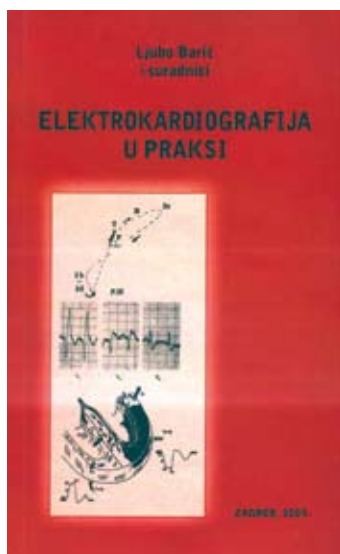


ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY



The book presented in this issue has appeared in three editions to date, i.e. in 1976, 1993 and 2003. It is a book by Professor Ljubo Barić, our cardiologist, and his coworkers, entitled *Elektrokardiografija u praksi* (Electrocardiography in Practice). During a period of nearly thirty years, this book has become an unavoidable handbook for generations of physicians and medical students in Croatia. It should be noted that the book is also very popular in Slovenia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina; it has been especially praised by Slovenian physicians as an excellent handbook in electrocardiography. The book is recommended on websites of libraries, universities and individuals. There must be at least two reasons for it. First, the book convincingly points to the role of electrocardiography, while a great number of electrocardiograms presented (all of them from the authors' clinical practice) and accompanied by logical explanations make a basis of practical knowledge how to interpret it. Currently, not only cardiologists and internists but also other specialists tend to be able to interpret an electrocardiogram appropriately and accurately; this

especially holds for many general practitioners working independently in their private practices and possessing the apparatus. Second, yet as important as the first reason is that Professor Barić has very patiently demonstrated by his knowledge, performance and objective explanations to his fellow physicians that electrocardiography does not decline in importance in spite of the new methods and techniques in cardiology. In his foreword to the second edition from 1993, Professor Barić says that "... electrocardiography has proved to be vital and ever young, ... and cardiogram ever more articulate and reliable". He emphasized the importance of contributions by his coworkers. Professor Krešimir Birtić wrote, masterly, as noted by Professor Barić, a chapter on clinical vectorcardiography in all three editions. Based on his rich experience and work in the field, Professor Dubravko Petrač wrote a chapter on the development of rhythmology, entitled *Electrophysiological Testing of the Heart*, in the third edition of the book.

The third, 2003 edition as the most extensive and the latest edition is enriched with excellent and exhaustive international and Croatian literature on all topics elaborated, alphabetic index of terms, and latest electrocardiograms. All these book features reveal the authors' intention to make a comprehensive and high-quality handbook, illustrating Professor Barić's saying that "to be a good cardiologist requires due knowledge of electrocardiogram". At the end, here is another Professor Barić's saying: "... electrocardiography is not a running track anymore at which medals can be easily picked up". This book as a fruit of serious, conscientious and painstaking work on a demanding job, points to this truth. We are proud to note that this book also speaks of the clinical routine at our hospital, in particular at Department of Cardiovascular Disease.

Tanja Sušec