

## HISTORICAL REVIEW

Thirty years ago, in 1975, the First European Medicine and Art Biennale was held in Torino, Italy. As many as 318 European exhibitors, artists and amateurs, presented 558 works of art. Members of the Art Section of the Croatian Medical Association took part in the Biennale, among them Assist. Professor Branko Pražić, M.D., Ph.D., then a psychiatrist at our Hospital, who was awarded gold medal for painting. It was a great success for the gifted physician, amateur painter, which received due mention in the Italian press and in Croatian *Liječnički vjesnik*<sup>1</sup>.

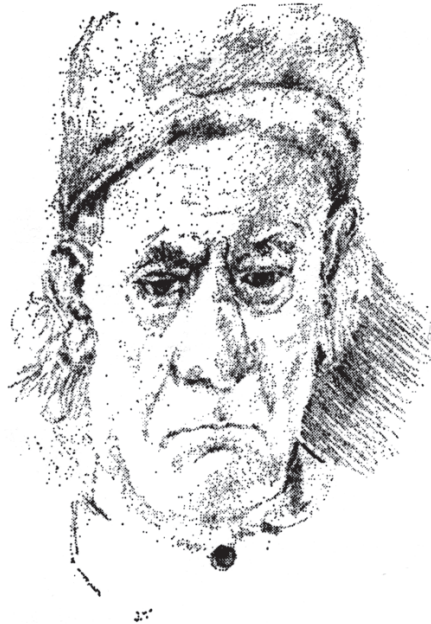
The more so, the award came into the right hands also from the medical point of view, as the psychopathology of visual expression was a special field of Professor Pražić's interest. He wrote a number of articles and books in the field, was founder and president of the Society of Art Therapists founded in 1981, and organizer and active participant of many scientific meetings in Croatia and abroad from 1969 on, when the first scientific meeting on the topic was orga-

nized. His work entitled *Drawing as a Diagnostic Tool in Psychiatry*, published in 1971, is of great value in the field. The first edition was out of print, so in 1987 Professor Pražić published an extended and improved edition entitled *Drawing and Painting in Psychiatry*. This edition contains a number of drawings and documents accompanied by extensive explanation, revealing Professor Pražić's diversified and rich psychiatric practice. Also, the book brings a rarity, a portrait of the great Croatian poet Tin Ujević, made by one of Professor Pražić's patients hospitalized at ENT Department for self-injuring at the time when Tin Ujević stayed at the same ward for post-laryngectomy recovery<sup>2</sup>.

*Tanja Sušec*

### References

1. Zlatna medalja liječnika za slikarstvo. *Lijec Vjesn* 1975;97:439.
2. Pražić B. Crtež i slika u psihijatriji. Zagreb: Naprijed, 1987:188.



*Portrait of Tin Ujević, from the book *Drawing and Painting in Psychiatry* by Branko Pražić.*