

Žarko Muljačić, *Putovanja Alberta Fortisa po Hrvatskoj i Sloveniji (1765-1791)* (Travels of Alberto Fortis through Croatia and Slovenia). Split: Književni krug, 1996, 190 pp.

Alberto Fortis (1741-1803), Italian scientist, writer and polyhistor, owes his popularity throughout Europe to his passionate advocacy of the new ideas of the eighteenth century. This enthusiastic traveller rambled across Europe from Switzerland to Greece. As a young man Fortis joined the Augustinian order. After this he studied theology, but the natural sciences, journalism, and literature occupied most of his attention. By the end of 1760s he withdrew from the order so as to become an abbot although he had no clerical ambitions. He subsequently pursued the natural sciences, notably geology.

Fortis's renown lay in his book *Viaggio in Dalmazia*, which was published in many editions, the first being in Venice in 1774. The most recent edition, printed also in Venice in 1987, includes an extensive foreword by Gilberto Pizzamigli covering the life and work of Alberto Fortis. Luca Ciancio has lately published a book about Fortis the geologist: *Autopsie della Terra: Illuminismo e geologia in Alberto Fortis* (Firenze, 1995). Fortis also wrote about Croatian lands in his *Saggio di Osservazioni sopra l'isola di Cherso ed Oszero* (Venezia, 1771). The life and work of Fortis have been studied by a number of Croatian scholars from his contemporary Ivan Lovrić (*Osservazioni di Giovanni Lovrich sopra diversi pezzi del Viaggio in Dalmazia del signor Abate Alberto Fortis...*, 1776) to today's historians. The reason why Fortis has attracted so much attention from Croatian scholars is most certainly his visits to the Croatian coast and islands. He visited Dubrovnik on as many as

three occasions. Among all the scholars investigating Fortis's travels through Croatian lands, Žarko Muljačić, linguist and distinguished expert in the Romance languages, has approached this subject most thoroughly and systematically. Muljačić's longtime commitment to Fortis—over fifty years—has resulted in about fifty studies in four languages. He focuses upon the period of the Enlightenment, with an emphasis on the Italian impact on Dubrovnik, the exponents of the Enlightenment in Dubrovnik, and their relations with the like-minded Italians. Publishing Fortis's correspondence with the intellectuals from the eastern Adriatic coast, Muljačić has brought to light valuable documents offering an array of research interests: from the social history to the history of women's writing. *Putovanja Alberta Fortisa po Hrvatskoj i Sloveniji (1765-1791)* is certainly Muljačić's crowning work on Fortis.

The contents and aim of this Muljačić's monograph is to establish a scientific reconstruction of Fortis's travels to Dubrovnik, Dalmatia, Hrvatsko primorje, Istria, and some parts of Slovenia.

The book's brief introduction deals with Muljačić's principal concern with Fortis. He stresses that he envisages this interesting historical figure primarily as an advocate of the new and righteous social relations within the Venetian Republic and the Croatian lands, which at that time were under Venetian rule. Fortis's works themselves did not prove sufficient for such an extensive survey, hence Muljačić took upon himself the impressive task of examining thousands of documents from almost seventy scientific institutions, archives and libraries. The most valuable documents were, beyond every doubt, Fortis's private letters dating from 1760 until his death, which he dispatched to numerous friends and colleagues, and which illustrate

his scientific and literary work, reading interests, and travels. Thus, Muljačić's study "Per un inventario del carteggio di Alberto Fortis" published in the journal *Nuncius. Annali di storia della scienza* 5/1 (1990): pp. 127-203 is indispensable to specialists and to future research on Fortis.

Muljačić's introductory notes interpret the historical background of Fortis's day, primarily the world within the borders of the Venetian Republic with both its exterior and interior political climate. If one looks upon the region in terms of the present-day borders of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia, Fortis journeyed across these two countries at least twelve times. Muljačić discusses these travels in twelve chapters of his book, each of which is provided with relevant documents.

In 1765 young Fortis visited Pula and journeyed along the Kvarner coast all the way to the river Raša, where he carried out some interesting scientific and archeological investigations. Upon his return to Rome, Fortis made the acquaintance of the Stay brothers—Benedikt and Kristofor—as well as Rajmund Kunić, all of who introduced him to the work of Ruđer Bošković.

The destination of his second journey in 1770 was the islands of Cres and Lošinj, which Fortis found most interesting because of their mineralogical and paleontological treasures. This trip was counted to two British scholars, the Earl of Bute and John Symonds, who later became a professor of history at Cambridge. Muljačić emphasizes that this journey opened new roads for Fortis's research. In addition to the natural sciences, he found peculiar interest in the Croat population, language, and folklore, alongside their hard life under Venetian rule.

In the fourth chapter Muljačić recon-

structs Fortis's travels in 1771, a year in which he sailed across the Adriatic four times. His voyage to Istria and Dalmatia has to do with the sojourn of Fortis's patron, Anglican bishop and geologist F.A. Hervey, in the same regions. Muljačić provides a most sensitive appraisal of Fortis as a gifted researcher who was hampered by various problems: restrictions set by the order he belonged to, his general health, and markedly his lack of financial means. As he puts it, Fortis was ever torn "between his desires and onerously accomplished goals."

Fortis's longest journey was through southern Croatia and lasted seven months. Muljačić has constructed Fortis's itinerary through the littoral and hinterland parts of Dalmatia. Fortis's journey had to serve as the basis of a thorough description of the region consisting of exhaustive information about its geographical features, antiquities, political order, and culture. The scholarly circles of the time as well as Fortis's patrons looked forward to reading these travel accounts.

Muljačić sets Fortis's fourth journey to Dalmatia in the middle of 1773. He visited Rab, and on this occasion he worked out an accurate topographical map of the island. His fifth trip to Dalmatia lasted from July to November 1774, shortly after the publishing of his book *Viaggio in Dalmazia*.

A period of personal crisis (1775-1778) was followed by another series of travels, which Muljačić claims started in 1779, when Fortis sailed across the Adriatic to Split. Fortis's reputation was reaching lofty heights thanks to the French, German, and English translations of his *Viaggio*, all of which contributed to the improvement of his financial status. He was now in a position to travel to places that were of his interest and his alone.

The Republic of Dubrovnik, as Muljačić points out, Fortis chose as his destination point on three occasions. His stay in 1783 was the longest. He visited the peninsula of Pelješac and showed great interest for Dubrovnik's past and the geological structure of the soil. He spent most of his hours at the Bassegli family country estate in Župa dubrovačka, and at a location near Trpanj on the Pelješac peninsula. While travelling to Boka, he passed through Konavle, too. Fortis found dear friends and companions in the members of the Bassegli family (Jakobica, the family head, his wife Kate, their son Tomo, and their learned daughter Deša), Miho Sorgo (Sorkočević), his mother Jelena, Marija Giorgi Bona, and others.

Muljačić dates Fortis's last trip to the Croatian lands sometime in 1791. It could be described as a chance visit to four remote locations in Dalmatia, and later to Poreč. Why Fortis failed to visit Dubrovnik, by far his most endearing destination, Muljačić ascribes to private and not political reasons.

Muljačić also examines Fortis's private relations with the Croatian, especially Ragusan, milieu. He most frequently exchanged letters with Julije Bajamonti, Miho Sorgo, and two ladies—Marija Giorgi Bona, and Deša Bassegli Gozze—whom he supplied with books. In return, they kept him informed of Dubrovnik's state of affairs with regard to the new initiatives of French foreign policy, as Muljačić explains. Fortis was planning to publish a revised edition in French of his *Viaggio in Dalmazia* with a new chapter pertaining to Dubrovnik.

The author sees the life of this extraordinary intellectual and scholar in the context of the historical events of Fortis's time, social upheavals, and troubled times, which he interprets most authoritatively. He envisages Fortis as an exceptional personality, scien-

tist, and active participant in public life, primarily as a benevolent informer about the situation in the Croatian lands and its friendly people: the man who inaugurated Croato-Italian cultural relations.

Muljačić's book reveals a most perceptive scientific skill, providing a myriad of references and data that are indispensable to the research of the eighteenth century and especially the Enlightenment period in Croatia. It does not, however, burden the reader. Most of all, he provides the general reader with a pleasant reading experience thanks to its clarity, use of associations, and witty remarks.

Muljačić portrays Fortis as an engaged scientist, naturalist, and a man who lived amidst suffering and hardship, struggling to make his own contributions to the advancement of humanity. Fortis's admiration for the men and lands he passed through, explored, and came to love, his attitude towards the popular and the national, and his open-minded and restless spirit were strewn with the sentiment of the oncoming Romantic stream that was to flow across Europe. Furthermore, this book, alongside Muljačić's many earlier works is a valuable contribution and stimulus for the historiography of Dubrovnik.

Already a longtime member of the eminent *Accademia della Crusca*, established in 1573 and famed for its care for language purity, Muljačić has recently been elected a foreign member of the prestigious *Accademia degli Lincei*, originally founded by natural scientists in 1603. Today it has opened its doors to all fields of science. Professor Muljačić was presented with a fellowship diploma in the magnificent academy hall in November 1996. The walls of the same hall have witnessed two other Croats in this century, one being the academician Grga

Novak, and the other, chemist Vladimir Prelog.

Slavica Stojan

Ivo Perić, *Dubrovačke teme XIX. stoljeća* (Dubrovnik Themes of the Nineteenth Century). Mala knjižnica Matice hrvatske, No.V/32 of the new series. Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 1997, 227 pp.

The book under review contains seven of Ivo Perić's studies that have appeared in scholarly journals over the last decade, all of which concern events and personalities from nineteenth-century Dubrovnik.

In the first article, entitled »Dubrovnik i Dubrovčani u očima Ivana Kukuljevića Sakcinskog« (Dubrovnik and its people in the eyes of Ivan Kukuljević Sakcinski), Perić focuses on Kukuljević's early contacts with Ragusans in Vienna, and his role in the promotion of Dubrovnik's literary heritage as one of the fundamental segments of the Croatian National Revival movement. He further explores Kukuljević's relations with Dubrovnik and their relevance in the context of the revival period. As a founder of *Društvo za povjesnicu jugoslavensku* (The Society for Yugoslav history) in the 1850s Kukuljević initiated multiple activities with the aim of registering, collecting, and publishing the manuscripts and archival documents. Massive sources and highly uncomfortable travel conditions discouraged Kukuljević from visiting Dubrovnik during his stay in Dalmatia in 1854. However, two years later, in September 1856, Kukuljević organized a scientific expedition to the districts of Dubrovnik and Kotor. His visit to Dubrovnik lasted from 13 October until 4 November. Sixteen years later, he penned the

impressions of this stay in *Putne uspomene iz Hrvatske, Dalmacije, Albanije, Krfa i Italije* (Travel accounts from Croatia, Dalmatia, Albania, Corfu and Italy; Zagreb, 1873). The beauty of the city and the prominence of its cultural heritage fascinated Kukuljević from the very first moment. With the utmost scrutiny he visited the city sights and crowned his stay in Dubrovnik by rooting about the archives pertaining to the Ragusan Republic period, as well as the manuscripts in the wealthy monastery libraries. He comments on the inadequate research conditions and generally poor state of the old Ragusan documents that had been kept at the District Court and offices, parts of which had already been ruined or removed to Vienna and Zadar. Despite the unprofessional care of the archives housed at different locations, Kukuljević was able to provide a systematic classification of old Ragusan documents, pointing to the value of particular series. Simultaneously, he amassed considerable sources for his future historiographic work. While in Dubrovnik, Kukuljević made contacts with the writers and intellectuals of the revival circle: Mato Vodopić, Antun Rocci, Marko Marinović, Niko Arbanas, Pacifik Radeljević, and others, whose work he was already acquainted with. The companionship of the Kaznačić family—father and son—he found most pleasing, in line with brothers Niko and Medo Pucić who assisted him in the sightseeing of Dubrovnik and its surroundings. Having established firm intellectual ties with Dubrovnik, Kukuljević proceeded to Kotor. Kukuljević's subsequent correspondence with the Ragusans is voluminous and diversified, while the publishing activity dealing with Dubrovnik's heritage remains an important and lasting feature of his career.

Perić's study »Uloga Antuna Dropca u javnom životu Dubrovnika« (The role of