina prošloga stoljeća građa obiju zbirki prešla je pod upravu Odsjeka za povijest medicinskih znanosti HAZU. U srpnju 2014. godine Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske donijelo je rješenje o osnivanju Muzeja, čija je misija dokumentiranje i promoviranje hrvatskih biomedicinskih znanosti i prakse, na osnovi materijalne i nematerijalne baštine, a u kontinuiranoj suradnji s hrvatskim medicinskim i farmaceutskim ustanovama i tvrtkama. Od osnutka Muzeja fundus je već obogaćen brojnim donacijama. U pripremi je muzeološka koncepcija stalnog postava te se planira prijava projekta adekvatnog uređenja prostora za Muzej na natječaju za financiranje. Glavni strateški cilj Hrvatskog muzeja medicine i farmacije koji bi se trebao ostvariti do 2020. godine, jest njegovo otvaranje za javnost.

Ključne riječi: Zbirka za povijest medicine i farmacije; Hrvatski muzej medicine i farmacije – osnutak; Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti; Zagreb; Hrvatska.