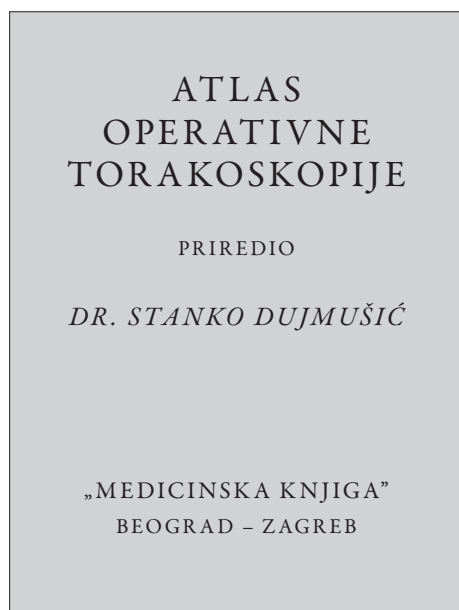


ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY



On Notable Books in Our History

Atlas operativne torakoskopije (Atlas of Operative Thoracoscopy) by Dr Stanko Dujmušić appeared in 1951, printed by Medicinska knjiga in 2500 copies, i.e. 1200 copies in Croatian and 1300 copies in English language. This bold project of the author and the publisher had probably followed in response to the professionals and readers upon the appearance of Dr Dujmušić's first book entitled *Operativna torakoskopija* (Operative Thoracoscopy) published in 1946 in Croatian language and then in 1953 in German language. In 1953, a review of the German edition of the book appeared in the British Medical Journal, in which the author of the review, Dr Henry Soutter, highly

praised the book as being excellently written and illustrated, unfortunately, in German language. That is why this Atlas was immediately printed bilingually, to be glorified and recognized in American journals in particular. Of course, the Atlas was most useful to our professionals and is still of high value not only as a historical book.

Dr Dujmušić dedicated this Atlas to Hans Christian Jacobaeus, a Swedish surgeon and author of the procedure. In his foreword, Dr Dujmušić emphasized his collaboration with two painters, A. Mezdjić and H. Melkus, whose paintings – as he says – “were made in close collaboration with the physician in the operating theater”.

Dr Dujmušić's satisfaction with this inspiring and creative collaboration is best illustrated with the following sentence: “Imitating Nature, we feel a little as creators”. Of course, it is followed by acknowledgment to the printing house; indeed, looking at this Atlas from this aspect, it certainly deserves nothing but praise. Besides acknowledgments to his coworkers, Dr Dujmušić presents professional reasons that made this Atlas an important and valuable book, i.e. learning the practical aspect of the procedure to reduce practicing the method on patients, and to improve it to be beneficial to patients. Now, here is another sentence by Dr Dujmušić: “...it is only perfect imitation that can make up for clinical experience, this most powerful tool of medical teaching”.

Tanja Sušec

Reference

1. Dujmušić S. Atlas operativne torakoskopije. Uvod. Beograd-Zagreb: Medicinska knjiga, 1951; pp. 7-11.